

The Kingdom of the Netherlands

One Kingdom - Four Countries



Expert Roundtable Panel Discussion on the Charter for the Kingdom of the Netherlands

The Committee for Constitutional Affairs and Decolonization of the Parliament of Sint Maarten will be hosting an expert roundtable panel discussion on the Charter for the Kingdom of the Netherlands on **Tuesday, April 19, 2022**.

Agenda

The following experts have been requested to submit position papers on the topics and more specifically the three subtopics mentioned below.

- I The creation of the Charter for the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Charter anno 2021 (verjaring);
- II Charter of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, as it relates to the United Nations in terms of decolonization;
- III Democratic deficit within the Kingdom.

[Dr. Rachnilda Arduin – position paper](#)

[Mr. Reynold Groeneveldt – position paper](#)

[Prof. Dr. Gerhard Hoogers – position paper](#)

Mr. Julio Romney – position paper (pending)

Objective

By means of this roundtable panel discussion the Members of Parliament would like to ascertain and receive information, advice and broaden their knowledge with regards to the Charter for the Kingdom of the Netherlands. This information and advice can then be used by the Members of Parliament for initiating an approach to amending the Charter for the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Background information

In 1954 the Charter for the Kingdom of the Netherlands came into existence. The Kingdom of the Netherlands then consisted of the Netherlands, Suriname and the Netherlands Antilles.

Within the Netherlands Antilles a large degree of independence was granted to the individual islands. The subjects that were still to be regulated by law on behalf of the Kingdom were to be listed exhaustively. And that there were to be a General representative appointed by the Government of the Netherlands Antilles who would take part in consultations in the Dutch Council of Ministers on matters involving the Netherlands Antilles. Today, 65 plus years later this Charter remains the constitutional framework and regulation for the Kingdom of the Netherlands which consist of the Netherlands, Aruba, Curacao and Sint Maarten, although modified and altered in its years, with the last big changes taking place in 2010 when the Netherlands Antilles ceased to exist. Curaçao and Sint Maarten became countries within the Kingdom and Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba became special municipalities.

Although a lot has been written through the years regarding this topic the Committee for Constitutional Affairs and Decolonization of the Parliament of Sint Maarten would like to zoom in to the creation of the Charter for the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Charter anno 2022, the Charter of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, as it relates to the United Nations in terms of decolonization, and the democratic deficit within the Kingdom, with the intention of identifying amendments that need to take place in the Charter for the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Public engagement

The Committee considers civic participation and public engagement a key principle to bridging the gap, between the people and the people's elected representatives. For this reason, viewers and listeners will be able to send in questions or comments to the panelists. Further details will be communicated regarding forementioned. These submissions will be announced during the roundtable discussion between 13.30 and 15.00 hours for feedback from the panelists and Members of Parliament.

Program

10.00 – 12.30 hrs.

- Dr. Rachnilda Arduin
- Mr. Reynold Groeneveldt
- Prof. Dr. Gerhard Hoogers
- Mr. Julio Romney

13.30 – 15.00 hrs.

- Public engagement with experts