



Minister of Social Affairs and Employment  
Attn: Karien van Gennip  
Den Haag  
Nederland

Per email [REDACTED]

Subject: Reaction to draft law "Verzamelwet SZW 2023"

Date: March 24, 2022

Dear Mrs. Van Gennip,

The Central Dialogue St. Eustatius (CDS), in response to your request for a reaction regarding the draft law "Verzamelwet SZW 2023", hereby submits the following for your consideration.

Below is the reaction and summary of the position of the CDS regarding the specific aspects of the draft law which will enter into force on January 1, 2023.

1. The CDS recommends against extending the statutory entitlement to sickness benefit to the 6<sup>th</sup> day of illness. This may result in an unintended negative impact for local employers.

In addition, implementation of the existing four (4) day limit is proving to be cumbersome and ineffective for businesses and employers on St. Eustatius. The CDS therefore recommends improving the effectiveness and efficiency in the application of the current regulation to eliminate existing discrepancies experienced in its execution.

2. The CDS also recommends against limiting the leave extension to one (1) child in the case of multiples births where more than one child is hospitalized at the same time.
3. The CDS advises conducting a study into the potential social economic impact of an extension of leave and sickness benefits on local businesses prior to enacting these new laws to avoid unintended adverse consequences.



As we attempt to rebuild our economy in the face of the new realities and uncertainties of an ongoing pandemic careful consideration must be given to the enactment of legislation and policies with social economic impact on the island.

Developing policies and leave regulations that are beneficial to employers **and** employees alike requires proper consultation and input from all stakeholders. The CDS commends the Ministry for your commitment to this process and is prepared, where needed, to contribute to a successful outcome.

While the CDS appreciates the opportunity to express its opinion on this matter, we recognize that the Federal Government is ultimately responsible for the final decision in this matter. In this context we submit this reaction for your consideration.

Hoping to have informed you sufficiently,

Kind regards



Chairlady Central Dialogue St. Eustatius