

MOTION

2016-2017

no. 1

The Parliament of St. Maarten, in its Public Meeting no. 4 of today November 10, 2016 pertaining to the border issues with the French side in particular at Oyster Pond.

CONSIDERING:

1. That on Wednesday, October 26, 2016 French Authorities/Gendarmes arrested and held the owner and three workers of Captain Oliver's Restaurant for questioning, took steps to halt the upgrading work being carried out, claiming that taxes are being owed, and moreover that the upgrading works that are being executed to the Marina did not receive any authorization from the Collectivity of Saint Martin;
2. that the Prime Minister of Sint Maarten in a letter dated November 7th, 2016 called on French Authorities/Gendarmes to cease and desist with the actions taken against the marina, as it was within Dutch jurisdiction as per the status-quo;
3. that in response to the letter of the Prime Minister of Sint Maarten the Préfète déléguée Mme Anne Laubies responded on November 9th, 2016, that the French considers that the North of the Oyster Pond Lagoon falls within French Sovereignty;
4. that the water-rights in Oyster Pond have always been part of the Dutch Sint Maarten, whilst the land is part of the French;
5. that while the land is owned by the French Territory the water-rights are owned by Dutch Sint Maarten. Hence the business license is from the Government of Sint Maarten, and the owner of the establishment has received permission for the marina works based on the water-rights granted by the Sint Maarten Government;
6. that several years ago the French had started to lay claim to the Northern half of the Oyster Pond Lagoon, which lead to former Prime Ministers Sarah Wescot-Williams and Marcel Gumbs sending correspondence to the French Authorities/Gendarmes reminding them that all the waters of the Oyster Pond are part of Dutch Sint Maarten;
7. that the French Authorities/Gendarmes have barricaded the area where the upgrading works are being executed, even though there is an agreement since 2014 between the French and Dutch Government that the current situation regarding the land border demarcation treaty would remain in place until deliberations regarding the sea borders are concluded;
8. that these actions undermine the Treaty of Concordia and peaceful coexistence of the people and Governments of Sint Maarten/Saint Martin.

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RESOLVES:


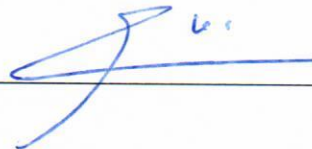
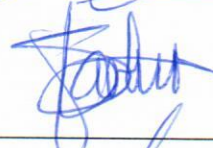





- A. To strongly condemn the act of aggression exemplified by the unilateral actions of the French Authorities/Gendarmes in Oyster Pond Lagoon which has historically and legally been part of Dutch Sint Maarten.**
- B. To call on the Kingdom Minister of Foreign Affairs to promptly address this matter with his counterparts in Paris.**

And proceeds to the order of the day.

Copies of this motion are to be sent to:

- The Governor of St. Maarten
- The Government of St. Maarten
- Collectivity of Saint Martin
- Kingdom Government of the Netherlands
- Mme Anne Laubies, Préfète déléguée de Saint Barthélemy et de Saint Martin

Signed on this 10th day of the month of November in the year 2016.



PARLIAMENT OF SINT MAARTEN
Thursday, November 10, 2016, Public Meeting no. 4 (urgent)
Continuation
Voting list *motion*

NO.	NAME	VOOR/FOR	TEGEN/AGAINST
1.	Claret M.M. Connor	✓	
2.	Sidharth Bijlani	✓	
3.	Chanel Brownbill	✓	
4.	Christophe Emmanuel	✓	
5.	Theodore Heyliger	✓	
6.	andwell Irion	✓	
7.	Silveria Jacobs	✓	
8.	Emil Lee	✓	
9.	Tamara Leonard	✓	
10.	Franklin Meyers	✓	
11.	Sarah Wexot-Williams	✓	
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13.			
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