



## FAQ

Below please find an overview of frequently asked questions about topics related to the subject of the press release, and the accompanying answers.

- **Why are the fees increased?**
  - All fees are adjusted, for the first time in 10 years: some fees will increase, others decrease, depending on the type of legal entity.
  
- **Who has decided this?**
  - The fee changes are an integral part of the legislative changes: this has been realized through Parliament as is usual for legislative changes.
  - This is not decided by the (board of) the Chamber of Commerce.
  
- **Who decides what the fees will be?**
  - The Chamber of Commerce fees are decided upon by the Minister of Economic and Climate Affairs.
  - This is not decided by the (board of) the Chamber of Commerce.
  
- **Who supervises the Chamber of Commerce?**
  - The Ministry of Economic and Climate Affairs supervises how the Chamber of Commerce functions.
  
- **What was the decision process for the new legislation?**
  - As of 2015 the Ministry has been in discussion with the Chamber of Commerce and local stakeholders about necessary and desired changes in the legislation. The draft legislation has undergone another consultation round and after that every citizen has been able to provide input through the internet consultation.
  - Due to prioritization of other topics, the introduction of this legislation has been delayed.
  
- **How is the Chamber going to use the additional income?**
  - We expect to be able to perform our legal duties, however we will need to see the actual results of the new situation.
  - It is the wish of the Ministry and the Chamber for the Chamber to be able to function fully, especially with respect to providing information and support of entrepreneurs without subsidies from the Public Entity of Bonaire.
  - We do not expect a significant increase in income and it is not our intention to spend significantly more, as we do not see any cause for this.

- **Why is there a difference with the other (Dutch) Caribbean islands?**
  - As the BES islands on one hand, and Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten on the other all have their own legislation it is not possible to make a statement about the differences in legislation and their impact on the fees.
  - It is however evident that the islands differ greatly with respect to their scale, which could be a (partial) explanation.
  
- **Why is the financing of the Chamber of Commerce in Bonaire arranged differently from in the Netherlands?**
  - History and legislation differ: for example in the BES islands the Chambers have an elected board, which is not the case in the Netherlands.
  - To compensate for some fiscal measures, the annual fee was abolished in the Netherlands some years ago. This is not the case on the BES islands. A new entry in the Commercial Register in the Netherlands is also subject to a registration fee.
  
- **How has this been communicated to the registered entries?**
  - Starting December 2021 the Chamber of Commerce communicates about the upcoming new legislation via email, press releases, her own website and social media.