

PRESS RELEASE



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Appointment Ryan Blanca 'Ambassador' and liaison of Chamber of Commerce Foundation in the Caribbean

Access to safe, affordable and efficient housing is crucial in times of climate change, natural disasters and migration of populations. Also inhabitants of traditional residential environments on mainland or islands are facing challenges: scarce land, high construction costs and a growing expensive rental market.

The Chamber of Commerce Netherlands – Turkey foundation is therefore honored to appoint Mr. Ryan Blanca, born in Suriname, as 'ambassador' for the Caribbean (including Guyana, Suriname and French Guyana). Due to the strong historical ties with Europe, there are ample economic activities with, among others, the Netherlands, which makes good accessibility possible for Turkish entrepreneurs.

After his academic training in Amsterdam, Mr. Blanca was involved in commercial and social activities in Suriname and French Guyana in trade, forestry, mining and housing. Mr. Blanca is co-founder of [Caribe Building Systems](http://www.caribebuildingsystems.com) with Roland Soedamah.

In addition to answering to a growing demand for sustainable forms of energy generation, Turkish entrepreneurs can also play an important role in meeting the need for innovative housing solutions for the Caribbean. Due to the devastating Hurricane Irma in 2017, many houses on, among others, Sint Maarten were damaged or destroyed. The Netherlands created a Trust Fund for reconstruction on Sint Maarten which has been transferred to the World Bank. Caribe Building Systems is currently investigating how this demand can be responded to.

The Chamber of Commerce foundation has played a facilitating role between relevant trading parties. The Turkish market was explored; reliability of potential parties examined; company visits organised; culture, language and legal-technical issues handled. Mr. Blanca wants to notify his fundamental role of the Chamber of Commerce foundation as much as possible in the Caribbean at every potential commercial cooperation with Turkish companies.

Caribe Building Systems is socially involved. It offers solutions for the housing shortage in the Caribbean (middle and lower segment) in combination with a guarantee of quality. Sustainability is of paramount importance to the company. Products are fully recyclable and respond to environmental and climatic issues (hurricane-resistant homes).

Mr. Blanca's personal conviction is that countries in the Caribbean are not sufficiently committed to the development and exploitation of their capacities and cooperation in the region.