



Ministry of the Interior and
Kingdom Relations

Public Entity of St. Eustatius
Attn the Government Commissioner, Alida Francis
Van Tonningeweg z/n
Oranjestad
St. Eustatius, Caribbean Netherlands

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Reference
2021-0000618977

Your reference

Date: **29 NOV 2021**

Subject: Response to letter from Government Commissioner about route-timetable

Dear Ms Francis,

I have read your letter of 1 October 2021 about the route-timetable and your assessment of the cooperation with the Island Council members with reference 1025/GEZ. I hereby respond to your letter.

It is good to read about the efforts made by you and the civil servants of the Public Entity of St. Eustatius for the creation of the route-timetable. I have successfully received the route-timetable on 15 November. The route-timetable marks an important step in restoring the provisions on St. Eustatius and provides insight into potential bottlenecks of this process.

However, the cooperation between you and the Island Council as set out in your letter worries me. I have received signs of this situation before and feel the need to respond. Your letter emphasises what I remarked in the Kingdom Relations budget negotiations in the House of Representatives in October: the progress on St. Eustatius also depends on the cooperative attitude of the Island Council.

In addition to your letter, I heard that reprehensible remarks were made about and against the Deputy Government Commissioner, Ms C. Toet, in the Island Meeting of 14 October. I consider mutual respect the basis for a constructive cooperation and the Island Council should take its responsibility in this respect. Debate can and should be vigorous, but this does not need to impede respectful conduct.

I consider these remarks in the light of a number of statements made in radio broadcasts in the past year. In these broadcasts, Island Council members and affiliated persons sometimes use expressions well beyond what is acceptable.

Hopefully, the training programme for politicians, as set out in the 'Training programme council members and delegates' criterium of phase 2.1 set out in the Explanatory Memorandum to the St. Eustatius Provisions Restoration Act

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will yield results and contribute to a proper cooperation between the Island Council and the Government Commissioner. The training programme is an example of the acceleration of the process for returning to democratic relationships. This means that it is also in the interest of the Island Council members, the elected representatives, who predominantly hold the key to further acceleration themselves.

Yours sincerely,

The State Secretary of the Interior and Kingdom Relations,

Drs. R.W. Knops