

## Long-term and Cross-cutting Issues in European Governments and Parliaments

# Netherlands

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## Preface

This country report is one part of a comprehensive report presenting the results of an inquiry concerning the institutions, methods and procedures used by governments and parliaments throughout Europe for dealing with long-term and cross-cutting issues. The study was conducted by the *EURES institute* on behalf of the *Office for Technology Assessment of the German Parliament (TAB)*.

Especially the concept of `Sustainable Development` requires a long-term and cross-cutting perspective. Therefore governments and parliaments in many countries are looking for new approaches to deal with these issues. In this context the project aimed at collecting a wide range of information about the institutions and the methods used by them for tackling long-term and cross-cutting issues.

Consequently, this report can also be used as a handbook. It should foster an international exchange of information and experiences concerning these questions. We are confident that the provided information is of practical use for organisations and experts involved in long-term and cross-cutting issues. Unfortunately some parts of the report exist only in a German version. A desirable complete English translation would require to find a source for additional funding

This country report contains:

- A brief country profile (Kurzbericht) concerning (a) the general political framework (political system and political culture) and (b) a summary of the way the country basically tackles long-term and cross-cutting issues (German)
- A country study on long-term and cross-cutting issues prepared by a country expert (English)
- A compilation of detailed characterisations of long-term and cross-cutting institutions within the country (English)

More information both concerning the project and the other parts of the report is provided on <http://www.eures.de/r38>.

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## 9 Niederlande

Fläche:	41.526 km <sup>2</sup>
Einwohner:	15.607.000
Bruttosozialprodukt je Einwohner (1997) in US\$:	25.830

### 9.1 Kurzbericht

#### 9.1.1 Übersicht

Die Niederlande sind durch eine Verhandlungsdemokratie mit ausgesprochener Konsensorientierung geprägt. Die politische Kultur ist auf Pragmatismus ausgerichtet.

Auch für Institutionen zur Behandlung von Langzeit- und Querschnittsfragen ist das niederländische System damit vergleichsweise offen. Das zeigt sich auch daran, dass sich eine Vielzahl an semi-staatlichen und unabhängigen Forschungs- und Beratungsinstitutionen herausgebildet haben, die sich mit diesen Fragen beschäftigen.

Zentrale Grundlage zur Etablierung von Langzeit- und Querschnittsinstitutionen war die traditionell herausragende Bedeutung der Planung in den Niederlanden. Mit der Umweltplanung haben sich in den 80er Jahren wichtige weitere Langfrist- und Querschnittsinstitutionen gebildet.

Diese Entwicklungen vollzogen sich in den Niederlanden im europäischen Vergleich sehr früh und waren z.T. überaus innovativ. Vor diesem Hintergrund sind die weitreichenden Erfahrungen hochgradig interessant im Hinblick auf die Fragestellung dieser Studie.

#### 9.1.2 Der politische, kulturelle und institutionelle Kontext<sup>1</sup>

Demokratietypus:	Konsensuell
Staatsoberhaupt/ Regierungssystem:	Monarch / Parlamentarische Demokratie
Partizipation ges. Interessen / Politikstil:	Korporatismus / Konsensuell
Direktdemokratische Elemente:	k.A.
Staatsaufbau / Stellung der subnationalen Ebenen:	unitaristischer Staatsaufbau / beschränkte kommunale Selbstverwaltung
Politische Kultur:	Konkordanzdemokratie ausgelegt auf Verhandlung, Kompromiss und Beteiligung

#### Politisches System

Konstitutives Merkmal der niederländischen Demokratie ist ihre Ausrichtung auf *konsensuelle* Konfliktlösungen. Deutlich wird dies sowohl in der institutionellen Anlage des politischen Systems selber und im Umgang der politischen Akteure untereinander, als auch im Außenverhältnis des politisch-administrativen Systems zu den gesellschaftlichen Interessengruppen.

Das Parlament setzt sich aus zwei Kammern (Generalstaaten) zusammen und reklamiert für sich ein im internationalen Vergleich hohes Maß an Eigenständigkeit gegenüber der Regierung. Es sieht sich als nationales Diskussionsforum und als ein über den gesellschaftlichen Partikularinteressen stehender Verwalter des Gemeinwohls. Gesetzesvorhaben werden hier mit

<sup>1</sup> Vgl. im folgenden v.a. Länderstudie Niederlande; (Lepszy 1999).

Blick auf eine Kompromissfindung sehr detailliert debattiert und häufig modifiziert. Exekutive und Legislative sind in den Niederlanden auch personell stark voneinander getrennt.

Die niederländische Verfassung sieht neben einem überaus komplizierten Regierungsbildungsprozedere auch weitgehende Mitwirkungsrechte der verschiedenen am Gesetzgebungsprozess beteiligten Gewalten (Regierung, beide Kammern des Parlamentes) vor. Vor diesem Hintergrund ist der Politikprozess in hohem Maße von Verhandlung und Kompromissfindung zwischen den verschiedenen Akteuren gekennzeichnet. Auch innerhalb der Exekutive bestimmt das Element der Aushandlung die Regierungstätigkeit. Gründe dafür sind u.a. die Zusammensetzung der Regierung als Koalition sowie die relativ schwache Stellung des Ministerpräsidenten, der weder über Richtlinienkompetenz noch über Patronagemöglichkeiten verfügt. Erwähnenswert scheint in diesem Zusammenhang, dass sich unter solchen konkordanzdemokratischen Bedingungen eine Vielzahl an politischen Beratungseinrichtungen etabliert hat, die die politische Entscheidungsfindung unterstützen.

Neben Institutionen der Politikberatung haben in den Niederlanden auch die korporatistischen Institutionen ein großes Gewicht. Die Niederlande sind bekannt für ihre korporatistische Form der Interessenvermittlung. Der Konflikt zwischen Kapital und Arbeit wurde und wird über spezielle Institutionen (bspw. den Sozial-ökonomischen Rat) unter Mitwirkung des Staates verhandelt und so in friedlichen Bahnen gehalten. Hier werden jedoch auch – trotz Abwesenheit einer demokratischen Legitimierung – z.T. weitreichende politische Vorentscheidungen getroffen.

Vergleichsweise früh gesellten sich in den Niederlanden zu dieser Konfliktlösungsstrategie auf Elitenebene Neue Soziale Bewegungen. Die politische Kultur hat stark partizipative Züge. Insbesondere unkonventionelle Formen der politischen Beteiligung finden vergleichsweise weitreichende Unterstützung.

### **Politische Kultur**

Die politische Kultur der Niederlande ist geprägt durch die sogenannte „Versäulung“ der Gesellschaft: Traditionell existieren religiöse und ideologische Gruppen (Katholiken, Protestanten, Sozialisten, Liberale) verhältnismässig separiert voneinander. Dabei überlagert diese Säulenstruktur die sozio-ökonomische Schichtung der Gesellschaft.

Ähnlich wie in anderen gesellschaftlich sehr heterogenen Staaten ist die politische Reaktion auf diese sozio-strukturellen Verhältnisse die Ausbildung eines auf Verhandlung, Kompromiss und Beteiligung der verschiedenen Gruppen ausgelegte Konkordanzdemokratie. Die politische Kultur und der Stil der politischen Auseinandersetzung hat sich dabei den sozialen Bedingungen angepasst und ist geprägt durch eine Offenheit gegenüber gegensätzlichen Positionen, Ergebnisorientierung und Pragmatismus.

#### **9.1.3 Die Behandlung von Langzeit- und Querschnittsfragen**

Sowohl die dichte Besiedlung als auch die besondere Küstenlage begründen eine traditionell sehr hohe politische Bedeutung der räumlichen und infrastrukturellen Planung in den Niederlanden. Hier hat sich bereits früh eine Langzeitorientierung ausgeprägt. Aus diesem Grunde konzentriert sich die niederländische Länderstudie in weiten Teilen auf die Entwicklung und die Institutionen sowohl der räumlichen als auch der Umweltplanung.

### **Entwicklung**

Vor dem Hintergrund der speziellen räumlichen Bedingungen in den Niederlanden und der Notwendigkeit des Wiederaufbaus erlangte die Raumplanung auf nationaler Eben bereits

unmittelbar nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg eine herausragende Bedeutung. Diese war von Beginn an mit einem Zeithorizont von 10-15 Jahren stark auf Langfristigkeit ausgelegt und vergleichsweise offen für bürgerliche Mitbestimmung.

Mit der Gründung des Umweltministeriums 1972 wurde diese langfristig orientierte Planungstradition fortgeführt – zunächst auf die verschiedenen Umweltmedien bezogen. 1985 erschien dann der `State of the Environment Report` (Nationale Milieuverkenning) als Grundlage zum `National Environmental Policy Plan` (Nationaal Milieubeleidsplan, NMP), der 1989 mit einem Planungshorizont von 10 Jahren und einer politischen „Laufzeit“ von 5 Jahren unter Beteiligung verschiedener Ministerien verabschiedet wurde. Seit 1998 ist NMP 3 in Kraft.

Neben den Bemühungen zur nationalen Umweltplanung etablierte sich 1988 aufgrund Bemühungen des Umweltministeriums, das die Notwendigkeit einer weit in die Zukunft reichenden prospektiven Planung erkannte, das `Committee for Longterm Environmental Policy` (Commissie lange-termijn Milieubeleid, CLTM). Diese der Regierung verpflichtete, jedoch weitgehend unabhängige Forschungs- und Beratungsinstitution bearbeitete einen weiten Rahmen an Themen im Hinblick auf langfristige Entwicklungen, Trends und Problemlösungsmöglichkeiten. Ihre Arbeit resultierte in dem Bericht „The Environment: Ideas for the 21st Century“ (Het Milieu: Denkbled voor de 21ste eeuw). Nach einer zweiten 3jährigen Arbeitsperiode wurde das CLTM aufgrund regierungsinterner Widerstände und vor dem Hintergrund einer Phase einer „Verschlankung“ der Anzahl staatlicher Beratungsinstitutionen aufgelöst.

Hervorgegangen aus den Berichten des CLTM ist 1993 das interministerielle `Programme for Sustainable Technology Development` (Duurzame Technologie Ontwikkeling, DTO), das v.a. auf die langfristige Erforschung und Ausnutzung von technologischen Effizienzgewinnen für eine nachhaltige Entwicklung zielte. Ähnliche Bedingungen wie beim CLTM führten letztlich 1998 zum Ende des DTO.

