



**SINT EUSTATIUS  
CARIBISCH NEDERLAND**

**Draft decision and commitment list public meeting island council, April 15<sup>th</sup> 2021, 09.30 am  
at the V.A. Lopes Legislative Hall**

Present:

A. Francis, chairlady (dep.)

R. Merkman R. Leerdam, F. Spanner, N. Sneek, members

H. van Berkel acting griffier and M. Humphreys intern, griffie

Also present: M. van Rij, Gov. Commissioner (WebEx).

Absent:

C. van Putten

Nr	Agenda	Decisions and commitments
1.	Opening The meeting starts at 9.30am	
2.	Announcements C. van Putten is announced absent.	A farewell to Mr. van Rij has been added to the agenda to start with.
2a.	A farewell to Mr. M. van Rij, government Commissioner.	
	R.Leerdam: is given much thanks to M.van Rij, knowing that the process has not been easy all the time. Hopes for further progress and wishes M. van Rij much of success. F.Spanner: gives much thanks for having a good cooperation. Gives thanks in particularly for the efforts being taken for the people of Statia and for the willingness to compromise. Wishes him luck and also wishes for support from him out from The Hague. K.Sneek: refers to the good working relation with Mr. M. van Rij. Feels sorry that he is leaving, because this is not good for the whole process of Statia. But also thinks it is understandable. The process with the 12 criteria out from the Restoration Act needs to be proceeded. Hopes that the network of Mr. van Rij can still be used in The Hague for the cause of Statia. R.Merkman: at first angry after getting the message of the departure, but on second thought he finds it also understandable. Building trust was an important issue during the period being in office. He saw that something was happening after his start on Statia.	



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	<p>Cooperation is necessary on Statia. R. Merkmán thanks Mr. M. van Rij and shows his gratitude.</p> <p>A. Francis: mentions the 3 strategic projects next to all the other important issues on the island: dialogue with the community, with the factions and with the civil servants. Mr. van Rij started all those dialogues and the executive council as well as the island council will continue this. Thanks Mr. van Rij for his great contribution and shows a small but clear present for remembrance.</p> <p>M.van Rij: expresses his thanks. When he started 14 months ago Covid was not there yet. He wanted to take the job knowing that Ms. A. Francis was there, being a local. He is happy and grateful that a good Covid-strategy has been put into place and a solid contribution could have been made to the local elections of the island council. A sense of willingness to cooperate and to take responsibility was felt and mutual trust has been growing. Especially the fact that a majority stayed to listen at a minority is crucial for a democracy. He advises to further build on trust and consensus, to compromise wherever the public interest is being served. He promises to further build the network in The Hague in order to help Sint Eustatius.</p>	
3.	Setting of the agenda	
	Mr. Sneek refers to a late personal invitation for this meeting to the island council members.	The process of inviting for the meetings will be put on the agenda for the Presidium for discussion. Adopted as proposed.
4.	Ratification decision and commitmentlist(s) Jan.13 <sup>th</sup> , Febr. 4 <sup>th</sup> and March 4 <sup>th</sup> 2021	
	-	Adopted as proposed.
5.	List of incoming documents	
	<p>N.Sneek announces that there was concern in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chamber about presenting the promised rout-time-table. A second meeting by the Committee of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Chamber has been agreed upon.</p> <p>R.Merkman: feels a certain special interest has been performed for the situation of Statia.</p> <p>R.Leerdam: experienced the debate as a good start with an open mind. It gave her a good feeling.</p>	Adopted as proposed.



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	<p>A.Francis: the ex.council is planning to proceed with the technical Central Committees and will later on come with a proposal, together with the Ministry of BzK. To put other things on the table there is a joint effort going on together with Saba and Bonaire as much as possible.</p> <p>M.van Rij: a plan of action is needed for ex.council and island council together regarding the 12 criteria mentioned in de Restoration Act. In that document all remaining subjects and a timeline will be made clear. Art. 13 of the Restoration Act tells what is needed to get in phase 2.0.</p> <p>As far as the “formation in The Hague”: a higher free general budget is urgently needed. Regarding to the banking system: he will send a letter to the Minister of Finance.</p> <p>K.Sneek: the problem is far more than only the subject of be able to open a Dutch account.</p> <p>R.Leerdam: wonders what will happen after the leaving of mr. M.van Rij. Ensure good governance with continuity is highly important.</p> <p>A.Francis: the Min. of BzK is working on it.</p> <p>M.van Rij: he has asked BzK to inform the island council in time.</p>	
6.	Adjusting ordinance faction support 2020	Adopted unanimously.
	<p>K. Sneek: urges the importance of support beyond support of the registrar. Gives examples for support through the ordinance. Regards this adjustment as a big step forward. Later this year an evaluation will be made.</p> <p>R.Leerdam: this was already a dream of the faction in 2015. Thanks M.van Rij for getting a compromise. This must bring the council and the members to a higher level.</p> <p>F. Spanner: she thanks the ex. council for the cooperation and for achieving this result.</p> <p>R. Merkman: sees this as a good step in the right direction. Staying careful is of importance.</p>	
7.	Answering written questions	
		The ex.council will see to it that written questions (among others those about the budget in de



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		meeting of Jan. 28 <sup>th</sup> 2021, dialysis and gynecology) will be answered as soon as possible. A copy of the degree Statia Made will be sent to the island council.
8.	Announcements executive council and gov. com.	
	A.Francis: - the dialysis issue has been shared with the steering committee and will get a follow up. - mentions the letter received from the “Central Dialogue Statia” regarding Emancipation Day.	
9.	Closing at 11.00 am	

Adopted by the island council on .....2021.

The griffier,

The chairlady,

J.C.M. van Berkel.

A. Francis.