



KABINET VAN DE GEVOLMACHTIGDE MINISTER VAN SINT MAARTEN
CABINET OF THE MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY OF SINT MAARTEN

Aan: de Staatssecretaris van het Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken en Koninkrijksrelaties
de heer R. Knops
Postbus 20011
2500 EA Den Haag

Adres:
Prinsessegracht 7
2514 AN Den Haag

Datum: 20 mei 2020

Betreft: Aangepaste brief tweede tranche liquiditeitssteun

Geachte heer Knops,

In reactie op uw schrijven van 15 mei 2020, betreffende de besluitvorming over de tweede tranche liquiditeitssteun, met daarin het verzoek om u van een reactie te voorzien voor de datum van 20 mei 2020, 17:00 uur, bericht ik u als volgt.

Namens de minister-president van Sint Maarten informeer ik u dat wij akkoord gaan met uw voorstel. Bijgaand treft u een brief aan van onze minister-president waarin hierop nader wordt ingegaan.

Ik hoop u hiermee voldoende te hebben geïnformeerd.

Hoogachtend,

Dhr. R. Violenus

Gevolmachtigde Minister van Sint Maarten



PRIME MINISTER OF SINT MAARTEN

Minister-President van Sint Maarten

Philipsburg, Wednesday May 20, 2020

The State Secretary Mr. R. Knops.
cc. the Chair of the Kingdom Council of Ministers, Mr. M. Rutte
Via email.

Subject: Response to conditions by the Kingdom Council of Ministers, as presented on May 14, 2020 to the Minister Plenipotentiary of Sint Maarten

Div# 10498

Dear Mr. Knops,

With reference to the above mentioned, I can inform you as follows.

On Tuesday, May 12, 2020, during the hastily called meeting via video conference with the Prime Ministers of the Countries within the Kingdom whereby you were accompanied by the Dutch Finance Minister, Mr. Wopke Hoekstra, and Prime Minister Mark Rutte via video conference, the intentions of the Kingdom Government/Netherlands to assist the countries in this time of crisis and beyond was verbally and briefly outlined.

As you are aware, this discussion was held without documentation or specifics to the content of what would be proposed. Although we were given an opportunity to give feedback during the meeting, it was without clear knowledge or understanding of what was on the table. We were informed that the proposal in detail would be taken up in the agenda of the Kingdom Council of Ministers on May 15, 2020.

Unfortunately, only on Thursday, May 14, did Sint Maarten receive the official documentation as is customary via the Cabinet of the Minister Plenipotentiary, leaving us without the necessary time to discuss and instruct our representative in the Kingdom Council of Ministers accordingly as to the position of the Government of Sint Maarten. With less than 24 hours prior to the meeting of the Kingdom Council of Ministers, this is a clear violation of the same rules of order of the Kingdom Council of Ministers.

As such, the Sint Maarten Council of Ministers expresses dissatisfaction with not only the manner in which the aforementioned transpired but also at the level of involvement in developing the conditions. Note, that this was mentioned in our Tuesday meeting with you. Remember, that Sint Maarten made

only one request during said meeting, namely, "We are happy for the assistance already received, and hope that any conditions for loans to be received moving forward are with realistic conditions and timelines for execution after dialogue and consensus."

Furthermore, it should also be mentioned again, that the financial aid will come as a loan to which conditions are being set, some of which are not directly related the financial austerity measures that will bring about the savings or reforms necessary to bring Sint Maarten in a better financial position and have little consideration for the economic and social standing of Sint Maarten.

Finally, I can inform you that notwithstanding the above, and based on deliberations with the Parliament of Sint Maarten, the Government of Sint Maarten hereby informs you that the proposal of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, along with the conditions, is hereby accepted, insofar as it does not violate local, kingdom or international laws.

Going forward, it is our sincere hope that the Netherlands considers a more enhanced exchange and consultation when handling aspects that directly relate to our people. I trust to have informed you sufficiently, in order for the Kingdom Council of Ministers to complete the decision-making on the second tranche of liquidity support for Sint Maarten, and we are looking forward to further bilateral discussions with mutual respect and in the best interest of the people of Sint Maarten.

Regards,



Silveria Jacobs
Minister-President van Sint Maarten