

Island exceeding disaster relief and crisis control coordination plan Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba

Foreword

In 2013 a first version was drafted of the island exceeding coordination plan. The Kingdom Representative is held to adopt the island exceeding coordination plan at least every four years. Hence, at the beginning of 2017 the plan was updated and adopted again.

The Justice and Security Inspectorate evaluated the system of disaster relief on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba following the passage of the hurricanes Irma, Jose and Maria in 2017. The Inspectorate observed that in the cooperation and harmonisation, in particular between the islands on the one hand and the organisation in the European Netherlands and the Kingdom Representative on the other hand, improvements were expressly required. The Inspectorate observed that the text about roles, duties and authorities, as presently included in the Veiligheidswet BES (*'Security BES Act'*), was described insufficiently clearly in, inter alia, the coordination plan of the Kingdom Representative. This gave cause to an earlier update of the island exceeding disaster relief and crisis control coordination plan Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba from 2017. The update of the coordination plan gives substance to the observed obscurities of the roles, duties and authorities of the islands, the Kingdom Representative and the relationship with the European Netherlands, observed by the Inspectorate. The plan was updated from the statutory obligations as outlined in the Veiligheidswet BES (*'Security BES Act'*).

Objective and demarcation

The objective of the coordination plan is to provide insight into how island exceeding disasters and crises in the Caribbean Netherlands are handled. This coordination plan thus provides insight into the process:

- what actors are (can be) directly involved in an island exceeding disaster or crisis and what their duties, roles, responsibilities and authorities are;
- what upscaling mechanism is applied in this respect;
- how the notification, alarm and up- and downscaling take place in respect of the disaster relief staff of the Kingdom Representative;
- how the information management process between the Public Entity, the Kingdom Representative and the European Netherlands takes place;
- how the harmonisation of the communication between the direct actors is organised;
- how the coordination of the assistance process takes place.

Coordination in this plan specifically focuses on:

- the harmonisation of information images between the Public Entities mutually and with the European Netherlands, containing information about, inter alia:
 - the number of victims;
 - the estimated damages;
 - potential effects and bottlenecks of the incident;
 - (potential) request for assistance of the affected islands (inter alia relief);
 - actions to be taken or pending.
 - the collection and forwarding of all requests for assistance of the Public Entities;
 - the harmonisation of political / administrative decisions.

Target group

This plan is meant for direct players who are involved in the disaster relief and crisis control in the Caribbean Netherlands. This regards, inter alia, the Public Entities, the Kingdom Representative (including disaster relief staff), the Naval Command in the Caribbean (CZMCARIB) and in the European Netherlands the National Crisis Centre (NCC), National Operational Coordination Centre (LOCC) and the relevant Ministries and Departmental Crisis Coordination Centres (DCCs).