

Introduction

In September, I informed your Chamber of the bill that I'd put forward in prepare to make the gradual transition to normal administrative relations on St. Eustatius.

This bill is in preparation and is expected to be published in early 2020. The Commission shall submit to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Parliament a report on the application of this Directive. In accordance with the commitment to your Chamber, I will send you continue to report every six months on the progress made in all areas affected by the intervention. In addition, the criteria as I have formulated them as a starting point remain as they are formulated in the second progress report of 14 November 2018.

In addition to the September letter, I would like to inform you with this report about the state of the art. Insofar as it is unchanged in relation to my I'm not going to go into that in detail in my September letter. At the same time, there are a number of cases which, precisely following the publication of that letter and the connected Townhall meeting, would like to share with your Room. As now The progress made in the various areas is usually described. administrative, social and physical domain.

General view

Among other things, the signals I received during the Townhall meeting of 23 September of this year, I would like to point out that the ways in which civilians have been able to St. Eustatius will be provided with information on the progress of projects, transparency in decision-making and the opportunities open to them to make their voices heard, continue to call for attention. The I've asked the government commissioner to send me, among other things, through the Social Council of Advice, to further inform about the feelings that come with the population are living over the announced trajectory towards recovery of the normal proportions. This trajectory in itself also leads to a number of new initiatives such as public information on the right to vote and to stand as a candidate, and training opportunities for potential new politicians. In addition, on Sint Eustatius put the finishing touches to an integrated communication plan.

Social Council

In a meeting with the Social Council on 29 October last, the The government commissioner discussed, among other things, the announced trajectory towards the restoration of democracy. The Commissioner of the Government has reported back to me.

The majority of the present members of the Social Council of Opinion supported the proposal for a gradual return to normality. situation. The reasoning for using criteria rather than an deadline from one phase to the next raised questions such as how and why. when a criterion is met and who can objectively assess it?

The same majority indicated the date of 21 October 2020 for elections for to find the Island Council on the ambitious side. Start it as soon as possible of the training for politicians and aspiring politicians saw the majority as necessary in the process of achieving good governance. In order to achieve a repetition of to avoid the situation which led to intervention in February 2018 the majority prefers more powers for the governor. His authority in the past was too limited to act and process Decisions taken via the Kingdom Representative led to a great deal of delay. One of the members who declared majority voting stated that there are certain groups who feel deprived of their right to vote and considered it important to share this information.

The minority felt that any delay was too long and stated that people crave the return of their democratic rights.

Townhall/electoral information

In the short term, a first general information campaign for the wider public will be launched. are taking place over the elections. The focus is on enthusing the public. of the public and the provision of information on the possibilities if one to stand for election. In the run-up to the elections, the following will also take place several meetings are organised to inform potential politicians about the possibilities, conditions and deadlines. In this way, everyone will be able to the opportunity to delve into what it means to be to be an island councillor or deputy.

Political training

After the application my ministry organizes in cooperation with the public body training programs for potential politicians. In this training will pay attention to the knowledge and skills that island councillors have to acquire to fulfil the role of representative of the people. Even after the elections, the island council members will be offered a tailor-made training course.

Communication plan

The public sector body strives to improve the provision of public information by means of a strategic communication plan in its final phase. The content of the plan will be discussed with the Social Council. Part of the actions described in the plan are already under way. Among other things, a house style is designed for the public body, the supply of information is for publication from the various parts of the public sector body and the various boards will be provided with communication advice.

Administrative domain

Reorganisation

The new organisation was implemented on 1 September 2019. The vast majority of the of the employees followed their own position. The employees of the public body that could not be placed directly is a large part have now come to open positions. For a small number of them, a A tailor-made workplace has been created and an outflow control system has been set up with a few people. There are still shifts as a result of the flow of internal employees. in the organisation and the number of mobility candidates is steadily decreasing.

As part of the provision of information to employees, two A weekly magazine (The Insider) is distributed that informs the employees of the The Committee of the Regions is convinced that it is important for them to have more insight into the developments surrounding the reorganisation and to have a better understanding of them in the functioning of the public body.

