

To:

- Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, attn Director of Secondary Education
- Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, attn Director of Secondary Vocational Education
- Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, attn Director of Higher Education and Student Finance
- Chairman and members of the Education, Culture and Science Committee of the House of Representatives
- National Ombudsman
- Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland, attn Department of Education, Culture and Science
- Government commissioner Sint Eustatius

Subject: *Connection CXC education on St. Eustatius to MBO and HBO in the European Netherlands*

Sint Eustatius, 16 April 2021.

Before starting with a letter I thought "*let's see what the State of Education 2021 has to say about the Caribbean Netherlands, Sint Eustatius or CXC*". However, with search words to this effect I stumble upon absolutely nothing in the State of Education 2021! Not a single comment on this subject?! Well, perhaps everything is going well, possibly there is no comment to be made at all: I don't know. However, in my experience, there are still some "loose ends". One of them concerns the connection of the Secondary Education on St. Eustatius to the continued education (MBO and HBO) in the European Netherlands.

It is not the first time that I am writing to you about this. After all, in his letter to the House of Representatives dated February 1, 2021 with reference number 26786304, the Minister of OCW notes: "*Mr. Meijer shares his concerns with my ministry and other agencies on a regular basis. Attempts have been made to address these concerns...*". It reads like an annoying fly being chased away. The present letter should - unfortunately - be seen as an extension of my earlier letters.

Despite comments I made on this subject in my letters of November 19, 2020, January 8, 2021, March 16, 2021, March 29, 2021, March 31, 2021, and April 13, 2021 (the latter addressed only to the House of Representatives), **my message that the problem of the non-timely availability of CXC documents (diplomas, grade lists) is a structural problem and not one attributable to COVID19 or some other incidental cause does not seem to really land.** In the letter to the House of Representatives dated April 13, 2021, I write that the cycle-of-things of CXC is simply different from that same cycle of Dutch education. And as long as that point is not addressed, there will be problems with enrollment.

Incidentally, it does not seem to me to be a particularly complex problem when it is recognized that only a small number of students are involved. If the St. Eustatius students are simply accepted in advance at their desired educational institution with the note that as soon as the diplomas and mark lists are available (and thus also the school diploma that has been given status with the [Decree Saba Comprehensive School and Gwendoline van Puttenschool BES](#) published on April 2, 2021) these will be offered, then in my opinion no great risk is run. Perhaps a correction will have to be made afterwards if it turns out that not everyone has passed after all.

As soon as the present letter is ready and sent, I will continue to write letters to colleges that refuse students from St. Eustatius for the reason mentioned. I had wished that all of this would not be necessary, but - I cannot come to another conclusion - somewhere in the line starting with the Ministry of Education (including the Department at the Rijksdienst Caribisch Nederland) the communication regarding this point has not been carried out to our satisfaction. The conclusion that students should wait a year (and thus lose study time and have to interrupt their study rhythm) to apply again does not seem appropriate to me in a country with a civilized and reasonably developed education system.

I would like to ask you to solve this connection problem as soon as possible so that students who wish to do so (and who have of course passed their CXC-CSEC exam) can also start at the beginning of the coming academic year (2021/2022).

Thank you in advance for your mediation or action.

Kind regards,

J.H.T. (Jan) Meijer MSc MBA,
Bellevue Road 4, Upper Round Hill,
St. Eustatius, Caribbean Netherlands.

Cc:

- *Chairman and members of the Kingdom Relations Committee of the House of Representatives*
- *Inspector General of Education*