



BASHKIA  
TIRANË

Prot.no.: 2635

Tirana 20.01.2020

**Subject:** On the assistance by Brandweer Kennemerland

**H.E.MS. GUUSJE KORTHALS ALTES**  
**AMBASSADOR OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS TO ALBANIA**  
Embassy of the Netherlands, Rruga Asim Zeneli, Nr. 10, Tirana

Honourable Ambassador Korthals Altes,

The Municipality of Tirana presents its compliments to the Dutch Embassy and with reference to Your meeting with my staff earlier this week with regards to the possibility of the donation of two fire engines by the Brandweer Kennemerland, allow me to firstly extend our thanks to the Dutch Embassy for its highly esteemed support and the Brandweer Kennemerland for their consideration to be of assistance to Tirana in these difficult times. As You are already aware, the 26 November earthquake that unfortunately hit Albania had devastating infrastructural impacts on Tirana, for which we've called for not only national mobilization but also international assistance.

Following the expansion of the city of Tirana's territories as a result of the 2015 Albanian administrative-territorial reform, the city has now come to confront with infrastructural challenges that unfortunately surpass its capacities and for which time and support is continuously needed. Our local fire service currently possesses a total of ten fire engines, mostly amortized, that should serve a population of approximately one million inhabitants in an area of more than 1110 km<sup>2</sup>. Therefore, we would highly value the support of international partners particularly in emergency response equipment so that we get better able to handle situations of emergency in the future.

The City of Rotterdam was one of the first partners to respond positively to our request by offering engineering expertise for post-disaster damage assessments. Apart from our continuous good relations with the City of Rotterdam, the City of Tirana has had pivotal collaborations with the Rotterdam-based UNLAB and MVRDV architectural studios. The Hague-based Bernard van Leer Foundation is similarly one of our main partners in working for the city's transformation into a child-friendly space. I am honoured to mention our successful collaboration with the Dutch company Mobycon on enhancing the bicycle knowledge in Tirana, a project supported by the esteemed Dutch Embassy. I have been personally invited to attend a number of conferences held in the Netherlands, such as the prestigious Amsterdam International Water Week, and I should say that our experience in cooperating with Dutch institutions has been by far among the best we have had during my term in office.



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Finally, I would like to express once again our full readiness for any requirement needed by our local government in case of the approval of the donation and particularly, as regards the transport of the vehicles, the Municipality of Tirana is ready to facilitate the customs clearance procedures and also cover part of the related costs, depending on the agreement of all parties involved. My staff remains at Your disposal for any further discussion on this matter.

Allow me once again, Your Excellency, to take this opportunity to extend my salutations and sincere gratitude for Your kind support.

Sincerely Yours,

**ERION VELIAJ**

**MAYOR OF TIRANA**