Training in the civil service

A multi-year professionalisation programme has been developed for St. Eustatius, in which the focus is on the sustainable strengthening of the civil service. device on current and future tasks. In October there is a development trajectory for managers and unit managers. Last year, the officials of the public body repeated professional training courses ...I've had it. As an extension of the training, work is being done on the preparation of a code of conduct.

A training plan with a group approach has also been completed. Managers, policy advisors, secretaries, security, front office staff, administrative staff and financial staff are thus both as regards content as well as skills trained. Examples of this are a course writing skills for policy advisors, a course Fin BES and BBV BES for Finance staff and a training course in public finance for non-financial employees. Much is also invested in computer skills and the reducing illiteracy.

Strengthen administrative structure

As part of a new, more transparent way of working, the following have recently been introduced adopted new formats for decision-making notes and the list of decisions, and in particular The company has taken advantage of the opportunities offered by the new technology. These help to unify the decision-making process. and the outcome of that is more transparent. In a workshop for the directors, unit managers and policymakers, the new working method was explained and the Employees receive practical support during commissioning.

The inventory of incorrect, outdated and missing regulations is an important part of this process. extensive work that is tackled on a policy-by-policy basis. Some regulations only ask for a test of topicality, others have to be consistent with each other. The Commission has not been able to assess the situation, and yet another category is still completely missing. The requires the effort of all parts of the public body to take this step. ...to put them in order step by step.

Enforcement and monitoring

The protection of the environment cannot be achieved without a limited degree of protection. regulation of activity. Hotels, garages and a number of other activities will have to deal with the Environmental Management Establishment and Activities Decree in 2021. (IAB), which lays down rules for waste management, waste water and soil protection. facilities. This provides clarity for entrepreneurs about the requirements for installations and activities. The IAB replaces the local nuisance ordinance and the permit obligation it contains with general rules. In the meantime identify the consequences for the administration and The Commission's proposal for a Directive on the protection of the environment in the internal market and on recommendations for adequate monitoring and evaluation of the enforcement.

Planning & control cycle

The first and second implementation reports of 2019 have recently been submitted, as follows also the first budget amendment. In addition, the annual accounts for 2016 have been submitted, as follows always with a disclaimer of opinion by the external auditor. In addition, the Draft budget for 2020 and the multi-annual budget for 2021 - 2023b ...advice to my ministry. At the beginning of December I expect the to receive the final budget. Improvements in content are visible, but the desired level is not yet reached. reached. For example, the budget does not yet include the paragraphs on land policy and risk management and resilience. The section on capital goods is in development.

In the period August to October a big step was taken by the strong the polluted administration of property, plant and equipment. The results are now included in the annual accounts for 2017 and 2018. The external auditor will start the audit of the annual accounts (audit). To this end, the government commissioner recently issued a ...has been ordered. The aim is to complete the audits in 2019. Because of the many of the remaining shortcomings are not yet approved for the year 2019. The audit report is expected.

Financial management action plan

A great deal of work has been done to improve financial management, but there's still a lot to be done in order to achieve a responsible transfer to a new board. Being insufficiently able to complete of measures started can be partly explained by concurrence with the extensive reorganisation and limited

implementation capacity. It remains a concern. In order to support the finance department, two recent projects have been launched. The Commission has also opened up new vacancies, one of which has now been filled. After filling the vacancies will be reviewed to determine whether additional support is required. The aim is to complete the whole plan of action by 2020.

Court of Auditors

For St. Eustatius, when setting up an independent court of auditors, the following is used: - the auditing of the financial statements of St. Eustatius. The Netherlands has offered short-term support from the European Union. The Court of Auditors Rotterdam has offered its expertise. This anticipates a legislative amendment necessary for the establishment of a court of auditors for all BES islands. In the future, Rotterdam may also have a target calculation chamber history. from (the surroundings of) St. Eustatius by letting them walk along and by means of knowledge enhancement and training. The effort is incidental financed by a special allowance from the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. The objective is to inform the Court of Auditors in this way. that it can be taken over locally and structurally as soon as possible. is embedded. It also examines the way in which structural support can be provided. The Netherlands is shaped either by the region or by the European Union.

