

Ministerie van Infrastructuur
en Waterstaat

> Retouradres Postbus 20901 2500 EX Den Haag

The President of the House of Representatives
of the States General
Binnenhof 4
2513 AA DEN HAAG

**Ministerie van
Infrastructuur en
Waterstaat**

Rijnstraat 8
2515 XP Den Haag
Postbus 20901
2500 EX Den Haag

T 070-456 0000
F 070-456 1111

Our reference

IenW/BSK-2018/73300

Date April 6th, 2018
Re InselAir International and lift of travel ban for civil
servants

Esteemed President,

On behalf of the State Secretary for the Interior and Kingdom Relations, I hereby would like to inform you about the recertification of the airline company InselAir International by the Curacao Civil Aviation Authority (hereinafter referred to as the CCAA) and my decision on the ban for Dutch civil servants to fly with InselAir International, which was imposed in February 2017.

On February 3rd, 2017¹ the former State Secretary for Infrastructure and Water Management and the former Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations informed the House of Representatives about the government's concerns over the safety situation at the airline company InselAir International. At the time the government decided as a precaution that civil servants should no longer fly with the airline company InselAir International for business trips and to broadly communicate this information in order to send a clear signal to other travellers and to enable them to make an own decision.

On February 21st, 2017² you received further information following an on-site investigation by the Human Environment and Transport Inspectorate (*Inspectie Leefomgeving en Transport*, hereinafter referred to as the ILT). The outcome of the investigation was that the CCAA is lacking legal assurance, independence, competent staff, structure and management. It was therefore agreed with Minister Camelia-Römer of Traffic, Transport and Division of Urban Planning that the ILT would offer the CCAA assistance in the supervision of InselAir International. In this letter it is stated that the imposed travel ban will remain in force until the ILT indicates that the flight safety has been assured.

In the letter of the State Secretary for Infrastructure and Water Management dated September 14th, 2017³ you were informed that the Curacao aviation authority and the ILT have signed two protocols of cooperation: a protocol aimed at the assistance offered by the ILT in the supervision of InselAir International by

¹ Parliamentary Document 24 804, no. 93

² Parliamentary Document 24 804, no. 94

³ Parliamentary Document 31 936, no. 396

the CCAA, the other protocol concerned the collaboration aimed at ending the travel ban imposed by the Dutch government. The ILT supported and advised the CCAA based on the concluded protocols.

**Ministerie van
Infrastructuur en
Waterstaat**

The ILT supported and advised the CCAA in the recertification of InselAir International. In January 2018 a CCAA team performed an administrative inspection in the Netherlands and in February 2018 a team of ILT inspectors visited the CCAA. The conclusions of the ILT are that:

Our reference
IenW/BSK-2018/73300

- the collaboration between the ILT and CCAA regarding the recertification of InselAir International was successful;
- the inspection findings which were communicated to InselAir International by the CCAA, were properly dealt with and the required improvement measures are being implemented;
- it has been agreed with the InselAir International management that the enhanced supervision by the CCAA, which started in 2017, will be continued in the coming period and that the solutions process will be monitored by the CCAA and the ILT will be asked for feedback. Every two weeks the CCAA will meet the technical staff of InselAir International to monitor progress;
- as a result of these developments and agreements, the ILT's confidence in the functioning of an effective and independent supervision by the CCAA has been restored.

The further creation of the legal basis for the CCAA on Curacao is part of the new aviation act on Curacao, taking into account several affairs such as a framework for an organisation in conformity with international requirements. Curacao is seriously addressing this matter and several months ago it launched a tender process to acquire extra capacity. This invitation to tender has just been completed, as a result of which the legislative process will be launched soon. During the past period the CCAA also obtained the mandate and the required legal powers.

In February 2018 the ILT assisted the CCAA (on request) in the audit for the recertification of InselAir International. The audit performed by the CCAA showed that the flight safety was in order at that moment. It is up to the CCAA to complete the entire recertification process, in which the ILT will have an advisory role.

In the light of the above and the fact that the ILT's confidence in the expertise and independence of the CCAA has been restored, the main cause for the travel ban which was imposed at the time no longer exists and there is no reason for the ILT to recommend continuance of the ban. The fact that the ILT now expresses its confidence in the CCAA means that should technical problems occur, the ILT is confident that the CCAA will act appropriately and that the safety system thus functions properly.

Based on the conclusions of the ILT I have decided to lift the ban for Dutch civil servants to travel with InselAir International.

Yours sincerely,

THE MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND WATER MANAGEMENT

drs. C. van Nieuwenhuizen Wijbenga