Neben den genannten Organisationen existiert in den Niederlanden ein weitreichendes Netz an Planungs-, Forschungs- und Beratungsinstitutionen mit unterschiedlichen Schwerpunktsetzungen, die an vielen Stellen wichtige Beiträge in Bezug auf Langzeit- und Querschnittsfragen geliefert haben. Auf diese wird unten näher einzugehen sein.

**Gesellschaftliche Akteure**

**Relevanz der gesellschaftlichen Akteure im Hinblick auf Langzeit- und Querschnittsfragen**

Nationales Parlament	● ●
Nationale Regierung	● ● ●
Medien / Öffentliche Debatte	● ● ● ●
Forscher und Forschungsinstitutionen	● ● ●
NGOs	● ● ● ●
Unabhängige Stiftungen / Think Tanks	● ● ●
Wirtschaft	● ●
Gewerkschaften	●
Regionale Regierungen und Institutionen	●
Europäische Union	● ● ●
OECD	● ● ● ●
Weltbank	● ●
andere internationale Organisationen	● ● ●

Bewertung: Gerrit Vonkeman, EURES

**Interesse gesellschaftlicher Gruppen an Langzeit- und Querschnittsthemen**

	<i>Umweltthemen</i>	<i>Soziale Entwicklungen</i>	<i>Technologische Entwicklungen</i>	<i>Strukturelle ökonomische Entwicklungen</i>	<i>Nachhaltige Entwicklung (integrierter Ansatz)</i>
Öffentlichkeit	● ● ●	● ●	●	● ●	●
Forschung	● ● ●	● ● ●	● ● ●	● ●	● ●
Parlament	● ● ●	● ● ●	● ● ●	● ● ●	● ●
Regierung	● ● ● ●	● ● ● ●	● ● ● ● ●	● ● ● ●	● ● ●

Bewertung: Gerrit Vonkeman

Zunächst einmal ist festzustellen, dass in den Niederlanden Parlament und Regierung eine im europäischen Vergleich eher nachgeordnete Bedeutung im Hinblick auf Thematisierung und Behandlung von Langzeit- und Querschnittsfragen haben.

Eine herausragende Rolle scheinen die in den Niederlanden zahlreichen und facettenreichen Forschungs- und Beratungsinstitutionen zu spielen. Ebenso wie die gut organisierten und durchsetzungsfähigen NGO's finden sie unter den gegebenen Rahmenbedingungen des politischen Systems gute Voraussetzungen, um Langzeit- und Querschnittsfragen zum einen über die öffentliche Debatte, aber auch zum anderen über direkte Politikberatung in den Politikprozess einzubringen. Instrumente hierfür sind in erster Linie fundierte Studien und Reports, die häufig auch über wissenschaftliche Kreise hinaus breit thematisiert und diskutiert werden.

**Schwierigkeiten und Hemmnisse**

Grundsätzlich lässt sich sagen, dass die speziellen räumlichen Gegebenheiten - dichte Besiedelung, Überschwemmungsgefahren, explizite Betroffenheit durch einen Anstieg des Meeresspiegels ein besonderes Interesse der niederländischen Gesellschaft an Langfrist- und

Querschnittsfragen begründen. Auf der anderen Seite haben diese Gegebenheiten zu einer ganz spezifischen Ausprägung insbesondere der Landwirtschaft und des Transportsektors geführt. Diese stellen heute gewichtige wirtschaftliche Interessengruppen dar, die mitunter auch sehr kurzfristige Interessen verteidigen.

Die vielfältige Institutionenlandschaft hat offenbar in manchen Bereichen zu einer Konkurrenz zwischen Gremien und Institutionen geführt, die sich nicht immer nur positiv und stimulierend ausgewirkt hat.

#### 9.1.4 Ansätze, Organisationen und Erfahrungen

Zentraler Ansatz zur Behandlung von Langzeit- und Querschnittsfragen ist in den Niederlanden die nationale Planung - und hier insbesondere die Umweltplanung. Diese war von Beginn an auf längere Zeithorizonte gerichtet und interministeriell organisiert.

Wegweisende Institutionen in diesem Kontext waren zum einen das `Committee for Longterm Environmental Policy` (CLTM), das einen vielbeachteten und folgenreichen Bericht veröffentlichte, und zum anderen das `Programme for Sustainable Technology Development` (DTO). Beide Institutionen können v.a. durch ihre ausgeprägte Langzeitperspektive als überaus innovativ gelten.

Daneben sind insbesondere der `Scientific Council for Government Policy` (Wetenschappelijke Raad voor het Regeringsbeleid, WRR) als hohes Beratungsorgan der Regierung sowie das `Rathenau Institute`, welches in erster Linie die Entscheidungsfindung im Parlament unterstützt, erwähnenswert.

Auf staatlicher Seite spielen die `National Institute for Public Health and Environment` (Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieuhygiene, RIVM) sowie die Planungsinstitutionen `Central Planning Office` (Centraal Plan Bureau, CPB), `Social and Cultural Planning Office` (Sociaal Cultureel Plan Bureau, SCP) und das `Central Office for the Statistics` (Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek, CBS).

#### Vergleichender Überblick über die Institutionen

<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Abkürzung</i>	<i>Abkürzung (englisch)</i>	<i>Bedeutung</i>	<i>Innova- tionsgrad</i>
Commissie lange-termijn Milieubeleid Committee for Longterm Environmental Policy	CLTM		X X	X X X X
Duurzame Technologie Ontwikkeling Programme for Sustainable Technology Development	DTO		X X X X	X X X X X
Rathenau Institute	RI	RI	X X X	X X X
Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieuhygiene National Institute for Public Health and Environment	RIVM		X X X	X
Wetenschappelijke Raad voor het Regeringsbeleid Scientific Council for Government Policy	WRR	SCGP	X X X X	X X X

Bewertung: Gerrit Vonkeman



**Genannte Institutionen mit detaillierter Beschreibung**

CLTM, Commissie lange-termijn Milieubeleid (Committee for Longterm Environmental Policy)
CPB, Centraal Planbureau (Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis)
DTO, Programma Duurzame Technologie-ontwikkeling (Programme for Sustainable Technology Development)
NCDO, Nationale Commissie voor internationale Samenwerking en duurzame Ontwikkeling (National Committee for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development)
Rathenau Institute
RIVM, Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieu (National Institute for Public Health and Environment)
RMNO, Raad voor Ruimtelijk, Milieu- en Natuuronderzoek (Advisory Council for Spatial Planning, Nature and the Environment)
SCP, Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau (Social and Cultural Planning Office)
VROM-raad, Raad voor de Volkshuisvesting, de Ruimtelijke Ordening en het Milieubeheer (Council for Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment)
WRR, Wetenschappelijke Raad voor het Regeringsbeleid (Scientific Council for Government Policy)

**Weitere genannte Institutionen**

CBS, Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (Statistics Netherlands)
Rijksplanologische Dienst (National Spatial Planning Agency)
SER, Sociaal-Economische Raad (Social and Economic Council)

**9.1.5 Fazit**

Die langfristig orientierte Planung hat in den Niederlanden eine lange Tradition. Mit der Umweltplanung und später im Zusammenhang mit dem Konzept der nachhaltigen Entwicklung hat die Behandlung von Langzeit- und Querschnittsfragen einen weiteren qualitativen Schritt gemacht. Zu erklären ist dieses besondere Interesse der niederländischen Gesellschaft an Fragen der langfristigen Folgen menschlichen Handelns auch durch die spezielle naturräumliche Situation und einer tatsächlichen und potenziellen Betroffenheit im Falle von Naturkatastrophen.

Auch das politische Konkordanzsystem und die auf Pragmatismus ausgerichtete politische Kultur scheinen hier eine nicht zu unterschätzende Rolle zu spielen. Sowohl Forschungs- und Beratungsinstitutionen als auch NGO's haben unter den Bedingungen des politisch-administrativen Systems gute Chancen, im politischen Prozess wahrgenommen und beteiligt zu werden. Langzeit- und Querschnittsfragen werden v.a. aus dieser Richtung heraus thematisiert und mit mehr oder weniger großem Erfolg auf die politische Agenda gesetzt.

Die Entwicklung der Behandlung von Langzeit- und Querschnittsfragen hat sich vergleichsweise früh vollzogen. Insofern gibt es einen weitreichenden Erfahrungsschatz im Hinblick auf Ansätze, Institutionen und Erfolgskriterien für eine politische Langfrist- und Querschnittsorientierung. Erfahrungen, die mit vielfältigen Institutionen in den 80er Jahren gewonnen wurden, wirken heute informell fort. Abstimmungen zwischen verschiedenen Fachgebieten sind intensiver geblieben, als es die heutigen Institutionen erwarten lassen.

Die Niederlande gehören somit im Rahmen dieser Studie zu den hervorstechenden Ländern, die auch eine tiefergehendere Untersuchung Wert wären.

## 9.2 Gerrit H. Vonkeman: Long-term (environmental) planning in the Netherlands

### 9.2.1 Introduction

The Netherlands differs from every other EU member state in the sense that it has *de facto* been a republic for more than four centuries. Separating itself from the Spanish kingdom in 1568, seven Dutch 'provinces' created the 'Republic of the seven united Netherlands'.

From the beginning it was governed by a 'stadtholder' of the Oranje-Nassau family, but the real power was in the hands of a parliament and the stadtholder was just a *primus inter pares*'. Although Dutch nobility was well represented in parliament, the role of well-off families from the middle classes, many of them merchants, was as least as important.

This division of power over a large number of families, combined in seven provinces with greatly differing interests, has deeply influenced the Dutch structure of government and its tradition of policy-making. The war with Spain that lasted for 80 years demanded a strong co-operation and an effective decision-making, in other words **constant consensus seeking and willingness to compromise**. This has always remained a central characteristic of Dutch decision-making, in combination with a high degree of openness and public participation. The latter also implies that it is of lesser importance in the Netherlands who publishes a report and to whom it is addressed. If it is of good quality, it will attract public and political attention anyhow, not in the least *via* an active role of the media and its highly professional NGO-community.