ICT Infrastructure public body

In the autumn, a project was started to reduce the overdue maintenance on the to catch up with the ICT infrastructure. The availability of a network to the different parts of the public body connected to each other. The Committee of the Regions believes that the Commission's proposal for a Directive on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data is a key factor in ensuring professionalism and the provision of adequate information. This includes the installation of wiring, the construction of network connections, and employees will be trained. With the available budget of the public body has started with vital components such as the ICT department, civil affairs, etc. and finance.

Social domain

General

By setting the benchmark for the social minimum and the associated measures, the government will take a number of substantial steps to improve the situation in the Netherlands. to improve the lives of people living in the Dutch Caribbean. The Lower House of Parliament has been informed about this on 27 June 2014. The Commission has been informed on 27 June 2014. The Cabinet has committed itself to the reduce the cost of living and improve the quality of life. income position of inhabitants of the Caribbean Netherlands. On the cost side the need, inter alia, to improve the financial accessibility of the childcare and reducing the cost of living.

Besides lowering the cost of living to a reasonable level, the government is committed to improving the income position of residents in the Netherlands. Dutch Caribbean. As of 1 January 2020, the statutory minimum wage and the benefits were increased again. As of 1 January 2020, the social security contributions will also be increased. for people who are fully and permanently incapacitated for work so increased that someone in the underprivileged who lives independently on a monthly basis comes up with the statutory minimum wage. Single AOV beneficiaries can also apply for a residence permit in the Netherlands. are eligible for a supplement from the welfare system. The next five The House of Representatives will be informed of progress on an annual basis. This will include a review of whether, and if so which, additional steps have been taken. The Committee believes that the situation for residents in the Dutch Caribbean must be improved. improve.

BES(t)4 kids

On 27 June 2019, the Cabinet also informed the Lower House of Parliament about program BES(t)4 kids. Within the framework of the BES(t)4 kids program, the following children were born on St. Eustatius has, among other things, started training programmes for the employees of The Committee of the Regions welcomes the Commission's proposal to improve childcare facilities and working conditions in some areas. The improving the quality of childcare is done in several ways ...has been tackled. The BES(t)4 kids program started in the autumn with a vocational training specifically aimed at child care where the current staff as secondary vocational education students. The training will be completed in 2021.

Child rights education and participation

All schools on St. Eustatius are invited to participate in the Children's rights film festival (KRFF); an activity that allows children to participate in a learn creatively and interactively about their rights and how to do them participate. At the beginning of June, the final will take place on Bonaire, where the best films by St. Eustatius, Saba, Bonaire, St. Maarten, Aruba, and Curacao will be presented by the children they made. The best of the six films will be chosen by jury members from all six islands. The winning film will be presented in June during the Dutch edition of the children's rights film festival.

Communication for positive parenting

UNICEF will organise a pedagogical vision meeting in January between the BES(t)4 Kids team and partners on St. Eustatius. The meeting will be facilitated by a regional 'Early Childhood Development' expert, who has been working on many similar projects. carried out assignments for UNICEF in the Eastern Caribbean and Latin America. The pedagogical vision will then be used by the BES(t) 4 Kids program and other entities that focus on parents and other (professional) carers / educators.

Domestic violence

The past period has focused on improving supply chain cooperation in the tackling domestic violence and child abuse. For example, on the basis of the March 2019 concluded cooperation covenant

Multidisciplinary Consultation (MSY) a network cooperation between the health and criminal law chains) the first cases. And an information film has been made about who is working are in the chain. In addition, the approach devotes more attention to the perpetrators, and there are now a location where victims of domestic violence can be accommodated. ...are. A second location is being worked on. The State Secretary for Health, Welfare and Sport will inform the Lower House of Parliament in the first quarter of 2020 about the progress on all three islands of the Administrative Agreement domestic violence and child abuse.

