

To: The Minister of interior affairs and kingdom relations

Mr. Plasterk

The Hague, Netherlands

Oranjestad St. Eustatius DC

May 21st, 2014

Honorable minister Plasterk,

It is with much concern I'm addressing this letter to your persons, after taking note of the decision of the council of ministers not to allow non national's the rights to voice their opinion by means of casting a vote and contributing towards the decision making on the territory on which they live.

It must be clear that such a decision comes over very discriminative to the general public of Statia. These persons while they don't possess a Dutch nationality suffers just as much as others and in some cases even more. They have migrated here and made Statia their home, pay taxes here, stimulates the economy here as well.

I think the reaction of the island council on this particular document was very clear as to our desire, that was to allow everyone that had the voting age and have been residing on the island for the required amount of years should be given the rights to vote.

This contradicting decision again show's serious tremendous disrespect to the island council, the maximum representatives of the people and in addition the misuse of power by the Dutch government.

Our opinion was totally disregarded and receive consideration for additional deliberations.

Since it isn't really an added value in the case of quantity wether they are eligible to vote for the European parliament or the Dutch second chamber we are not even discussing that further.

I believe that the decision made by the council of ministers should be seriously reconsidered by considering the opinion of the local government.

By means of this letter I would want to make a strong and serious appeal to the council of ministers to revisit there decision. Soon we will be voting on a referendum that will have serious implications on our present status and I feel that everyone that lives on this island

should be eligible to cast their vote. Of course I respect the electoral laws when it has to do with non national's having to be residing on the island for a certain amount of years.

As a faction in the present island council constellation representing the United Peoples Coalition we aren't narrow minded like some other patties that what could be the outcome if these person would be given the permission to vote. We are very democratic and also are aware of the fact that in some countries there is absolutely no voting rights for certain groups.

Mr. Plasterk as the minister of interior affairs and kingdom relations I'm directing this letter to expecting a reaction with the option for further deliberation with the government of statia on this matter. Don't let us continue to feel that because we are small in quantity you don't care about us.

How about using this as a start of giving us the people on a broader scale some extra autonomy in this form.

Mr. Plasterk don't let history repeat it's self were people already has the impression that there opinion doesn't count.

Close this letter of appeal by requesting your serious attention for the contents hereof and expect an constructive reaction coming from your cabinet with the desire of the people in mind.

Yours humbly,

Mr. Elvin Henriquez

Island Council member

Faction UPC