In fact, this spirit of co-operation has already been in place more locally long before the creation of the Republic. Much of the Dutch land had been reclaimed from rivers, lakes and the sea and remained vulnerable for flooding. Hence 'water boards' were formed already in the fourteenth century, for the reclamation of new and the protection of already existing land. These water boards or 'polders' had a remarkably developed degree of democracy. Under the slogan 'interest-contribution-control', the landowners within a polder all had to contribute to its maintenance and protection, but they also had a vote in what should be done. Evidently, the development of a new dike or polder was often a process that took two generations, given the life span at that time. This is already an indication for **the importance of long-term planning** in the Netherlands.

A third determining characteristic of the Netherlands is that space has become very scarce, particularly since the Second World War. It's small and vulnerable area not only accommodates 16 million inhabitants, but also a very important and intensive agriculture, major industries and services and a transportation network that services a considerable part of Europe from 'mainports' such as Rotterdam Harbour and Schiphol Airport. As a consequence, **physical planning** has become a cornerstone of Dutch policy making.

In the following sections, we will describe the physical planning and environmental planning in the Netherlands in more detail. Before doing so, we wish to stress that if programmes in these areas are drafted with a ten to twenty years time horizon, that will put general boundary conditions to the use of environmental and physical space, it is essential that every ministry reflects timely on the developments within its policy area with a similar horizon and explicitly considers the spatial and environmental consequences. A better integration is hardly thinkable and there is a wealth of such government memoranda and studies in all domains. Whereas both types of planning set the frame for policy making and have a policy horizon of ten or more years, in other words where all policies have to be embedded within long-term planning in the areas of environment and use of space, a **cross-cutting approach** is a *conditio sine qua non*.

### 9.2.2 Physical planning in the Netherlands

As of the Second World War a national planning system, reaching via the provincial to the local level has been developed, that is unique in Europe and probably in the world. Within this system, environmental policy got an important position, but one cannot detach the one from the other.

Immediately after the Second World War a State Spatial Planning Agency was established and a First National Spatial Plan drafted. Evidently, it was entirely aimed at the restoration and reconstruction of the considerable war damage, without much attention for natural and environmental values. The same held for the system of re-allotments in the rural areas that had already started before the war, but was heavily intensified as a consequence of the Common Agricultural Policy. Both physical planning and re-allotment of agricultural land were framed within legislation and for both issues societal advisory councils installed. Whereas physical planning may affect everybody's life, the legislation contains a good system for public participation, right of standing, appeal and recourse, as does the (later) Dutch environmental legislation.

Gradually, the physical planning system got a construction wherein the **National Spatial Plan** (Nota Ruimtelijke Ordening; memorandum on physical planning) sets the scene at the national level. It appears with 10 to 15 years intervals and is subject to a very extended and open procedure of public participation, before it reaches parliament for decision-making.

More detailed planning for sectors such as highways, water ways, electric power stations and grids, water management, drinking water provision, rural areas, industrial areas, *et cetera*, is provided *via* **Structure Schemes** (Structuurschema's), that are subject to a similar procedure of public participation and decision-making.

At the **provincial level** the intentions of the national planning are further developed in **Regional Plans** (Streekplannen). Finally, the **communes** are the level for concrete **Destination Plans** (Bestemmingsplannen) that form the bases for **building permits** (Bouwvergunningen). Decisions at these levels are not only accompanied by public participation, but are also subject to appeal and recourse procedures up to the national level, that are open to 'everybody'.

Given their **validity of 10 to 15 years**, these plans are important elements of Dutch longer-term planning, though not the only ones.

### 9.2.3 Planning in environmental policy

#### The introductory phase

In 1972 an environment ministry was established, whereby water management issues, that are overly important for the Netherlands, remained in the hands of the Ministry for transport and water works. Also nature protection stayed initially with the Ministry for culture, recreation and welfare, but was transferred to the Ministry for agriculture and fisheries ten years later.

One of the first products of the new ministry was an **Urgency Memorandum** (Urgentienota Milieuhygiëne), followed by **indicative multi-annual plans** for air, water, waste, *et cetera*, a few years later. As a rule, such plans had an analytical horizon of ten years and a policy horizon of five. After a few years, these plans were integrated into one indicative plan.

In 1984 the ministry published a Memorandum on the planning of Environmental Policy 'Meer dan de som der delen' (more than the sum of its parts) and ultimately a binding National Environmental Policy Plan was created, to which we will return hereafter. Initially, there has been some discussion whether environmental plans should have a sectoral status, such as structural plans, and be sub-ordinate to physical planning, or have a facet status, which would

imply that they would set boundary conditions to physical planning. In 1982 the combination of physical planning and environment into one ministry resulted in an equivalent position for both areas.

In the meantime, the environment ministry had also developed the view that the nature of the problems it was facing demanded some form of planning with a time horizon of 50 or more years and asked a group of experts to recommend an appropriate structure. Their report: 'De lange termijn begint vandaag' (the long term begins today) ultimately led to the Committee for long-term environmental policy, to be discussed under 3.3.

### **The Dutch National Environmental Policy Plan**

In the course of the 1980ies, the structure of the Dutch National Environmental Policy Plan (Nationaal milieubeleidsplan, **NMP**) was further developed. It was decided that it should have a 10-year policy horizon, with concrete policy plans and budgets for 5 years. Intermediate updates were foreseen, but an entirely new plan would have to be drafted every 5 years.

An additional important feature was that each new plan had to be preceded by a **State of the Environment Report** (Nationale Milieuverkenning). Apart from describing the actual situation, this report should also predict the future situation with a time horizon of 20 years, taking existing trends and officially agreed policies and measures into account. The report had to be drafted by the (independent) **National Agency for Public Health and Environment** (Rijks Instituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieuhygiëne RIVM), assisted by other agencies and the academia. This made **RIVM an import institute for long-term policy studies**.

The first report covering 1985-2010 appeared under the title 'Zorgen voor morgen' (Concern for tomorrow) and was followed in 1989 by the first **National Environmental Policy Plan** 'Kiezen of verliezen' (To choose or to lose). Both roused considerable political debate, as did their successors thus far.

Separately but in close co-operation, a **National Nature Policy Plan** is published by the Ministry of agriculture, nature policy and fisheries, following a similar procedure.

### **The Committee for long-term Environmental Policy**

#### ***The first term***

Although the recommendation to establish a Committee for long-term Environmental Policy (Commissie lange-termijn Milieubeleid, **CLTM**) was published in 1983, it took until January 1988 before this expert committee was formally installed. For practical reasons it got the status of a committee of the Centrale Raad voor het Milieubeheer (Central Environment Council, **CRMH**); a societal council combined with independent experts. However, contrary to its other committees, the CLTM acted completely independent of the CRMH, got its own budget and staff and would report directly and publicly to the environment minister. The CLTM got a budget that would allow considerable sub-contracting and a completely open mandate, the only condition being that it had to report after three years. Initially it consisted of nine experts, with a senior politician in the chair, but it soon became apparent that the latter was counter-productive. It then continued with the nine experts alone and nominated a chairman and a vice-chairman from its own ranks. It was also decided that the vice-chairman should act as a scientific director and be employed half-time. The chairman and all other members were remunerated per attended session.

Taking the construction of a house as a metaphor, CLTM decided that the cornerstones of any policy, whether short- or long-term, were a clear vision on future society (dismantling of the science-technology-capital complex), a good insight in the nature of the problems and their

cause-effect chains, clear goals (sustainability and quality), adequate policy instruments, a sound financial base and a strict implementation and enforcement. Therefore, seven groups of external experts were contracted to develop these visions into cornerstone chapters for the report.

CLTM further decided that the building stones of the house should consist of the long-term visions of other appropriate external expert groups on issues such as consumption, (global) atmospheric problems, ecology, sustainable agriculture, industrial development, clean production, energy production, traffic and transport and economic development. It therefore sub-contracted nine more studies on these issues.

Following the metaphor and imagining the builders sitting on the scaffolding during breaks and looking around them, a third group of studies was devoted to international issues, *viz.* related initiatives in Europe, the situation in the United States, the European Union in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the state of research on global environmental problems. They were likewise sub-contracted.

Finally, the CLTM itself placed the closing stone, in the form of a concluding chapter with comments and recommendations.

All chapters had to get a similar structure and a first outline, an intermediate text and the draft final text had to be discussed with a supervisory group of three members, that always included the (vice-)chairman. These groups also drafted a 'reflection' on the text, on which the authors had the right to comment.

Ultimately, this resulted in a book of over 600 pages: 'Het milieu: denkbeelden voor de 21ste eeuw' (The environment: ideas for the 21st century). After a critical analysis of all studies, the final chapter concluded that the approach towards a sustainable future would only be successful if a number of trends would be broken.

Among them CLTM noted the need for radical changes in recognition, awareness, concern, behaviour, basis for policy, quality, type of regulation (more internalisation and self-regulation) and policy instruments, as well as changes towards internationalisation and dialogue.

The book struck like a bomb and immediately became obligatory literature in the environmental science departments of the universities and higher professional education. It was also well received in political circles, although its direct consequences were initially limited to the area of technology policy, to be discussed in 3.4. In addition, there was general agreement that the CLTM should be granted a second three-year term.

### ***The second term***

For its second term, the committee decided that the environmental problems and environmental policy should be approached from a more European and global view (internationalisation), that the issues and policy should be approached and formulated more from the position and role of the most important groups in society (actor approach) and from the perspective of public support and social acceptance (socialisation) and that a better and profounder dialogue between policy-makers and scientists should be developed (dialogue formation). As a consequence, the second report should be written in English and a 40-page brochure was drafted in English to explain CLTM and its first report to foreigners.

In fact, the central aim of the second term was to get long-term concerns firmly positioned on as many national and international agendas, if possible in a constructive and optimistic setting. To the latter end, a first sub-contract was given for a study for 'signs of hope'.

A second group of studies addressed the transformation to a sustainable future and was sub-contracted to social scientists and communication and management experts, whereas the third group covered international issues such as environment as a security issue, the situation in Japan, international decision-making on sustainability and international views on long-term environmental policy, the latter based on a workshop to be discussed hereafter.

A fourth group addressed philosophical and methodological considerations on planning the future and the remaining half of the book was devoted to studies under the heading 'Contours of a sustainable future', covering ecology, demography, economy, youth, gender, policy-making, virtues and values, technology and an indicative spatial picture for the Netherlands.

Although the methodology remained unchanged, the second term was different from the first in the sense that the contribution from social science was much larger, that a quarter of the studies were written by experts from abroad and that several studies were sub-contracted to professional associations, under the conditions that they would discuss the text in a meeting with their members (in the presence of CLTM) before delivering a final draft.