Employment services

In order to provide a sustainable way out of poverty, more people need to participate in the labour market. necessary. The public body and the municipality of Leiden are working together in a financed by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment (SZW) twinning to improve employment on St. Eustatius. This process runs until April 2020. The final phase of twinning will be dominated by to ensure that methodologies and practices are safeguarded and to professionalise the Policies to help and promote the employment of people with disabilities. ...keep it.

Poverty reduction

The fight against poverty emphatically also requires an effort on the part of the public. body. She can do her bit from the island poverty policy. An important precondition for this is that the public body should be able to make a contribution to the policy of the island's poverty policy. The Committee of the Regions would like to see this laid down in a regulation or policy on poverty reduction. The The Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment plays a supporting role in this. For example, in 2019 social workers of the public sector body participated in a training in debt relief organized by the ministry. The Ministry is in consultation with the public sector body on further support, for example on the development of policy rules for debt assistance.

Social housing construction/rental subsidy

As part of the reduction in housing costs, it is important that each of the islands has access to sufficient and high quality social housing. The European Dutch housing corporation Woonlinie and the public body have therefore put forward a joint proposal for a structural solution to the problem. for renovation, maintenance and new construction of social housing. Work is now underway on the first pilot project, in which Woonlinie, in consultation with the local authorities, is involved. with the public body and the Stata Housing Foundation a first home renovates and realises a semi-detached house. For this BZK has a subsidy of EUR 390,000. During the pilot project work is being done to intensify cooperation between stakeholders in order to eventually to renovate almost a hundred social housing units and forty-five to build new social housing.

A first meeting took place between the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and the public body, in order to achieve a rental point system, a liberalisation limit and a rent commission. These should make the system more equitable and professionalize, and thereby strengthen the administrative structure on Sint Eustatius. Eustatius. The Act on Measures for the Rental Housing Market (CN) will be implemented in the first half of the year. 2020 will enter into force. The implementation of that law should be laid down in local regulations. This is currently being worked on.

In addition, the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations is taking steps to provide a form of assistance to the rental charges for the Caribbean Netherlands. Extra money has been made available to reduce the rental charges by means of a landlord's contribution.

Sport and exercise

The implementation of the Caribbean Sports and Prevention Agreement concluded with The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS) has started. The Recruitment of an additional local sports coach from the sports foundation and an additional prevention officer/health promotion officer in the public health department Health is about to start. In the short term, a daily healthy breakfast at two primary schools are provided to children who need it. For 2 years VWS will become a senior advisor in the Dutch Caribbean. appointed to work with the public sector bodies and relevant organisations in order to implement the Healthy Weight for Young People approach (JOGG). The aim is to to establish a closed chain for overweight and obese children.

The Cruyff foundation is investigating the costs of making the Cruyff Court to cover. This allows the field to be shaded during the day. and are simultaneously illuminated for use in the evening. It is expected that a decision can be taken on this at the end of this year, so that work can start in 2020. In addition, the The Ministry of Justice and Security (JenV) has been working on a project plan to improve the youth intervention "Only you decide who you are". Young people get in this intervention a year long twice a week training by special trained trainers, who not only teach them the sport, but also teaching behavioural skills. An important role will be played by the sports foundation. A strong financial and organizational framework is being developed. basis for this foundation. There are also activities in preparation to the sexual health of residents and to ensure that the public health department public body health can adequately perform all its tasks.

Physical domain

Erosion

Tackling erosion is one of the biggest infrastructural challenges where St. Eustatius stands for. The stabilisation of the cliff underneath Fort Orange is proceeding. prosperous but is only a sub-project in

tackling erosion. Erosion threatens vital parts of the island and that's why Rijkswaterstaat has a The Commission has drawn up an integrated plan to combat erosion.

In view of the results of the studies and the decisions taken on them Rijkswaterstaat, in collaboration with Royal Haskoning DHV and the public body, worked on the preparations for implementation of the plans. First, a number of quick wins will be performed, starting with the approach to the hairpin bend in the road to the port. This bend forms an important problem with the proper drainage of rainwater, which is responsible for some of the erosion on the island. On another causing erosion, the large number of stray animals, I'm going to go further into this report is still in.

