



Translation of: Advice pertaining to the draft budget for 2026

Original title: Advies bij de ontwerpbegroting 2026

In case of differences in interpretation between the English translation and the Dutch version of the text, or in legal proceedings or escalation procedures pursuant to applicable regulations, the original Dutch version shall always be leading.

Dear Ms. Francis,

On August 19th, 2025, the Board of financial supervision of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba (Cft) received your Executive Council's draft budget (OB) for 2026, along with the request to issue an advice thereon pursuant to Article 17 paragraph 3 of the Act on Finances of the Public Entities Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba (*Wet financiën openbare lichamen Bonaire, Sint Eustatius en Saba* - FinBES Act). With this letter, you receive the aforementioned advice.¹ In Annex 1 to this letter you will find a further clarification and substantiating figures.

Conclusion

For the 2026-2029 period, Sint Eustatius budgets slight surpluses and in doing so, it meets the central budgetary standard set forth in the FinBES Act. The Cft observes a strong improvement of the quality and completeness of the budget. The special benefits have been included multiannually, which contributes to a better insight into the financial standing of the Public Entity. Considering the growth of the administrative organization and the fact the open vacancies are filled, the Cft deems it necessary that more clarity is given in the budget regarding the personnel expenses, especially the degree in which these are covered structurally or incidentally.

Subsequent steps

The Cft recommends that in the OB you further explain the total personnel expenses, distinguishing between structural and incidental coverage.

When submitting the adopted budget to the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, the Cft shall verify to which extent this recommendation has been incorporated.

Explanatory statement

Multi-annual estimate personnel expenses

Pursuant to the FinBES Act and the BBV BES, the budget and the multi-annual estimate (at least three years) must offer insight into the expenses, including the personnel expenses.² However, from the detailed explanation that has been included at current, it cannot be deduced which part of the personnel expenses is structurally covered and which part is financed incidentally. This distinction is crucial, since the large share that the personnel expenses have in the total expenses has direct consequences for financial sustainability in the longer term. This enhances the transparency of the budget and enables the Island Council to better assess the financial consequences of policy choices.

Trusting to have provided you with sufficient information.

Sincerely,

The Chair of the Board of financial supervision of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba

[signature]

Ms. L.M.C. Ongerling, MA

A copy of this letter was sent to:

The Head of Finance of the Public Entity Sint Eustatius

Annex 2: Endnotes

¹ The FinBES Act, supplemented by the criteria set out in the Decree on Budget and Justification Public Entities (BBV BES), forms the framework for the assessment of the OB.

² Article 15 of the FinBES Act and Article 8 in conjunction with Article 21 of the BBV BES.