Another difference was that CLTM visited a number of international think tanks and institutions and organised a three-day workshop with fifteen international experts to discuss its preliminary results with them. This workshop, chaired by the former secretary of the Brundtland Commission Jim Mac Neil, resulted in the mentioned chapter on international views on long-term environmental policy in the second report 'The environment: Towards a sustainable Future'.

### ***The end of CLTM***

Strongly supported by the group of international experts, the CLTM asked for a final, three-year term wherein it could develop an 'evolving green strategy' in different European regions, exploit the availability of its second book and diffuse and transfer its expertise and experience. Questions to be addressed were which long-term strategies would best suit a given region, how could the existing situation be developed in accordance with the strategy, which barriers and opportunities exist in the region, what kind of procedures and structures had to be developed and which policy networks should be (re)constructed. In addition, it wished to further exploit international policy-making on long-term issues and the applicability of its findings to other societies and cultures.

In spite of this strong international support and the fact that the 600-page book became an international bestseller, the request was not granted. Although there were some political barriers, such as the demand that the number of advisory bodies in the Netherlands should be substantially reduced and the remaining bodies restructured, the main reason was that the international reputation and high visibility of CLTM had roused so much 'jalousie de métier' within the ministry and other advisory bodies, that a suitable construction as an independent committee of one of the new advisory bodies appeared impossible. As a consequence, the common expertise got lost and only one member continued to work in the area from within his own institute.

### **The inter-ministerial programme for sustainable technology development DTO**

One of the most explicit and strongly worded opinions in the first CLTM report was that technology would not significantly contribute to the solution of the long-term, global problems. This triggered the environment ministry to nominate a programme director for sustainable technology development, with the task to address this situation. In close co-operation with the vice-chairman and other internal and external experts of CLTM, a proposal was drafted for a five-year programme with the aim to 'learn to innovate towards sustainable technologies'. The

underlying thought, developed in the first CLTM-book and adapted to the technology area *via* one of its authors, was that sustainable technologies would have to realise energy and resource efficiencies of a factor 20 to 50 and that it was highly unlikely that such technologies could be developed from existing practices. In other words, the programme should explore innovation towards radical technological changes.

Having expanded the idea, *inter alia* by drafting a technology chapter for the second CLTM book, the programme director proposed a five-year programme for sustainable technology development (**DTO**) that got the support of five ministries, who committed themselves to a budget of roughly 15 million euro for the entire programme. A relatively small part was allocated for programme staff and the rest for projects that would largely have to be sub-contracted.

The heart of the programme was the exploration of needs for the year 2050 *via* **analyses of need areas** (behoeftevelanalyses). Having explored such an area, *e.g.* food, or a sub-area such as protein food, an **illustration process** was developed that indicated how the future need might be fulfilled with considerably less resource input than in the present situation. *E.g.*, in case of protein food, a major part of the meat production by intensive stock farm breeding might be replaced by 'novel protein food', produced synthetically or with help of algae. In a third step, the road towards such a future situation was sketched *via* '**backcasting**', in other words working backward from that future situation to the present.

During the five years of its existence, from 1993 to 1998, these exercises were made in areas such as *inter alia* food, housing, water management, transport and chemical production. In total, some 2000 institutions and scientists got involved and the idea that dramatic reductions in resource inputs were needed in the longer-term got firmly rooted in many circles. *E.g.* several Dutch technical universities have created a chair for sustainable technology development. At the end, all results were documented in Dutch in easily accessible form and a scientific book was published in English some years later.

After the termination of the programme, a follow-up programme **DTO-KOV** was granted until September 2001, to transfer the knowledge and experience within the Netherlands and try to further anchor the ideas in education and practice.

In spite of the impressive results, some critical remarks can be made. In the original philosophy, the notion was expressed that technology, structure and culture were interdependent and indivisible aspects of the way wherein 'needs' would be fulfilled, as well as the awareness that only an international approach could bring success in the long run. Although a strong initial focus on technology was a condition to obtain funding, it was the original (internal) idea to use the five years to shift emphasis gradually from technology to structure (particularly economic structures, markets, competition, *et cetera*) and culture, in order to pave the way for a similar programme addressing *inter alia* the problems of developing countries. Moreover, a separate project should be launched to develop a strong international dimension in the programme.

In practice, the DTO programme has moved more in the direction of mid-term technological innovation than of incorporating the structural and cultural aspects.

The programme for internationalisation was faced with similar difficulties as the continuation of CLTM and discontinued after a year. At that moment, the remaining DTO-budget was insufficient to embed the internationalisation within DTO itself and only some incidental projects could be financed internally. Although they revealed a considerable international interest, they failed to result in a strong and lasting co-operation between the DTO-programme and institutions outside the Netherlands. In spite of that, the programme was presented at a meeting of OECD environment ministers, who underlined the importance of drastic efficiency increases in their final declaration, and DTO staff was instrumental in the creation of a Factor 10 Club.

Moreover, the DTO-developments were disseminated *via* international lectures and publications and regular exchanges of information and ideas occurred with international institutions, such as the Wuppertal Institute. Finally, the former vice-chairman of CLTM, who had become the international adviser of DTO, initiated an international study under the EU 4<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme to address the technology-structure-culture relationship outside the DTO-frame.

### **Other (semi-) governmental bodies**

#### ***RIVM***

In 3.2, we have already highlighted the importance of the National Agency for Public Health and Environment in long-term planning as the responsible institution for the Dutch state of the environment report. In addition, its large expert staff and extensive monitoring and (global) modelling facilities play an important role in the European Environment Agency, UNEP and IPCC.

#### ***Statistical and planning agencies***

Evidently, these agencies also play a role in data acquisition and policy research in the Netherlands. Without further comment we mention the Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek (CBS; Central Office for Statistics), the Centraal Plan Bureau (CPB; Central Planning Office, mainly for finance and economics, the Sociaal Cultureel Plan Bureau (SCP; Social and Cultural Planning Office) and the Rijks Planologische Dienst (RPD; National Service for Physical Planning). With the exception of the RPD, all focus almost exclusively on existing and draft policies and their consequences, with a limited time horizon.

#### ***WRR***

With its part-time employed top-level experts and a considerable staff, the Wetenschappelijke Raad voor het Regeringsbeleid (Scientific Council for Government Policy) is one of the most prestigious advisory bodies, reporting directly to the prime minister. On the other hand its scope is very wide and environmental and long-term issues are not dominant on their agenda. In spite of that, some important reports have been produced in the past decade, such as a vision on sustainable development, that appeared under the title *Duurzame risico's* (sustainable risks).

#### ***RMNO***

Also the Raad voor milieu- en natuuronderzoek (Council for Environment and Nature Research) reports only incidentally on longer-term subjects. However, it played an important role in the development of the philosophy behind the DTO-programme.

#### ***VROM-raad***

The council for housing, physical planning and environment is a merger of three separate councils. In this process, the structure of the environment council: a typical 'societal' council was abandoned and a council with 'independent experts', though of different societal backgrounds, formed. Given its wide scope, longer-term environmental issues are only incidentally taken on board.



**AWT**

The Adviesraad voor het wetenschaps- en technologiebeleid (advisory council for science- and technology-policy) covers a wide variety of issues, usually within a Dutch setting and without specific long-term orientation.

**Rathenau Instituut**

This former Netherlands Office for Technology Assessment is an independent institute linked with the Dutch Royal Academy of Sciences that operates at arms-length of the Dutch government. Although it covers a wide area, the publications of the Rathenau Institute often have a considerable depth with an international and long-term dimension.

**Industry**

Multinational companies such as SHELL and Philips often have important forward-looking sections, but their findings are seldom made public. Occasionally, the Dutch government has invited *ad-hoc* groups of captains of industry to advise them on important matters in the area of (information) technology development. The Dutch Association for the Chemical Industry (Vereniging voor de Nederlandse Chemische Industrie, VNCI) has actively participated in the DTO-programme and developed scenarios wherein both the bulk- and the fine- chemical industry could operate without input of fossil fuel or feedstock. In spite of that, the magazine of the Royal Dutch Chemical Association concluded recently that the Dutch chemical industry was operating from an insufficient long-term perspective.

**Environmental NGOs**

Although the Dutch environmental NGOs are among the most professional and best staffed in the world, their role as a think tank is usually limited. An exemption is de Bezinningsgroep Energiebeleid (Reflection Group on Energy Policy) that has taken a fundamental and long-term perspective since 1975 and has incidentally also been influential in technology policy in general. As a spin-off a Centre for energy conservation and clean technology was created some 20 years ago (presently called CE: 'an independent research and consultancy organisation specialising in innovative solutions to environmental problems. The solutions CE delivers are technologically robust, economically prudent, politically feasible and socially equitable).

Of the most important general NGOs the Stichting Natuur en Milieu **SNM** developed a scenario for a Dutch society without fossil or nuclear energy in the early 1980ies, but its main activities are in lobbying and legal procedures. Milieudefensie (Dutch Friends of the Earth) developed a 'Sustainable Netherlands' scenario that was later transformed in the 'Sustainable Europe' study of the Wuppertal Institute. The Dutch NGOs have several common platforms, *inter alia* for sustainable development, and common projects with some Dutch industries, such as the chlorine industry.

**The Dutch media and the long term**

Given the high visibility of physical planning and environmental issues in day-to-day life and policy making, it is not amazing that these issues are part of the 'core business' of journalists. The Netherlands has five major national newspapers: NRC/Handelsblad, De Volkskrant, Trouw, Algemeen Dagblad and De Telgraaf. The first three all have a good coverage of environmental issues, but none has a specific environment section.

The radio and television net in the Netherlands is dominantly public, with some commercial stations in addition. Within the public net part of the programmes are produced by a 'national'

institution and the rest by 'broadcasting associations' of religious or social origin. For all of them the situation is similar to that described for the newspapers and all pay attention to environmental issues frequently. As could be expected, the coverage of environmental issues by the commercial companies is much less pronounced, although not entirely absent.

Longer-term issues such as national physical and environment plans and climate change related subjects usually get a good coverage, often backed up by informative articles of good scientific quality.

#### 9.2.4 Concluding remarks

Overseeing the mentioned actors, the most innovative and fundamental approaches have been initiated by the Committee for Long-term Environmental Policy CTM and the Inter-ministerial Programme for Sustainable Technology Development DTO. Both are no longer in existence.

