



# Parliament of Sint Maarten

## Staten van Sint Maarten

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To the Chairman of Parliament  
The Honorable Dr. L. Richardson

February 12, 2015

Dear Chairperson,

Kindly find enclosed questions directed to the Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transportation and Telecommunication.  
Please forward these to the Minister concerned with the usual expediency.

Respectfully,

Sarah A. Wescot- Williams  
Member of Parliament (DP)



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## Staten van Sint Maarten

To

The Minister of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication, the

Honorable Claret Conner

Administration Building

Philipsburg, St. Maarten

February 10, 2015

Subject: St. Maarten Tourism Authority (FOLLOW-UP FROM BUDGET DEBATE)

Dear Minister,

During the recent budget debates, you informed parliament of your intentions to “revisit” the structure and functioning of the St. Maarten Tourism Authority (STA). I have to admit that this is your and any government’s good right. However, this statement in my opinion comes at a time when that body has hardly been given a chance to execute any of its duties, let alone that its functioning could be evaluated.

Your response in the budget meeting that triggered the above conclusion, has caused a lot of concern in tourism circles. Many are quite discouraged that after years of talking and unsuccessful attempts to establish such a body, now that at least one has been created, there are already talks of change. What or how is any-one’s guess. In addition, the state of the representation of our tourism product abroad is dismal for various reasons. No direction, no communication. No plan, period.

Please inform Parliament of the following:

What has prompted this decision by you to “restructure” the fledgling STA?

Is this a decision of the STA itself or of the Minister?

How has the STA performed thus far? Have there been meetings?

What are your ideas for a “restructured” STA?

What timeframe do you have in mind?





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What happens to the critical outstanding tourism issues in the meantime, such as payments to representatives, contracts with representatives and representation overall?

I look forward to your prompt reply, not only to Parliament, but also to the many stakeholders, who are as baffled as I am by your announcement.

With kind regards,



Sarah A. Wescot-Williams,  
Member of Parliament (DP)