

The Hague, June 1, 2023.

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee on Kingdom Relations of the TK and EK,

Soon on the agenda of your committee in the House of Representatives: comply or explain. Somehow, for the Caribbean Netherlands this seems to apply only to new policy initiatives. It seems worthwhile to review the laws that regulate the introduction of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba into the country of the Netherlands.

Testing laws against the Constitution is reserved for the legislature (*you belong to that club too!*) and although I am not a lawyer, it seems that this legislature has succeeded in creating two types of Dutch citizens. After all, social benefits are different in the Caribbean and European Netherlands. This compares poorly with Article 1 of the Constitution in which all Dutch citizens are supposed to be treated equally in equal circumstances.

Note: By way of illustration, I have attached a photo showing a plaque in Almere's town hall: see <https://photos.app.goo.gl/xngvL46QaxBKciy47>.

I will leave it here for now but I hope that if necessary you will let yourself be informed by people who know more about this than I do. However, if my view makes sense, I hope that corrective measures will subsequently be taken. By the way, it seems to me that this applies more broadly than just in the social domain. I think there are also significant consequences in other policy areas.

On to a fairer Netherlands!

Yours sincerely,

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cc: *National Ombudsman*