Of the present bodies, the Scientific Council for Government Policy WRR and the Rathenau Institute should be mentioned in this respect, together with some governmental agencies such as RIVM, CPB and SCP.

Seen from an international perspective, the Dutch society has without any doubt a high interest in long-term issues. It is rooted in a long tradition and has been re-activated by the sustainability demand and the fact that a possible climate change may have considerable consequences for the country and particularly the parts below sea level. Moreover, a large reduction of the use of fossil fuel may strongly affect the port of Rotterdam and the Dutch function as a distributor and transporter of freight for Europe.

On the other hand, Dutch policy-making does not fundamentally differ from that in the rest of Europe. Inspired by the WRR publication 'Sustainable risks', I wrote elsewhere: '.... however convinced politicians may become of sustainable development as an ultimate policy goal, they will never take their decisions on this single issue: concern for the long-term, global future, alone. If decision-makers have to take a decision, it is usually from among a number of options, each with its own 'risks'. Decision taking in this view is a process whereby the over-all risk is minimised. The risks at stake are, as a rule, very different in nature, ranging from the risk that actual problems may not be solved, or that a politician may not be re-elected, to the long-term risks linked with unsustainable activities, such as future catastrophes'.

The most likely consequence of this is that although the Dutch political arena is probably among the best informed and most aware in the world regarding long-term issues, substantial political measures will have to wait until they can be taken in an international context. As a first step, a wide dissemination of the Dutch experience, preferably *via* international co-operation in projects, remains a key instrument.

Dr. Gerrit Vonkeman (1937) worked as a chemist until, in 1971, he became director of the Dutch Stichting Natuur en Milieu (a federation of environmental NGOs) and, in 1974, co-founder and (vice-) chairman of its European counterpart EEB. In 1988 he became founding director of the Brussels office of the Institute for European Environmental Policy. He was a member of several advisory bodies of the Dutch government, vice-chairman of the Central Environment Council and its Committee for Long-Term Environment Policy and international adviser of the Programme for Sustainable Technology Development. As of 1994 he is part-time professor for international environment policy at Utrecht University. His recent scientific work is mainly directed at long-term and sustainability issues and at heavy metals policy. He has co-authored over a dozen books and numerous publications on a wide area of subjects.

Contact

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### **9.3 Survey Results: Organisations and Experiences**

# Centraal Planbureau

## Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis

CPB

8223 2146

Author: Henk Don, CPB, Centraal Planbureau, The Hague

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 Centraal Planbureau  
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 Tel.direct: +31 (70) 3383477 ; Fax:+31 (70) 3383350  
 e-mail: timmerhuis@cpb.nl

### 2. Relation to government / parliament

government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> primeminister <input type="checkbox"/> ministries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	head of state <input type="checkbox"/>	parliament <input type="checkbox"/>
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Ministries of Economic Affairs, Finance, Social Affairs and Employment, General Affairs (prime minister), Housing and Environment, Transport and Water, Health and Sports, Agriculture.

### 3. organisational structure

permanent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> temporary <input type="checkbox"/> from to	public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> academic <input type="checkbox"/> profit <input type="checkbox"/> nonprofit <input type="checkbox"/>	thinktank <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> committee <input type="checkbox"/> network <input type="checkbox"/> other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>specification</i>	The Bureau's mission is to produce independent forecasts and analyses that are scientifically sound and up-to-date and that are relevant for policymaking for the government, Parliament and other interested parties, including political parties, trade unions and employers' associations. Think tank type of activities are part of this, but not dominant.	
<i>main persons involved</i>	(See web site for organisational structure and names).	
<i>annual budget</i>	12 million EUR..	
<i>permanent staff</i>	156 (full-time equivalents).	
<i>external consultants</i>	4 (part-time) on regular basis; several (part-time) ad hoc for specific projects.	

### 4. Main activities

- Forecasting: new short term forecasts every quarter, new medium term forecasts/scenarios every two years, new long term scenarios every five or six years.
- Policy analysis: handle various requests from ministries, political parties and other stakeholders; ranges from the application of fairly straightforward standard policy instruments to rather complex cost/benefit analyses of major projects.
- Development and maintenance of database and models.
- Research on the following themes: institutional requirements for the knowledge economy; competition and market regulation; spatial and environmental issues; international integration; new methods in applied research; models for the national economy; labour market and income distribution; sectoral structure; the government sector.

## 5. Issues treated

(See web site and our quarterly CPB Report).

## 6. Working methods

<b>main emphasis</b>		<i>expert knowledge</i>	● ● ● ● ●
		<i>creativity</i>	● ● ●
		<i>interaction</i>	●
<b>selection</b>		<b>treatment of issues</b>	<b>output</b>
<i>customer</i>	● ● ●	<i>internal</i>	● ● ● ● ●
<i>own</i>	● ● ● ● ●	<i>experts</i>	● ● ●
<i>public</i>	● ●	<i>customer</i>	● ●
		<i>public</i>	●
			<i>customer</i>
			● ● ● ●
			<i>expert</i>
			● ● ●
			<i>public</i>
			● ● ●

customers are quite important in selecting policy questions, less so in selecting research issues.

## 7. Major Projects

### Several publication titles, including extensive semi-annual reports

Short and medium term forecasting.

*The methodology corresponds to the characterisation in '6. working methods'*

### Challenging Neighbours - rethinking German and Dutch Economic Institutions

Comparative (institutional) analysis of the Dutch and German economies.

*The methodology corresponds to the characterisation in '6. working methods'*

### Ageing in the Netherlands

Comprehensive analysis of economic consequences of ageing in the Netherlands.

*The methodology corresponds to the characterisation in '6. working methods'*

## 8. Particularly interesting and innovative aspects

Innovative methods:

- New framework for applied analyses of institutions (in Challenging Neighbours, 1997).
- New methods in analysing market structure (analytical framework for telecommunications markets, 2000; new indicator for measurement of competition, 2000).
- New concepts in macro-economic analysis (ELIS: Equilibrium Labour Income Share, 1999).

Innovative ways of presenting scenarios:

- Long-term scenarios (Scanning the Future, 1992; The Netherlands in Triplo, 1992; The Economy and its Physical Surroundings, 1997).
- Medium term scenarios (cautious and favourable scenarios for four/five year horizon: 1993, 1995, 1997).

## 9. Most interesting reports / publications

Scanning the Future - a long-term scenario study of the world economy 1990-2015 (1992).

Economy and Environment: in search of sustainability (1996, in Dutch).

Challenging Neighbours - rethinking German and Dutch economic institutions (1997).

Charting Choices - economic consequences of five election platforms (1998, in Dutch).

Assessing investment projects in infrastructure - a guide to cost-benefit analysis (joint with NEI, 2000, in Dutch).

Trends, dilemmas and policy - essays on long-term developments (joint with SCP, 2000, in Dutch).

**10. Cooperation with other institutions**

At home: Social and Cultural Planning Bureau (SCP), National Institute of Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), National Spatial Planning Agency (RPD), Advisory Agency for Traffic and Transport (AVV).

Abroad: OECD, IWW, partners in ENEPRI (European Network of Economic Policy Research Institutes): CEPII/France, CEPS/EU-Belgium, DIW/Germany, ETLA/Finland, FEDEA/Spain, FPB/Belgium, ISAE/Italy, NIESR/UK, NOBE/Poland.

## Commissie lange-termijn Milieubeleid Committee for long-term Environmental Policy

CLTM

8228 2155

Author: Gerrit Vonkeman, Utrecht University, Utrecht

### 1. Contact

Commissie lange-termijn Milieubeleid  
, , Netherlands

### 2. Relation to government / parliament

government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	head of state <input type="checkbox"/>	parliament <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
primeminister <input type="checkbox"/>		
ministries <input type="checkbox"/>		

### 3. organisational structure

permanent <input type="checkbox"/>	public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	thinktank <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
temporary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	academic <input type="checkbox"/>	committee <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
from 1988	profit <input type="checkbox"/>	network <input type="checkbox"/>
to 1994	nonprofit <input type="checkbox"/>	other <input type="checkbox"/>
specification	Temporary expert council to the ministry of the environment.	

### 4. Main activities

Expert advise with a time horizon of 2050. (See Country Study Netherlands).

### 5. Issues treated

Very wide perspective.

### 6. Working methods

selection	treatment of issues	output
customer	internal ● ● ●	customer ● ● ●
own ● ● ● ● ●	experts ● ● ● ● ●	expert ● ● ● ● ●
public	customer	public ● ● ● ● ●
	public ● ●	

### 7. Major Projects

#### Het milieu: Denkbeelden voor de 21ste Eeuw

The environment: ideas for the 21st century; book (600 pages).

*The methodology corresponds to the characterisation in '6. working methods'*

#### The environment: Towards a sustainable future



Book (600 pages).

*The methodology corresponds to the characterisation in '6. working methods'*

**Cadmium policy: from prohibition to control**

Study (35 pages).

*The methodology corresponds to the characterisation in '6. working methods'*

**8. Particularly interesting and innovative aspects**

Innovative and successful study with involvement of scientific community in a wide sense with the aim (a) to collect a well structured and integrated set of ideas on possible developments towards the situation in 2050 and (b) to get long-term thinking on the (inter)national agendas.

**9. Most interesting reports / publications**

(See Country Study Netherlands).

**Nationale Commissie voor internationale samenwerking en duurzame ontwikkeling**  
**National Committee for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development**

NCDO

308 515

*Author:* Magriet Lenglet, NCDO, Nationale Commissie voor internationale samenwerking en duurzame ontwikkeling, Amsterdam

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### 2. Relation to government / parliament

<i>government</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>primeminister</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>ministries</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>head of state</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>parliament</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
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Minister for Development Cooperation, Ministry for environment, Ministry for Agriculture.

### 3. organisational structure

<i>permanent</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>temporary</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>from</i> <i>to</i>	<i>public</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>academic</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>profit</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>nonprofit</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>thinktank</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>committee</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>network</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>other</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>specification</i>	National Committee with secretariat.	
<i>main persons involved</i>	Anne Lize van der Stoel, chairperson of the National Committee and the board; Henny Helmich, executive director.	
<i>annual budget</i>	approx. NLG 35 million	
<i>permanent staff</i>	40	

### 4. Main activities

Public awareness raising in the Netherlands on all issues on sustainable development by financing and devising programmes and projects.

