

The Island Council of the Public Entity Sint Eustatius in its meeting of Thursday, October 14, 2021;

Considering,

- that on February 7, 2018 the democratically elected government of St. Eustatius was removed from office by an act of parliament (Staten-Generaal), with both the island and executive councils being relieved of their duties under the Law Task Neglect;
- that in 2020 the Law Task Neglect was replaced by the Restoration Law (Wet Herstel voorzieningen Sint Eustatius) that lays out a phased approach for the return of full democracy in St. Eustatius;
- that on October 21, 2020 the population of St. Eustatius voted in an island council election and made a clear and decisive choice for democratic representation;
- that the elected island council is not authorized in all areas of government policy as prescribed by the Wolbes and Finbes among others and thereby rendering it unable to respond adequately to the wishes of the people in many areas;
- that this inability to respond adequately and effectively to the needs of the voters leads to a lengthy and continuing unhealthy alienation between the people and their elected representatives;
- that additionally this alienation deprives the currently non-elected administration of broad support in the community;
- that the remaining portions of phase 2 of the route map to democracy for the most part consists of revising or setting policy and procedural guidelines, organizing courses and trainings for civil servants and political office holders and enacting of some island ordinances, activities that can be executed effectively alongside an elected government;
- that the wishes of parliament and the island council to speed up the process toward democracy are not being taken seriously by the current administration and by extension the state secretary of Interior Affairs and Kingdom relations;
- that based on the Wet Herstel voorzieningen Sint Eustatius this unhealthy, undemocratic, and undesirable situation could extend into 2025 resulting in a period of time, without a locally elected democratic government, unprecedented in the kingdom;

Resolves,

- To call on the parliament to condemn the unnecessarily prolonged lack of democratic governance on St. Eustatius;
- To call on the parliament to intervene in and speed up the process to return to full democracy on St. Eustatius by January 1, 2022 and end the current undemocratic existence of the people of St. Eustatius;
- To call on the parliament to make all necessary means and resources available to make said accelerated return to democracy possible;
- To call on parliament to reiterate the human rights the people of St. Eustatius;

And goes over to the order of the day.

CC:

Second Chamber of the Dutch Parliament

First Chamber of the Dutch Parliament

Committee Kingdom Relations Second Chamber

Committee Kingdom Relations First Chamber

Staten van Curacao

Staten van Aruba

Staten van Sint Maarten

Island Council Sab

Island Council Bonaire