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onderwerp Recommendation letter

Dear

The National Committee 200 years Kingdom, installed by the Dutch Government to organize the celebration of 200 years Kingdom of the Netherlands, launched the celebration on November 30th, 2013. This start event consisted of a simulated historic landing on Scheveningen, an official opening session in the Hall of Knights in The Hague and a very special Koninkrijksconcert. It was a "live" televised national event with a large audience.

The celebration is a good moment for the Kingdom of the Netherlands to reflect on our common past, present and future. The National Committee seeks in the next two years to offer a program that appeals to broad groups of our society by actively engaging large numbers of citizens in this celebration. Also we hope and expect that business organizations and companies will be actively involved. The celebration of 200 years Kingdom will take place between November 2013 and September 2015. It is a celebration for everyone, both in the European part of the Kingdom as well as in the Caribbean. It is what keeps us together as Kingdom. To celebrate together also means respect for our different backgrounds and the diversity that exists within the Kingdom of The Netherlands.

The National Committee will organize in the two year period of the celebration, 2013-2015, six national events. One of these six national events will take place in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom. The National Committee organizes in the week of May 19 – 25, 2014, in cooperation with the Committee for Kingdom Relations for young people of all countries and Islands in the Kingdom the so-called "Koninkrijksjeugdparlement" (Youth Parliament of the Kingdom). Fifty young people, divided into teams from the Netherlands, Curaçao, Aruba, St. Maarten, Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba will during 3 days discuss the future of the Kingdom, that what we have in common. These teams are pre-selected on the basis of a "you tube" competition. Short movies with presentations will be judged by a jury.

InterExpo Caribbean N.V.

InterExpo Caribbean N.V., for twenty years active in promoting trade relations between all parts of the Kingdom, organized on 27 – 28 November its 17th trade mission in The Hague on the eve of the start of the celebration of 200 years Kingdom. InterExpo Caribbean N.V. has agreed to be one of the sponsors of the Kingdom Youth Parliament in May 2014. For that reason it has also chosen to organize its 18th trade mission on St Maarten, of course, in the same week that the Kingdom Youth Parliament takes place. In this way there are interesting combinations to be made that make the national event 200 years Kingdom on St. Maarten even more meaningful.

I wholeheartedly recommend the activities of InterExpo aimed on making this 18th Trade Mission a success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.Th.B. Bijleveld-Schouten', with a horizontal line underneath.

Ms.Drs. A.Th.B. Bijleveld-Schouten  
President of the Netherlands National Committee 200 years Kingdom