

From: "[redacted]" <[redacted]@2018.nl>
Sent: woensdag 11 juli 2018 14:27
To: "[redacted]@gmail.com" <[redacted]@gmail.com>
Subject: Aanvullende Q&A (Engels) bezoek Bonnici + extra
Attachments: Engelse QandA Valletta.docx, Antwoorden Stef Blok min BuZa op kamervragen Malta.pdf, De Brief van Timmermans 21 juni.docx

Dag allen,

In de bijlage een aanvullende Q&A mbt bezoek Owen Bonnici.

Dankzij [redacted] ook nog:

-antwoorden BuZa op vragen Malta

-de brief van Timmermans/Juncker (nav PEN-brief)

Mei freonlike groetnis,

Met vriendelijke groet,

With kind regards,

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Leeuwarden-Fryslân European Capital of Culture 2018

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Why are you here today, Tjeerd van Bekkum?

-Because I definitely play a role in the broader discussion.

-As CEO of LF2018 I am responsible for the decision on the 26th of April to no longer send invitations to and accept invitations from V18.

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(-In that respect it would be uncomfortable if I didn't attend this meeting today.)

Has there been any contact between V18 and LF2018 since 26 April?

Yes. We've talked about the several projects in our mutual program: these are still wonderful collaborations.

And what do you think of this?

-We are waiting for a statement in which V18 will distance itself from the tone that unnecessarily hurt the relatives of Daphne Caruana Galazia.

(However, I am pleased with the professional attitude of V18 that projects within the cooperation program with LF2018 have continued to support)

Why?

-Because the cultural dialogue has to continue.

-The artistic managers are completely free in the form and content they want to give to their project.

-They need our support. Now and in the future.

What needs to be done to restore the relationship between V18 and LF2018?

-We would like to see a statement from the Valetta18 Foundation.

-A statement in which it clearly distances itself from the earlier remarks; done by several people of the foundation

Which remarks do you mean?

-Expressions that – and I don't find it necessary to repeat them now - have hurt the relatives of the murdered journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia.

How do you think this statement should look like? And to whom?

-The declaration should in our opinion be addressed to the family of Galicia and the Ecoc family.

-The foundation should distance itself or offer apologies for previous statements, especially recorded in the online posting. The form of the statement is not important to us. It's all about the content.

But Owen Bonnici says that Jason Micallefs remarks are a matter of freedom of speech. Isn't he entitled to the freedom of speech?

-We cherish the human rights. These values, like the freedom of the press and the freedom of speech, are extremely important.

-However: the ability to say everything, does not mean you must say everything. Therefore, freedom of speech requires a great responsibility.

Have you, Mr van Bakkum, not gone too far as a foundation by boycotting V18? Because in matters of disagreement it is always better to stay in conversation with each other?

-We have been talking the matter. On several occasions, on several levels.

-Mind you! This was not a decision that was taken to lightly

-We are not alone in this. The chairman of the European jury and several other ECoCs have also stated – and I quote – **‘that this project calls on us to live and to foster European values such as freedom of speech and expression, and artistic freedom, as well as civic courage and engagement.’**

Quote Frans Timmermans (also in name of EU-president Juncker:

„However, the Commission strongly encourages anyone who represents an European Capital of Culture to express him or herself in a manner that reflects the common values on which the EU is based. One of the missions of European Capitals of Culture is precisely to invite Europeans to become active citizens and ensure that the core values on which our Union is built – such as democracy, freedom of speech and the rule of law – are respected and shared by all. Any

statements made in this context that go against the spirit are highly regrettable and should, in the Commission's view, be avoided.”

Why is not the municipality of Leeuwarden not represented here today?

-It is an invitation from the regional minister of Culture mrs. Sietske Poepjes to Mr Owen Bonnici. Alderman Feitsma and I talk about this dossier with one mouth. That has been agreed.

