



Newsletter

Telecommunication and Post

Dutch Caribbean

Dear reader,

Through this Newsletter, Radiocommunications Agency Netherlands (the Radiocommunications Agency) and the Authority Consumer & Market (ACM) inform the residents of the Dutch Caribbean and market parties in the field of telecommunication and post about important developments in the sector. This is the first Newsletter of 2015.

The Radiocommunications Agency pays working visit to the Caribbean

In the week of 16 through 20 March 2015, a delegation of the Radiocommunications Agency paid a working visit to the Caribbean for consultations with Bureau Telecommunicatie en Post Curaçao, Bureau Telecommunicatie en Post Sint Maarten and mobile concession holders in the BES. The delegation held consultations in Sint Maarten, Curaçao and Bonaire.

The purpose of the visit on the one hand was to consult with the supervisors in Curaçao and Sint Maarten about common interests in the field of telecommunication and collaboration arising from this and on the other hand to discuss plans and spearheads for the coming period, to consult holders of mobile concessions and to attend hearings in the framework of the Administrative Justice Act. Below is a list of the main topics.

Agreement Curaçao, Sint Maarten and BES

After the Netherlands Antilles was dismantled, the supervising organizations of Curaçao, Sint Maarten and the Dutch Caribbean concluded an agreement to establish the distribution of number ranges, call signs, call letter blocks and network codes. This agreement serves to warrant the common interests in the field of telecommunication between Curaçao, Sint Maarten and the BES islands.



The agreement among other things contains provisions that numbers, call signs and network codes already assigned shall remain with the institution they have been assigned to. Exceptions are a limited number of cases where for the benefit of recognizability and unambiguity of the issue, the current assignment will be revoked and replaced by a new number or call sign.

The agreement was signed on 16 March 2015 by the Radiocommunications Agency, Directorate Energy, Telecom and Markets (DETM), Bureau Telecommunicatie en Post Curaçao and Bureau Telecommunicatie en Post Sint Maarten.

Mutual recognition of maritime certificates

In order to establish by law the recognition of maritime certificates within the Kingdom between different countries and the BES islands, the Radiocommunications Agency held further consultations with the supervisor of Sint Maarten and Curaçao. Views have been exchanged with these supervisors about the required amendments in the legislation of each country. In each country it will be evaluated to what extent an amendment of in the legislation is required to facilitate the recognition of each others' certificates.

It has been agreed with the ministry of Infrastructure and Environment that the maritime operator's certificates issued by the former Netherlands Antilles, Curaçao and the BES-islands will be accepted in order to obtain a Dutch certificate. The maritime education has also been informed about this agreement

Frequency coordination Curaçao, Sint Maarten and BES

The increasing demand for a frequency spectrum for mobile services in Sint Maarten, Curaçao and the BES islands was the reason for an orientation into the possibility to coordinate mutual frequency plans and frequency plans of directly surrounding territories (for example Sint Kitts and French Sint

Maarten). The Radiocommunications Agency arranged with the Bureau Telecommunicatie en Post of Sint Maarten to modify the mutual agreements with supervisors and to make common arrangements with surrounding territories to respond to the local demand for frequency spectrum.

Consultation mobile concession holders

Immediately after the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles, the Radiocommunications Agency indicated that it would maintain the legislation for Telecommunication and Post for the Netherlands Antilles in principle, to be adapted following an evaluation after 5 years.

In the past period, mobile concession holders requested a revision of the telecommunication tariffs.

Keeping into account the costs for supervision, market developments and market expectations, the Radiocommunications Agency conducted research into the possibilities to revise the tariffs system and adjustment of the level of the tariffs.

As part of this process there were consultations with the mobile concession holders of the BES during the working visit and the intention to revise certain tariffs was discussed. An important basic principle for the Radiocommunications Agency is that reduction of the tariffs for the concession holders must for a major part benefit the end-users of the BES islands.

Furthermore, the Radiocommunications Agency also pointed out that it would revise (simplify) the conditions in the concessions and that it intended to set up a Telecommunications fund for a certain period, in order to be able to provide once-only support of major telecommunication facilities for the benefit of the people of the BES.

Hearings on the BES islands

Two telecommunication companies had filed a notice of objection in the framework of the



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Administrative Justice Act at the Radiocommunications Agency.

During this working visit, in accordance with the procedure for handling notices of objection, the Radiocommunications Agency had chaired the hearings with these companies.

In the meantime, both companies received the final decision on the notice of objection they filed.

Authority Consumer & Markt

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Telecommunication spearheads BES

Together with the Bureau Telecommunicatie en Post Curaçao, the Radiocommunications Agency discussed and established the spearheads for the coming period for its work activities as supervisory authority of the BES islands. The main spearheads are:

- The simplification of concessions and authorizations.
- The review of the tariff system.
- The establishment of a Telecom fund.

Maritime radio exams

The maritime radio exams to obtain a certificate to operate radio transmitter equipment in the shipping industry are conducted twice a year. The last radio exams were conducted in the period of May-June 2015. The next radio exams will be held in the month of October 2015.

Those interested in taking Radio Exams may register in advance for the next exams, at the Front-Office of Bureau Telecommunicatie en Post in Bonaire.

The registration form may also be-requested there.

The exact dates for the next exams to be conducted will be announced in the local newspapers. Persons who have registered will be informed of the date directly.

Contact information

Requests, questions, complaints, recommendations and all other correspondence can be submitted to the office address of Bureau Telecommunicatie en Post in Bonaire, or by e-mail to bonaire@burtel.cw:

Agency Telecom
Attn.: mr. B.T. van Duijvenvoorde

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