

The Hague, January 23, 2024.

Dear Members of the Island Council of St. Eustatius,

It was with feelings of pride that I took note of keeping the proverbial back of the Island Council of St. Eustatius (and that of Saba) straight while that of Bonaire tried to play the role of "primus inter pares" (*the first among its peers*) as a kind of "new Curaçao" (from the days of the Netherlands Antilles).

But as Wikipedia also states, this status - by definition - cannot exist because the one with that status ("primus inter pares") develops in such a way that he "feels" he is above his peers. As far as we are concerned: the wrong way (of Bonaire, that is...).

Again, I am glad that St. Eustatius (and Saba) do not see themselves here under the yoke of Bonaire, *but move on now...!*

Just being "against" is no good: you also have to indicate how. In other words (at least, in my opinion) if you read the WOLBES and FINBES: in which articles do you not agree, why not, and what is your proposal.

I imagine that such an attitude will be perceived constructively and can be a good starting point for a healthy discussion with parliament.

I would like to help you in this and, if necessary, I would also like to be an interlocutor with the Secretary of State on your behalf. In that case you should indicate that and position me as such. That creates clarity for all parties.

I look forward to your response with interest.

Kind regards,

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