



Newsletter

Telecommunication and Post

Dutch Caribbean

Year 2011, No. 2

Dear Reader,

This is already the second Newsletter of the year 2011, by means of which the Telecom Agency keeps the inhabitants of the Dutch Caribbean and the parties in the telecommunications and postal markets informed of facts, events and developments specific to the sector.

Radio examinations

The dates for taking examinations for obtaining a maritime radio communication certificate and radio amateur broadcasting licences for Saba and St. Eustatius are planned for the latter half of the month of September 2011. Interested parties in Bonaire can take the exams in the month of October 2011. The exact dates on which the exams will be taken, will be announced in local newspapers and on the websites of Bureau Telecommunication and Post. Interested candidates may apply to the Front Office of Bureau Telecommunication and Post in Bonaire for the registration form.

Status of affairs Fibre Optic Cable

The activities that should result in the laying of the maritime cable between St. Maarten, Saba, St. Eustatius and St. Kitts are in full swing, and progress is on schedule. Currently, work is done on completion of the applications and obtaining the required licences. In the meantime, on the instructions of RCN, a so-called cable route marine survey and an environmental assessment have been carried out and completed.

Frequency management and coordination

Bonaire and notably St. Eustatius and Saba are surrounded by other islands situated at short distances from each other. As radio frequencies do not stop at frontiers, it is important, for the purpose of preventing interference, that supervising bodies of the various surrounding islands (countries) make agreements on the assignment of frequency bands to be used for various applications and also on which frequencies can be used by which island.



In this connection frequency coordination meetings were held during the past quarter. For the territories of Bonaire, Curaçao and Venezuela, a frequency coordination consultation was held on the 28th and 29th of April 2011 by the supervising bodies of Venezuela (CONATEL), Curaçao (BT&P) and Bonaire (Telecom Agency). As such talks have not been held with CONATEL for quite some time, attention was primarily paid to exchange of information, and FM radio-broadcast and television broadcast planning in the neighbouring territories was discussed. Also the status of affairs with regard to the future plans dealing with application(s) of Long term Evolution (4G) were reviewed. By this consultation the contacts were made and information was exchanged by means of which possible interference in the field of telecommunications and broadcasting networks can be prevented and can be solved more easily.

Also in St. Maarten a similar frequency coordination consultation was held by the supervising bodies of Anguilla, St. Maarten (BT&P St. Maarten), Saint Martin (ARCEP) and Saba and St. Eustatius (Telecom Agency). In this connection final agreements were made with regard to the assignment of frequencies in the FM broadcasting band to the various islands (countries). In addition, detailed discussions were held about the arrangement, the use and the allocation of frequencies in the 470 – 790 MHz band for DVB-T use and mobile radio-communication. In the coming period Anguilla will present a proposition with regard to the arrangement and assignment of frequencies in the relevant frequency band(s), by means of which it will be further worked out.

BES Media Act

Effective October 10, 2010 the BES Media Act came into force for the public bodies Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba, and in February 2011 the BES Media Regulation was laid down. On the ground of this act, operating a radio or television broadcasting service in the Dutch Caribbean will only be permitted if the operator involved holds a permit obtained from the Broadcasting Commission. The Telecom Agency remains in charge of the technical aspects of the licences on the ground of the BES Telecommunications Act, but with regard to, among other things, the contents of programmes one should therefore apply to the Broadcasting Commission. As

regards broadcasting institutions currently still holding a valid licence, a transitional arrangement is in force, which, briefly stated, amounts to the broadcasting institution being required, upon expiration of the licence, to submit also a petition for a permit to the Broadcasting Commission in the procedure for application for renewal.

Quality measurement (delivery duration) BES post

In order to get a better insight into the quality of the postal service provided by Nieuwe Post Nederlandse Antillen (NPNA) in the Dutch Caribbean, every quarter a limited measurement will be made of the delivery duration of local post. For this purpose a number of letters will be dispatched to several addressees through various public post-office boxes. At the time when the letter reaches the addressee, the latter will be requested to state on what date the letter in question was received. Additionally, the addressee is requested to report this to Bureau Telecommunication and Post, enabling the delivery duration of the post to be measured. In addition, a request to return the letter postage paid. In this manner also the delivery duration in the opposite direction can be measured.

Delivery duration local Post

To ensure proper service with regard to mail carriage in, among other things, the Dutch Caribbean, NPNA has been granted a concession for a period of two years. Upon the expiration of this period, the concession will be renewed, also on the ground of the service results. During the period that NPNA holds a concession it will have the exclusive right to transport letters of 2000 grams at the most against payment, to install postboxes intended for public use along or on the public road, to install letterboxes and to issue stamps and seals. On the other hand, however, NPNA should have duly delivered local post within an island territory within two days, among other things. Should you have complaints or any comments or remarks with regard to the delivery duration provided by NPNA, you can submit them to the Front Office of Bureau Telecommunication and Post in Bonaire at any time.

Several postal addresses on private premises

Addressees living on recreational grounds or on private premises should, as a group, install their letterboxes near the entrance of such premises, under article 2,

paragraph 6 of the BES Letterboxes Regulation. Failing compliance with such requirement, the postman may present the post to the property manager of the private premises, or NPNA may indicate a certain (common) location where the addressees can collect their post.