### 5. Issues treated

- Development Cooperation
- Human rights
- Ecology and economy in their mutual interdependence and in an international context

## 6. Working methods

<b>main emphasis</b>		<i>expert knowledge</i>	● ● ●	
		<i>creativity</i>	● ● ●	
		<i>interaction</i>	● ● ● ● ●	
<b>selection</b>		<b>treatment of issues</b>	<b>output</b>	
<i>customer</i>	● ● ● ●	<i>internal</i>	● ● ●	
<i>own</i>	●	<i>experts</i>	● ● ● ●	
<i>public</i>	● ● ● ● ●	<i>customer</i>	● ● ● ●	
		<i>public</i>	● ● ● ●	
			<i>customer</i>	● ● ● ●
			<i>expert</i>	● ●
			<i>public</i>	● ●

## 7. Major Projects

We finance about 500 projects each year.

## 8. Particularly interesting and innovative aspects

See section 7.

## 10. Cooperation with other institutions

There is only one institute in the Netherlands for awareness raising on this topic. In projects we work with all kind of organizations, varying from organizations with a specific interest in (a) developing Countries (b) to trade unions, churches, women organizations, etc.

# Programma Duurzame Technologie-Ontwikkeling

## Programme for Sustainable Technology Development

**DTO**  
**STD**

8229 2156

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e-mail: dto@dataweb.nl

### 2. Relation to government / parliament

<i>government</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>primeminister</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>ministries</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>head of state</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>parliament</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
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Financed by 5 ministries.

### 3. organisational structure

<i>permanent</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>temporary</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>from</i> 1993 <i>to</i> 1998	<i>public</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>academic</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>profit</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>nonprofit</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>thinktank</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>committee</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>network</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>other</i> <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>specification</i>	The project has been discontinued, but a follow-up is in place until 2002 to disseminate results and assist similar research projects.	

### 5. Issues treated

Under the assumption that up to 50fold efficiency increases will be necessary in the long run, try to develop new ways of technological innovation, particularly towards ruptures in trends.

### 6. Working methods

<b>main emphasis</b>		<i>expert knowledge</i> ●●●●●	
		<i>creativity</i> ●●●●●	
		<i>interaction</i> ●●●●●	
<b>selection</b>		<b>treatment of issues</b>	<b>output</b>
<i>customer</i> ●●●●●		<i>internal</i> ●●●	<i>customer</i> ●●●●●
<i>own</i> ●●●●●		<i>experts</i> ●●●●●	<i>expert</i> ●●●●●
<i>public</i> ●●●		<i>customer</i> ●●●●●	<i>public</i> ●●●●●
		<i>public</i> ●●●●●	

## **7. Major Projects**

### **Integrated water management**

Development of an integrated management of water quantity, water provision and waste water treatment with extremely low resources input.

*The methodology corresponds to the characterisation in '6. working methods'*

### **Novel protein food**

Development of food that can replace the products of intensive farming with extremely low resources input.

*The methodology corresponds to the characterisation in '6. working methods'*

### **A chemical industry without fossil fuel**

Can the Dutch chemical industry function without fossil resource input?

## **8. Particularly interesting and innovative aspects**

(See Country Study Netherlands)

## **9. Most interesting reports / publications**

Multitude of reports plus book: Weaver, Paul et al.: Sustainable Technology Development. Greenleaf Publishing Ltd., Sheffield, UK, 2000. ISBN 1874719098.

**Raad voor de Volkshuisvesting, de Ruimtelijke  
Ordering en het Milieubeheer**  
**Council for Housing, Spatial Planning and the  
Environment**

**VROM-  
raad**  
**VROM-  
council**

8221 4215

*Author:* Ronald C. H. Flippi, VROM-Raad, Raad voor de Volkshuisvesting, de Ruimtelijke Ordering en het Milieubeheer, The Hague

### 1. Contact

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### 2. Relation to government / parliament

<i>government</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>primeminister</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>ministries</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>head of state</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>parliament</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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The VROM-council advises Government and Parliament on the main features of policy for a sustainable living environment. It does so through the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment.

### 3. organisational structure

<i>permanent</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>temporary</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>from</i> <i>to</i>	<i>public</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>academic</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>profit</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>nonprofit</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>thinktank</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>committee</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>network</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>other</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>specification</i>	The (14) members of the Council are appointed because of their knowledge in one or preferably two of the policy fields concerned, about scientific insights or about the societal debate.	
<i>main persons involved</i>	Peter Noordanus (chair). (See website for a full overview of staff and council members).	
<i>permanent staff</i>	20	

### 4. Main activities

Issuing advice on policy.

### 5. Issues treated

- Housing
- Spatial planning
- Environment

## 6. Working methods

<b>main emphasis</b>		<i>expert knowledge</i>	● ● ●
		<i>creativity</i>	● ● ●
		<i>interaction</i>	● ●
<b>selection</b>		<b>treatment of issues</b>	<b>output</b>
<i>customer</i>	● ● ● ●	<i>internal</i>	● ● ● ●
<i>own</i>	● ●	<i>experts</i>	● ● ●
<i>public</i>		<i>customer</i>	● ●
		<i>public</i>	
			<i>customer</i>
			● ● ● ● ●
			<i>expert</i>
			● ● ●
			<i>public</i>
			● ● ●

A working program is drawn up between council and minister. The minister decides. The council can initiate projects of their own accord but has to inform government and parliament in that case. This has not occurred since the council was founded four years ago. The council however 'interprets' the requests for advise to match its competence, interest and working methods.

Desk research is the main activity of the secretariat, for which the council provides input and guidance. This is often supported by having round tables with a number of external experts.

## 7. Major Projects

(See website).

## 8. Particularly interesting and innovative aspects

The council tries to identify commonly accepted but unproven or untrue idea's about the real world (e.g. public transport is the answer to traffic congestion) and tries to widen the traditional space of solutions (e.g. market based instruments in climate policy).

## 9. Most interesting reports / publications

Transition towards a low-carbon energy economy, Mobility with reason, Cityland-plus.

## 10. Cooperation with other institutions

The VROM-council cooperates with other European environmental councils. This network is supported by a focal point, at this moment hosted by the Rat von Sachverständigen für Umweltfragen, Wiesbaden (Ingeborg Niestroy, [www.EEAC-network.org](http://www.EEAC-network.org), [ingeborg.niestroy@uba.de](mailto:ingeborg.niestroy@uba.de)).

# Raad voor Ruimtelijk, Milieu- en Natuuronderzoek

## Advisory Council for Spatial Planning, Nature and the Environment

RMNO

12172 4094

Author: Dick H.J.M. Van Alphen, RMNO, Raad voor Ruimtelijk, Milieu- en Natuuronderzoek, Rijswijk

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e-mail: dick.van.alphen@rmno.nl

### 2. Relation to government / parliament

government <input type="checkbox"/> primeminister <input type="checkbox"/> ministries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	head of state <input type="checkbox"/>	parliament <input type="checkbox"/>
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The RMNO is given the task to advise the national government, in this case the Ministers of Economic Affairs (EZ), of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries (LNV), of Education, Culture and Science (OCW), of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM) and of Transport and Communications (V&W), on matters involving research on spatial planning, nature and the environment in the medium and long term. Its sphere of activities not only includes scientific research, but also economic, socio-scientific and public-administrative research. The Advisory Council can draw from a network of experts in the field to develop advice, study reports and statements of affairs.

### 3. organisational structure

permanent <input type="checkbox"/> temporary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> from 2000 to 2006	public <input type="checkbox"/> academic <input type="checkbox"/> profit <input type="checkbox"/> nonprofit <input type="checkbox"/>	thinktank <input type="checkbox"/> committee <input type="checkbox"/> network <input type="checkbox"/> other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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specification

The Advisory Council for Research on Spatial Planning, Nature and the Environment is a so-called sectorial council, established in 1981 for a period of 6 years. Since then, every 6 years the council has been continued for another 6-year term, recently in 2000. The Advisory Council's main objective is to develop a vision of research policy, of knowledge and of knowledge infrastructure about spatial planning, nature and environmental issues in the medium and long term. The Council also makes proposals for the improvement of coordination and the encouragement of the research.

main persons involved

Prof.Dr. R.J. in't Veld (chairman); Drs. R. Koopmans (Executive Director).  
 The composition of the Advisory Council is tripartite: Its representatives come from circles of policy-makers, research and research users (non-allied organisations). The current (May 2000) composition of the Advisory Council is as follows (with an indication of the professional background of the members).  
 For the actual composition of the Council: see the RMNO-website.



<i>annual budget</i>	NLG 2 Million.
<i>permanent staff</i>	10
<i>external consultants</i>	A network of experts.

#### **4. Main activities**

- Drawing attention: Drawing attention to trends in society and science which are relevant to both current and future problems involving nature and the environment, and on research into these problems
- Identifying: Determining knowledge gaps and formulating research needs with a view in order to find ways of solving future nature conservation and environmental problems
- Acting as a go-between: Acting as an intermediary between the parties involved in research on the environment, nature and landscape, for instance assisting social groups in formulating research needs and improving communication between people who need knowledge and researchers
- Stimulating: Stimulating public debate on research into nature conservation and environmental problems on the mid-long term

#### **5. Issues treated**

- Ecological restructuring of the economy: This item on the agenda of priorities is focused on the process of transforming the current ecologically damaging production and consumption patterns towards a more ecologically-friendly model. The RMNO gives information on what knowledge is needed to stimulate this process
- Integral use of space: Different activities lead to conflicting claims on the available space. The RMNO gives information as to what knowledge is necessary to find creative solutions for various activities demanding space - with a view to maintaining or improving the quality of nature and the environment
- Instruments for integrated assessment: This item on the agenda of priorities is directed at the interaction between science and policy. The RMNO gives information as to how knowledge about the environment and nature can be used to an optimum in policy-making
- Knowledge infrastructure for environmental and nature research: The term knowledge infrastructure indicates the entire field of research institutes, consultants, local authorities and other actors that influence the whole route from the planning of research to its actual use. The RMNO is analyzing a number of bottlenecks in the knowledge infrastructure of environmental and nature research in order to make recommendations for improvements
- Social-scientific research on environmental and nature management policy (GAMIN): The RMNO runs the secretariat for the interdepartmental project GAMIN (Gamma environmental and nature research in the Netherlands). GAMIN is directed at improving the use of strategic social-scientific knowledge in developing policy relevant to the environment and nature
- Nature research in 2000-2004: At the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature Management and Fisheries, the RMNO and the NRLO (National Council for Agricultural research) are working on a recommendation for the content and organisation of nature research for the period 2001 - 2004
- Knowledge about sustainable development: At the request of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and the General Directorate of Environmental policy, the RMNO is making recommendations on ways of strengthening the emphasis on sustainable development in organisations in the knowledge infrastructure
- Internationalisation: The RMNO's list of priorities includes subjects and research activities which extend beyond national borders, take place in more than one country at a time or which are part of an international research programme. For this reason the RMNO undertakes a number of international activities

## 6. Working methods

<b>main emphasis</b>		<i>expert knowledge</i>	● ● ● ● ●
		<i>creativity</i>	● ● ● ● ●
		<i>interaction</i>	● ● ● ● ●
<b>selection</b>		<b>treatment of issues</b>	<b>output</b>
<i>customer</i>	● ● ● ●	<i>internal</i>	● ●
<i>own</i>	● ● ●	<i>experts</i>	● ● ● ●
<i>public</i>	● ● ● ●	<i>customer</i>	● ● ● ●
		<i>public</i>	● ● ●

The large public is meant to be the experts and institutions active in the field of spatial planning, nature and the environment, while the expert community is meant to be the experts and institutions dealing with knowledge development and knowledge exchange in this field.

