

In Martin, 8 December 2023

Dear Mr Mayor,

At first, I would like to thank you for participation during the St Martin City Days in November 2023. I really appreciate discussions with you – the highest representatives of the City of Hoogeveen and the Stichting Stedenband Hoogeveen - Martin during all events. The Partnership Agreement between Martin and Hoogeveen as the oldest partnership agreement was signed on 13 October 1990 in Martin. The cooperation has been realised through the partner association volunteers "Stichting Stedenband Hoogeveen-Martin/Town-Twinning Foundation". The City of Martin is the sole partner of the City of Hoogeveen. Over the course of 33 years, the partnership has focused on social and health, cultural and artistic, municipal, regional development and tourism, business, environmental, educational, and religious areas. In recent years, cooperation has been developed mainly in the cultural field (preservation of intangible cultural heritage), in the field of cooperation among art schools, business academies (a new project among three partner cities was already specified), and high schools with a focus on tourism and entrepreneurship.

As the former Ambassador of the Slovak Embassy in The Hague underlined, the City of Martin is the only Slovak city to have a functioning partnership with a city in the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

I strongly believe in a fruitful future cooperation between the City of Martin and the City of Hoogeveen as well as the Turiec Region and the Drenthe Region.

With best regards

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Mr Karel Loohuis

Mayor

City of Hoogeveen