



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Minister of Finance
Mr. A.M.R. Irion
Government Administration Building
Philipsburg

UV/044/2021-2022

Philipsburg, October 13, 2021

Re: Questions from MP S.A. Wescot-Williams regarding Tax reform

Hon. Minister Irion,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by Member of Parliament, MP S.A. Wescot-Williams, according to article 62 of the Constitution and Article 69 of the Rules of Order of the Parliament of Sint Maarten.

Pursuant to article 69a of the Rules of Order, if you are unable to answer the questions within three weeks please notify my person stating the underlying reason. In doing so you can send the answers that you already have and answer the remaining questions in writing within (another period of) three weeks.

The letter is self-explanatory.

Yours truly,

R. Brison
President of Parliament



Member of Parliament Sint Maarten

STATEN VAN SINT MAARTEN			
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Par.	VB	GR	

To:

Parliament of Sint Maarten
Attention: President of Parliament
Wilhelminastraat #1
Philipsburg, St. Maarten

Philipsburg, October 6th, 2021

Dear Honorable President of Parliament,

I hereby submit to you a letter addressed to Minister of Finance, Honorable Ardwell M.R. Irión.

I kindly ask that it be forwarded.

Respectfully,

Sarah A. Wescot-Williams,
Member of Parliament
United Democratic (UD) Party



Member of Parliament Sint Maarten

Minister of Finance
Honorable Ardwel M.R. Irion
Government Administration Building
Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

Philipsburg, October 6th, 2021

Honorable Minister Irion,

I hereby acknowledge receipt of your answers to questions posed by MPs in the Central Committee meeting of September 16th on the topic of Tax Reform.

The essence of these answers regards the proposed "Retail Tax", commonly called the online tax.

The Ministry was not able to provide any details of the proposed taxes or the impact of these taxes on the business climate, the buying power of the consumer, or the competitive advantage as a hub and tourist destination.

From the answers received, it is clear that Government views tax reform as something to be decided on primarily by the Governments of Sint Maarten and the Netherlands. It is not even clear if and how the other ministries will weigh in on the topic of tax reform, which especially for the ministry of TEATT should be a 'conditio sin qua non'.

Troubling is also that the Government views dialogue regarding tax reform, only after the Dutch and Sint Maarten Governments have approved the (new) tax regime and the drafting of (new) tax legislation has commenced. This in my opinion is too late, if the Government is serious about transparency and consultation with local stakeholders, including the Parliament of Sint Maarten.

I therefore pose the following questions to the Minister of Finance:

What are the main principles underlying government's efforts to reform the tax system of St. Maarten, in order of priorities?

When can we expect the outline of the tax reform proposals as sanctioned/approved by the Council of Ministers and promised to parliament by the Minister of Finance?

Can we receive a position paper on the so-called retail tax and the real estate tax so there is no confusion as to the exact intentions?

Have the other ministers weighed in on these proposals? What is the position of the Ministry of TEATT regarding these tax proposals?

Is the minister willing to consider including parliament and other stakeholders BEFORE the final decisions are made regarding the reforms of the fiscal system?

I look forward to your prompt response and remain,



Sarah A. Wescot-Williams,
Member of Parliament
United Democratic Party