## 7. Major Projects

### Towards a research agenda for future policy on spatial planning, nature and the environment

On request of the Minister for Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, the RMNO is working on a research agenda for the impact of the national policy on spatial planning and the environment (the Fifth National Document on spatial planning, published in January 2001 and the Fourth National Environmental Plan, to be published later this year. The RMNO is not only dealing on request of the 'customer' with issues mentioned in these policy documents, but also with a broader, future oriented scope as well as with the relationships and interaction with important issues in other, related policy fields.

*The methodology corresponds to the characterisation in '6. working methods'*

### Towards a more fruitful cooperation between future research and strategic policy in the field of spatial planning, nature and the environment

In order to improve the gap between policy formulation and future studies and research, a project has been established, in which the RMNO is working together with the Netherlands Scientific Council for Government Policy and the National Council for Agricultural Research. The project is meant to be a learning process with two main elements: (a) knowledge development on the relationships between the role of future research towards national policy formulation and (b) exchange of knowledge and experience between experts in the national government and in research organisations. In 2000, six ex post case studies on future oriented national and regional policy development processes have been carried out, and a colloquium has been organised to learn from their results. In 2001, four ex ante case studies on current future oriented policy development processes.

*The methodology corresponds to the characterisation in '6. working methods'*

### WILLINGLY AND KNOWINGLY: The roles of knowledge about nature and the environment in policy processes

Rows about the cost-effectiveness and environmental benefits of the Betuwe railway track, conflicts about how to measure air craft noise and the number of people bothered, arguments about the Environmental Balance, reproaches for statistical incompetence and accusations of corruption, addressed to consultancies. These are just some examples of recent head lines in the Dutch media concerning environmental research. They give evidence of the tensions between politics on one hand and scientific institutes on the other. In 'Willingly and knowingly.

## Rathenau Instituut

### Rathenau Institute

RI

310 320

Author: Rinie Van Est, Rathenau Institute, The Hague

#### 1. Contact

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e-mail: q.vanest@rathenau.knaw.nl

#### 2. Relation to government / parliament

government <input type="checkbox"/> primeminister <input type="checkbox"/> ministries <input type="checkbox"/>	head of state <input type="checkbox"/>	parliament <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Our mission is a general one and says the Rathenau Institute should stimulate societal debate and political opinion-forming on issues concerning science and technology. For the last 8 years our primary target group has been the parliament. Normally, projects are ended up with a Message to Parliament.

#### 3. organisational structure

permanent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> temporary <input type="checkbox"/> from to	public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> academic <input type="checkbox"/> profit <input type="checkbox"/> nonprofit <input type="checkbox"/>	thinktank <input type="checkbox"/> committee <input type="checkbox"/> network <input type="checkbox"/> other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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specification	The Rathenau Institute is an indepent organisation that is housed in the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.
annual budget	NLG 4,5 million
permanent staff	17,5 fte (of which 9,5 fte scientific staff)
external consultants	The Rathenau Institute outsources most of its projects. It defines and guides its projects and communicates the results by means of reports and discussion meetings, etc..

#### 4. Main activities

The Rathenau Institute outsources most of its projects. It defines and guides its projects and communicates the results by means of reports and discussion meetings, etc..

#### 5. Issues treated

In 1999-2000 three programs were managed:

- ICT
- Biomedical technology
- Program Technological Systems that focuses on the Dutch water mangement system and on animal production systems

In 2001-2002 (the RI has a two-yearly working program) the RI has four programs:

- ICT
- Biomedical technology

- Food
- Use of animals (for food production and for research goals)

## 6. Working methods

<b>main emphasis</b>		<i>expert knowledge</i>	● ● ● ●
		<i>creativity</i>	● ● ● ●
		<i>interaction</i>	● ● ● ●
<b>selection</b>		<b>treatment of issues</b>	<b>output</b>
<i>customer</i>	● ●	<i>internal</i>	● ●
<i>own</i>	● ● ● ●	<i>experts</i>	● ● ● ●
<i>public</i>	● ● ● ●	<i>customer</i>	● ● ●
		<i>public</i>	● ● ●
			<i>customer</i>
			<i>expert</i>
			<i>public</i>

The RI has a pragmatic approach to TA. We distinguish between classical, expert-stakeholder and public TA. All three forms are being used depending on the problem situation at hand. Classical TA is mainly study-oriented. With expert-stakeholder TA interaction between different actors is crucial. Public TA explicitly tries to involve lay people within TA projects.

## 7. Major Projects

### Clones and Cloning

Large project on cloning consisting of various expert-meetings open to the public, a meeting on religious traditions and cloning and political traditions and cloning, a parallel public panel and a large public questionnaire. With respect to TA methods this projects presents a mix between classical and public TA.

*The methodology corresponds to the characterisation in '6. working methods'*

### Integral water management

The concept of integral water management is already widely accepted among politicians and policy makers. Implementation lags behind because of several institutional barriers. One of the barriers is created by the fact that it becomes increasingly important that in the Netherlands spatial planners and water managers cooperate and understand each others positions and views. An interactive TA project was set up with experts and stakeholders to establish this.

*The methodology corresponds to the characterisation in '6. working methods'*

### Predictive medicine

Several studies on the impact of predictive medicine. This is a typical classical TA study.

*The methodology corresponds to the characterisation in '6. working methods'*

## 8. Particularly interesting and innovative aspects

Parallel public panel: see project on cloning. The public panel is organised alongside other activities. The gives the public panel the opportunity to get acquainted with the issue in a natural fashion and gives the panel the time to come up with its statement.

## 9. Most interesting reports / publications

To name just a few: Health policy in a risk culture; citizenship in the age of predictive medicine, ICT and new patterns of work.

## 10. Cooperation with other institutions

EPTA members, in the Netherlands, amongst others, AWT, STT, IPP, several ministerial

advisory boards and strategic think-tanks.

**Rijks Instituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieu**  
**National Institute for Public Health and the Environment**

RIVM

8230 2154

Author: Gerrit Vonkeman, Utrecht University, Utrecht

### 1. Contact

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 Rijks Instituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieu  
 A. van Leeuwenhoeklaan 9, 3721 MA Bilthoven, Netherlands  
 ; Fax:+31 (30) 274 29 71

### 2. Relation to government / parliament

<i>government</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>primeminister</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>ministries</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>head of state</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>parliament</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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The Dutch public health and environment agency.

### 3. organisational structure

<i>permanent</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>temporary</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>from</i> _____ <i>to</i> present	<i>public</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>academic</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>profit</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>nonprofit</i> <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>thinktank</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>committee</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>network</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>other</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>specification</i>	National monitoring and reporting agency for environment and public health.	
<i>main persons involved</i>	H. Pont, director-general; Prof. ir. N.D. van Egmond, director environment.	

### 4. Main activities

(See Country Study Netherlands).

### 5. Issues treated

State of the environment reports with a 20 year time horizon.

### 6. Working methods

<b>selection</b> <i>customer</i> ●●●● <i>own</i> ●●●● <i>public</i> ●●●●	<b>treatment of issues</b> <i>internal</i> ●●●● <i>experts</i> ●●●● <i>customer</i> ●● <i>public</i> ●	<b>output</b> <i>customer</i> ●●●●● <i>expert</i> ●●● <i>public</i> ●●●
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Every publication has political relevance.

## **7. Major Projects**

### **State of the environment report**

*The methodology corresponds to the characterisation in '6. working methods'*

### **State of the Dutch Nature report**

*The methodology corresponds to the characterisation in '6. working methods'*

## **8. Particularly interesting and innovative aspects**

The reports mentioned in section 7 have a time-horizon of 20 years; excellent monitoring and modelling facilities.

## **9. Most interesting reports / publications**

(See section 7 and Country Study Netherlands).

## Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau

### Social and Cultural Planning Office of the Netherlands

SCP

2609 2135

Author: Paul Schnabel , SCP, Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau, The Hague

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 e-mail: p.schnabel@scp.nl

#### 2. Relation to government / parliament

government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> primeminister <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ministries <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	head of state <input type="checkbox"/>	parliament <input type="checkbox"/>
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All nine welfare state ministries (health, housing, welfare, social security, education, safety, internal affairs, arts, sports) Every two years our working plan (research, reports, advisory tasks) is discussed in the cabinet. The Minister of Health and Welfare is responsible for its enactment, as the budget of the SCP is a corollary to this Minister's budget.

#### 3. organisational structure

permanent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> temporary <input type="checkbox"/> from to	public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> academic <input type="checkbox"/> profit <input type="checkbox"/> nonprofit <input type="checkbox"/>	thinktank <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> committee <input type="checkbox"/> network <input type="checkbox"/> other <input type="checkbox"/>
specification	SCP is an independent organisation within the national government, organisationally and financially attached to the Ministry of Health, but working for the entire cabinet and especially the welfare state ministries. All reports are available to the public and there is no involvement of the cabinet or its ministers with respect to the content of the reports.	
main persons involved	Paul Schnabel, General Director; Mod Roos, Deputy Director.	
annual budget	approx. EUR 6,5 million (staff, research, publication, etc. - housing is not included).	
permanent staff	60 - 65 FTE (about 90 persons).	

