Dear Chair and members of the Committee on Education, Culture and Science,

With great interest I have recently followed the developments concerning the Gwendoline van Putten School in the political domain in The Hague.

In particular, it has my attention how the CXC-CSEC "lands" in the NL law and regulations. After all, CXC-CSEC is a special maverick in the Dutch educational system.

*Note: CXC stands for Caribbean Examination Council and CSEC stands for Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate.*

The CXC-CSEC originates from a Caribbean education system that dates back to the 1970s, making it about the same age as the Mammoth Act of 1968 (with educational products such as havo, vwo and vmbo).

Because the language of instruction on St. Eustatius is English, the Dutch government agreed in 2014 to the request of the local government to define English as the language of instruction in schools.

Related to this, the CXC education system has replaced the havo and vmbo on St. Eustatius. The last havo and vmbo exam on St. Eustatius took place in 2019; from the school year 2019/2020 there will only be CXC.

As a preparation for higher professional education in the European Netherlands, HAVO has (of course) always served and it was the intention from the beginning of the introduction that CXC-CSEC would take over that function.

To this end, the Gwendoline van Puttenschool team has defined the following exam subjects:

- General and mandatory: [English](https://www.jhtm.nl/gvp/bibliotheek/cxc/csec/csec_english.pdf), [Mathematics](https://www.jhtm.nl/gvp/bibliotheek/cxc/csec/csec_mathematics.pdf), [Social Studies](https://www.jhtm.nl/gvp/bibliotheek/cxc/csec/csec_social_studies.pdf), Dutch (Nederlands) and [EDPM](https://www.jhtm.nl/gvp/bibliotheek/cxc/csec/csec_electronic_document_preparation_and_management.pdf)

- A-profile: choice of two from [Economics](https://www.jhtm.nl/gvp/bibliotheek/cxc/csec/csec_economics.pdf), [Spanish](https://www.jhtm.nl/gvp/bibliotheek/cxc/csec/csec_modern_languages.pdf), [Geography](https://www.jhtm.nl/gvp/bibliotheek/cxc/csec/csec_geography.pdf) and [Caribbean History](https://www.jhtm.nl/gvp/bibliotheek/cxc/csec/csec_caribbean_history.pdf)

- B-profile: choice of two from [Physics](https://www.jhtm.nl/gvp/bibliotheek/cxc/csec/csec_physics.pdf), [Chemistry](https://www.jhtm.nl/gvp/bibliotheek/cxc/csec/csec_chemistry.pdf), [Biology](https://www.jhtm.nl/gvp/bibliotheek/cxc/csec/csec_biology.pdf) and [Additional Mathematics](https://www.jhtm.nl/gvp/bibliotheek/cxc/csec/csec_additional_mathematics.pdf)

*Note: The current syllabi are linked to the listed subjects as a link.*

In addition to these exam subjects, there are the general education subjects Art and Physical Education.

Dutch occupies a special position. It turns out to be difficult to implement a good NT2 programme. Despite attempts by, among others, the Taalunie, the result cannot yet be called very successful. It is possible to continue to take HAVO or VMBO exams, but because of the interweaving of school and central exams it is not easy to implement the existing CXC system.

On the basis of the aforementioned exam subjects, it seems very well possible to comply with the advice given by CXC to educational institutes in the Caribbean region (see below), which is also broadly in line with what Nuffic states. For this reason I would like to see that when the CXC criteria are met (minimum five subjects, result in the range I - III), this automatically leads to access to higher professional education in the European Netherlands (as the HAVO diploma does). The CSEC-A profile will then be comparable to the HAVO profiles CM and EM; the CSEC-B profile will then be comparable to the HAVO profiles NT and NG.

To date, I have not found anywhere "hard" that access to higher professional education in the European Netherlands will be granted with the CSEC profiles referred to above. The Nuffic designation "approximately havo" comes closest, but you will understand that pupils and their parents find this - just as I do - too vague an interpretation.

I would like to see your Commission ensure to the Minister that this automatic access to higher professional education in the European Netherlands on the basis of the CXC-CSEC level in the various subjects belonging to an A or B profile will be anchored in legislation or regulations.

Thank you in advance and yours sincerely,

J.H.T. (Jan) Meijer MSc MBA,

lives on Sint Eustatius and is very involved in (secondary) education on the island.

*Note: The recent developments have been brought together on* [*http://www.statia.nu/en/25.php*](http://www.statia.nu/en/25.php) *(with the hyperlinks to underlying documents).*

Cc: Chairman and members of the Kingdom Relations Committee

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Advice CXC according to their own [website](https://www.cxc.org/examinations/csec/):

"The Council has advised tertiary institutions and Ministries of Education in participating territories that Grades I - III at the General and Technical Proficiencies should be considered as satisfying the matriculation requirement for four-year programmes at universities and entry requirement to community colleges, teachers' colleges and any tertiary institution offering post-secondary programmes.