With the available data from the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment (I&W) The total budget of € 17 million that has been set aside will start at the beginning of 2020. addressing the most urgent projects for the improvement of the erosion problems. With the available resources, a first part of the The Committee of the Regions believes that a comprehensive erosion control plan should be implemented.

The measures for the improvement of the seaport are part of the preparations for the development of measures for the protection of the erosion of the coastal strip on the port side. It has been shown to be necessary to integrated approach.

Construction of new control tower and terminal airport

Under the supervision of Rijkswaterstaat, a start was made on the implementation of the projects. On the 15th of October the official start took place in the presence of the and are the first visible work on the airport grounds.

Roads

On St. Eustatius, with a financial impulse from I&W and my own Ministry worked on overdue maintenance of the road network. Implementation of the projects is difficult. The problems are leading me to also includes a reconsideration of the way in which future projects. I am discussing this with the government commissioner.

The lack of progress on the first project, the hardening of the district of Cherry Tree, earlier this year, led to a renegotiation with the contractors. Right from the start of the project, the contractor had been doing substantial work. delays. The conditions under which the agreement was reached in August The contractor did not comply with a postponed delivery date. After it became clear at the end of October that the work, without prior consultation with the client, had come to a complete standstill, the

government commissioner terminated the contract. Towards a solution to the project is still being sought as quickly as possible.

Waste management

In order to purchase a new waste incineration plant, the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management from the The budget for reconstruction was approximately EUR 1 million. This amount is as follows The special allowance was granted in October. The public entity is currently in negotiation with the supplier on the appropriate conditions for the purchase of the incinerator.

In addition, the State Secretary for Transport, Public Works and Water Management and the government commissioner have a signed a letter of intent to address plastic-related litter issues. Addressing single-use products. With the island government, the declaration that a plan for this purpose shall be drawn up by June 2020, including The aim of this project is to produce various single-use plastic products by 2021. phased. I&W provides support with regard to content and has developed a The special distribution of EUR 40,000 has been made available.

Other

Tourist plan

The local tourism office and the Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland (RVO). developed a tourism television for St. Eustatius in March 2019. End In October, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Change (EZK) and the RVO, with the public and private stakeholders in the tourism sector have been able to come together so that the implementation of the tourism television programme can be taken forward.

Under the leadership of the St. Eustatius tourism development foundation, a Task Force to be set up in sub-groups with measures in areas such as the The theme of the tour is cultural and the diving sector, hiking trails and the theme of culture.

Reconstruction resources

As mentioned in the September letter, the The vast majority of the funds for reconstruction have now been used. Some Logically, projects have a longer turnaround time than others. So it will be The company has continued its reforestation project even after two years in order to improve the various plantations. to give them a chance to do so in the specially built 'hadehouses' large enough to do so. to grow to be moved. Stenapa, administrator of the national parks, intends to continue the project after it

has been completed with reconstruction funds. is completely set up. The same applies to the coral restoration project.

Roaming animals

Loose animals have been a problem on St. Eustatius for years. They worsen erosion, making agriculture more difficult and posing a danger on the road and a threat to native species. Attempts to control the population The results of the research have so far been insufficient to produce lasting results. The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV) sets up a regional coordinator who will adopt an integrated approach for Saba, St. Eustatius and Bonaire. support. For the time being, the focus of the approach is on the control of the from the goat population. St. Eustatius has indicated that it would like to be part of the want to take the initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, and has now developed a concept for a implementation plan has been drawn up. Among other things, it is elaborated under which conditions, goats can be kept behind fences in a sustainable way and the wild population can be brought under control.

Finally

I come to the conclusion, all things considered, that almost two years after the operation... a lot has been set in motion by now. That not every line that has been set in motion as quickly as The Committee of the Regions believes that the Commission should not be distracted from the fact that many of the parties have been brought together to work together on all kinds of fronts on the sustainable improvements on St. Eustatius. A lot of work is in progress.

Under these circumstances, a transitional regime therefore offers the most opportunities to make initiatives more sustainable, while working at the same time are being phased in to restore normal proportions. As said I expect to submit the legislative proposal for this purpose for consideration at the beginning of 2020.

The Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations,

R.W. Knops