OUR STATEMENT LETTERLIJK UIT ONZE VOLLEDIGE VERKLARING AAN MEDIA EN V18 OP 26 APRIL

‘The Leeuwarden-Fryslân 2018 Foundation has decided not to send any official representatives to Valletta as long as the organisation Malta-Valletta2018 (V18) does not distance itself from their offensive tone which refers, **most notably**, to the relatives of the murdered journalist, Daphne Caruana Galazia.

LF2018 will also send no more official invitations to Malta-Valletta2018 (V18) until further notice.

LF2018 believes that V18 representatives have put the values of a European Capital of Culture under pressure as a result of the way in which the V18 organisation has presented itself in the (social) media regarding the journalist.

The projects within the Valletta2018 collaboration programme will continue to be supported; the cultural dialogue therefore remains in place as far as LF2018 is concerned.

The artistic managers remain completely free in their decisions regarding the form and content they want to give to their projects.

HET VERVOLG:

The decision by LF2018 to temporarily freeze administrative contacts was taken after **broad consultation at both national and European level**, and after **various signals** were given to the organisation of V18.

Meanwhile, the V18 organisation has been informed of our decision.

As long as the V18 organisation fails to distance itself from the offensive tone which particularly relates to the relatives of the murdered journalist Daphne Caruana Galazia, the decision remains in place.

The ideology of a European Capital of Culture should not be discredited. It is our responsibility, as well as that of other European Capitals of Culture, to defend these values.

In an earlier statement, shared on the website www.2018.nl (published on 17th April 2018), and through various other outlets, LF2018 has already stated that every attack on artistic freedom, freedom of the press and freedom of expression is reprehensible; these hard-won freedoms also form the basis for a democratic constitutional state.

Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken

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Onze Referentie

BZDOC-1753703952-37

Uw Referentie

2018Z12419

Bijlage(n)

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Datum 9 juli 2018

Betreft Beantwoording vragen van de leden Van Helvert en Van der Molen over de niet nagekomen beloftes van de regering van Malta

Hierbij bied ik u de antwoorden aan op de schriftelijke vragen gesteld door de leden Van Helvert en Van der Molen over de niet nagekomen beloftes van de regering van Malta. Deze vragen werden ingezonden op 26 juni 2018 met kenmerk 2018Z12419.

De Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken,

Stef Blok

Antwoorden van de Minister van Buitenlandse Zaken op vragen van de leden Van Helvert en Van der Molden (CDA) over de niet nagekomen beloftes van de regering van Malta

Onze Referentie
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Frans Timmermans

Thank you for your letter of 19 April 2018 to the President of the European Commission and myself. President Juncker has asked me to reply on his behalf. In your letter, you share the outrage expressed by PEN international in a letter addressed to us with regard to the behaviour of the Chairman of Valletta 2018 Capital of Culture.

Please allow me to inform you that in replying to that letter on behalf of President Juncker I underlined how the Commission condemns the brutal assassination of Ms Daphne Caruana Galizia in the strongest terms possible.

I also stressed that the selection and operation of European Capitals of Culture is done independently while the Commission is responsible for ensuring that the rules are being followed correctly. The Commission cannot therefore bear any responsibility for any public statements of a national chair of a European Capital of Culture, who is designated by the national authorities.

However, the Commission strongly encourages anyone who represents a European Capital of Culture to express his or herself in a manner that reflects the common values on which the EU is based. One of the missions of European Capitals of Culture is precisely to invite Europeans to become active citizens and ensure that the core values on which our Union is built – such as democracy, freedom of speech and the rule of law – are respected and shared by all. Any statements made in this context that go against this spirit are highly regrettable and should, in the Commission's view, be avoided.

Yours sincerely



Frans Timmermans

Toelichting grondslagen

In dit document kunt u secties vinden die onleesbaar zijn gemaakt. Deze informatie is achterwege gelaten op basis van de Wet open overheid (Woo). De letter die hierbij is vermeld correspondeert met de bijbehorende grondslag in onderstaand overzicht.

J Art. 5.1 lid 2 sub e

Het belang van de openbaarmaking van deze informatie weegt niet op tegen het belang van de eerbiediging van de persoonlijke levenssfeer van betrokkenen