#### 4. Main activities

- Social research on welfare state issues and social policies
- Reporting on the 'social state of the Netherlands'
- Evaluation of government policies
- Advising the cabinet on welfare state issues, especially issues with an intersectoral/cross-departmental relevance



## 6. Working methods

<b>main emphasis</b>		<i>expert knowledge</i>	● ● ● ● ●
		<i>creativity</i>	● ● ●
		<i>interaction</i>	● ●
<b>selection</b>		<b>treatment of issues</b>	
<i>customer</i>	● ● ● ● ●	<i>internal</i>	● ● ● ● ●
<i>own</i>	● ● ● ●	<i>experts</i>	● ● ● ●
<i>public</i>	● ● ●	<i>customer</i>	● ● ● ●
		<i>public</i>	
		<b>output</b>	
		<i>customer</i>	● ● ● ● ●
		<i>expert</i>	● ● ● ●
		<i>public</i>	● ● ● ●

Cabinet/National government is our first customer, but everything we report to them is always immediately and fully accessible to everyone.

Working methods:

- Social surveys
- Secondary analysis of existing statistical databases (Statistics Netherlands, OECD)
- Qualitative fieldwork in exploratory research
- Modelling and scenario development
- Desk researcher

## 7. Major Projects

### Social and Cultural Report (since 1974 every second year)

Overview of developments in the social realm dutch society.

*The methodology corresponds to the characterisation in '6. working methods'*

### Distribution of time

Longterm study of changes in people's timebudget (about 2500 respondents).

*The methodology corresponds to the characterisation in '6. working methods'*

### A model for Hemm care

Economic model (collaboration with CPB).

*The methodology corresponds to the characterisation in '6. working methods'*

## 8. Particularly interesting and innovative aspects

SCP is an interdisciplinary institute, on the one hand working for and having immediate and personal access to the cabinet, on the other hand independent in its researches, opinions and reports. This makes our reports particularly influential in the public and political debate.

## Wetenschappelijke Raad voor het Regeringsbeleid Scientific Council for Government Policy

WRR

102 339

Author: Simone Langeweg, WRR, Wetenschappelijke Raad voor het Regeringsbeleid, The Hague

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Tel.direct: +31 (70) 356 46 51 ; Tel. org: +31 (70) 356 46 00 ; Fax:+31 (70) 356 46 85  
e-mail: langeweg@wrr.nl

### 2. Relation to government / parliament

government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	head of state <input type="checkbox"/>	parliament <input type="checkbox"/>
primeminister <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
ministries <input type="checkbox"/>		

The WRR reports to the government on various fields of government policy. The Council is independent. The Bureau that supports the Council in its work comes under the Ministry of General Affairs, i.e. the Prime Minister's Office.

### 3. organisational structure

permanent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	thinktank <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
temporary <input type="checkbox"/>	academic <input type="checkbox"/>	committee <input type="checkbox"/>
from	profit <input type="checkbox"/>	network <input type="checkbox"/>
to	nonprofit <input type="checkbox"/>	other <input type="checkbox"/>
<i>specification</i>	The WRR was set up in 1972 and was given a formal basis by the Act of Establishment in 1976. The Council members are independent. The Bureau comes under the ministry of General Affairs. The WRR surveys future developments on behalf of government policy. It draws up its own programme of work. The Council's term of office is 5 years. Council members are appointed for this period and may be reappointed once.	
<i>main persons involved</i>	Prof.dr. M.Scheltema, chairman of the Council (1998-2002); J.C.F. Bletz, executive secretary to the Council.	
<i>annual budget</i>	approx. NLG 6.000.000.	
<i>permanent staff</i>	14 fte scientific staff; 4 other staff; administrative and domestic staff 9.5.fte	
<i>external consultants</i>	Varies; on occasions.	

### 4. Main activities

The Netherlands Scientific Council for Government Policy surveys future developments on behalf of government policy. The Council's activities consist of the exploration of new problems, the analysis of existing problems in a broad context and the identification of new perspectives and solutions. In this way the Council strengthens the attention to long-term considerations in government policy. It is the Council's responsibility to identify as yet unacknowledged problems and developments, insufficiently explored policy options and the possibilities for a more integrated approach towards problems. In principle the Council can deal with any topic of government policy, subject to the condition that the topics are concerned with the future and relate to major social issues. Furthermore, they must be suprasectoral in nature and the Council itself must preside over the necessary expertise. In addition, the

subjects in question are examined in terms of various disciplines.

### 5. Issues treated

In principle the Council can deal with any topic of government policy, subject to the condition that the topics are concerned with the future and relate to major social issues. At present the Council has the following subjects on its programme of work:

- The entry of Central and Eastern European countries into the European Union
- The multicultural society: coping with diversity
- Towards a new knowledge policy
- Good governance and development
- Embedding environmental standards in society
- The functioning of the state under the rule of law
- Biotechnology

### 6. Working methods

<b>main emphasis</b>		<i>expert knowledge</i>	● ● ● ●
		<i>creativity</i>	● ● ● ● ● ●
		<i>interaction</i>	● ● ● ●
<b>selection</b>		<b>treatment of issues</b>	<b>output</b>
<i>customer</i>	● ●	<i>internal</i>	● ● ● ● ●
<i>own</i>	● ● ● ● ● ●	<i>experts</i>	● ● ● ●
<i>public</i>	● ●	<i>customer</i>	●
		<i>public</i>	●
			<i>customer</i>
			● ● ● ● ● ●
			<i>expert</i>
			● ● ● ● ●
			<i>public</i>
			● ● ● ● ●

For each term of office the Council draws up a (publicly available) programme of work. This programme of work is flexible; topics may be added during the course of the Council term. The Council itself decides on the subjects for study. Subjects can be included in the programme of work at the request of the Government, Parliament or other organisations within the community. While the essence of each report and its main lines are prepared in-house, the Council also seeks to mobilise a wide range of expertise and to incorporate the results into its reports. To this end outside experts may be consulted at the various stages of a project. For the publication of the preparatory research conducted for a report the Council has two series: Preliminary and background studies and Working Documents. In its reports the WRR directly addresses the makers of government policy. The Council reports to the government through the Prime Minister. The government invariably issues a reaction to the reports, as a rule within 3 months. After the Cabinet has taken cognisance of the reports, the Council proceeds to publication. The reports are widely distributed among Parliament, interest groups and scientific and social institutes.

### 7. Major Projects

#### Sustained risks (report to the government no. 44 (1994); full English translation)

The report centres around the fact that environmental risks cannot be objectively determined scientifically. Risks will be assessed differently depending on the vision taken towards nature and society. The choices that have to be made in environmental policy are normative, not objective. There is therefore no fixed environmental utilisation space; the latter arises from a public debate concerning goals and risks. The report elaborates four scenarios on the basis of the 'exploiting', 'managing', 'conserving' and 'safeguarding' perspectives for developments in the field of food supply, energy supply, nature conservation, raw materials and drinking water. The perspectives are based on estimates concerning the support-base of nature and society. *The methodology corresponds to the characterisation in '6. working methods'*

#### Governments losing ground (report to the government no. 54 (1998); summary in English)

This report surveys the impact of the ongoing and rapid extension of ICT in society on the

national state as an institution. As in the case of other surveys of future developments, the report is by nature somewhat speculative. This does not detract from the central finding that changes in the knowability, assignability and enforceability of activities will also result in changes in the capacity of national governments to act effectively. It is important for this realisation to be discounted in future policy and not - as so often tends to be the case - to meet developments in terms of what is perceived as an unchanging capacity to act.

*The methodology corresponds to the characterisation in '6. working methods'*

### **Continuing growth of labour force participation (report to the government no.57 (2000), English summary)**

Since the mid 1980s a growing number of people have been participating in the formal labour market in the Netherlands. If present trends are sustained a situation of 'virtually full labour force participation' lies in prospect around the year 2020. From a social viewpoint the continuing growth of labour force participation is desirable on account of the support base that a high level of participation provides and the positive external effects to which it gives rise. There is, however, also concern in the public debate about the negative consequences of a further increase. If the participation rate continues to rise, will this lead to problems in the field of traffic mobility, informal care, health, trainability and the distribution of income? Will this set limits to the growth in participation? Against this background the Council has undertaken an empirical analysis in this report in order to obtain a better insight into the consequences of a continuing rise in labour force participation over the next ten to 20 years.

*The methodology corresponds to the characterisation in '6. working methods'*

### **8. Particularly interesting and innovative aspects**

WRR reports must be characterised by the fact that they cover subjects that are multisectoral (i.e. the subject under study should cover various areas of government policy) or multilateral (i.e. the subject can be studied from various angles). Furthermore, the subject must be examined in terms of various scientific disciplines.

Futures research demands a continuous and careful assessment of the problem definition and the choice of the most suitable methodology. One permanent component in all the Council's work is therefore an extensive analysis of the problem in question. More than anything else this enables a choice to be made of the most adequate method of futures research. In doing so the Council uses scientific information to provide an insight into the problems concerned. The WRR is expected in particular to deal with preliminary policy issues. A useful contribution to the policy debate that the Council can make, for instance, is that of placing a particular subject on the political agenda. In addition the WRR may provide suggestions for policies and solutions - whether or not at the Cabinet's request - for the issues it raised. In so far as policy choices are made, these are explicitly justified by the Council. By clearly distinguishing the normative issues from that which the present state of science can teach us, the WRR wishes to keep the relationship between science and policy as clear as possible.

### **9. Most interesting reports / publications**

Amongst others:

Safeguarding public interests (no.56, 2000) Generationally-aware policy (no.55, 1999).

Governments Losing Ground. An Exploration of Public Administrative Consequences of Information and Communication Technology (no.54, 1998) Spatial Development Policy (no.53, 1998).

Public Health Care. Priorities and a Sound Financial Basis for Health Care in the 21st Century (no.52, 1997).

Social Dichotomy in the Netherlands (no.50, 1996) Stability and Security in Europe (no.48, 1995).

### **10. Cooperation with other institutions**

The Council also has advisory members. On an ex officio basis these are the directors of the planning agencies: the Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis (CPB), the Social and Cultural Planning Office (SCP), Statistics Netherlands (CBS), the National Spatial

Planning Agency (RPD) and the National Institute of Public Health and the Environment (RIVM).

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