



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

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Chairperson of Parliament
Parliament of Sint Maarten

Philipsburg, August 15th, 2017

Dear Chairperson:

I hereby submit to you questions directed to the Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication, the Honorable Mrs. Mellissa Arrindell – Doncher, regarding "Qredits Financing" and kindly request that these be forwarded.

Respectfully,


Sarah A. Wescot-Williams
Member of Parliament of Sint Maarten



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Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication,
The Honorable Mrs. Mellissa Arrindell - Doncher

Philipsburg, August 15, 2017

Dear Minister:

Recent media reports regarding the agreement between the Public Entities of St. Eustatius and Bonaire respectively and Qredits prompt me to ask the following:

Your predecessor, the honorable Minister I.I. Arrindell, during her term and right before she left office, informed parliament that the government of St. Maarten and in particular the ministry of TEATT was in talks with Qredits to arrive at an agreement for St. Maarten's MSME sector.

Kindly answer the following:

1. What was the status of these talks when you took up the responsibility for the TEATT ministry?
2. Are these talks still being pursued?
3. If so, how soon can we look forward to an agreement and or the execution of such an agreement for (micro)financing opportunities for the MSME sector?

While I believe that other projects to strengthen the MSME sector are also important and will contribute to the sustainability of this sector, the general cry from many small and upcoming entrepreneurs is the lack of financing possibilities.

Many of these persons are young persons with great ideas and with technology being a great enabler new business niches are within the reach of many. However finances remain an issue.

4. Does the ministry possess any data regarding this industry branch that gives an indication what the most pressing needs are of the MSME sector on St. Maarten ? And if so, can this be shared?

Finally, I also took note of the initiative launched by the collectivity of St. Martin , with a sort of mobile business help desk, which I believe is a worthwhile outreach program to empower micro and small business persons in the districts.

5. Anything of this sort in the work?

Respectfully,



Sarah A. Wescot-Williams
Member of Parliament of Sint Maarten