

Newsletter Peer review Netherlands Sustainable Development Strategy

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This newsletter is intended to inform all those interested in this project and is updated regularly. For questions please contact Linda Docter, project manager, +31 70 3155227 or Linda.Docter@rmno.nl

What has happened so far?

* **Steering committee:** The committee is chaired by RMNO chair In 't Veld and consists of experts from the RMNO and other participating councils (AER, VROMraad, RLG, RAWOO, SER) as well as experts from MNP, EC, OECD and UN. The committee provides for external support, quality checks, suggestions for the plan of implementation and the methodology of the learning process. In preparation for the scoping meeting, where the peers will discuss the focus of the review, the committee provided an advice on the scope from both Dutch government and Dutch sustainable development experts.

* **Background document:** A background document has been prepared which serves as the main source of information for the peers as they start the process of review. The report describes the coming about and content of the current strategy, what has happened since the introduction, which parties have been involved and how and which issues are or have been under discussion. The background document is not an evaluation of SDS process or policy or results in the Netherlands, as this is the role of the peer reviewers. The document has been written on the basis of open sources (mainly literature and websites) and in communication with ministries and advisory councils involved in sustainable development and the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency MNP. The report is illustrated by a series of indicators, taken from the MNP European Benchmark Indicators, as these allow for comparison of the Netherlands with other EU countries. The report is available for those interested.

* **Peer reviewers:** The Peer review will be conducted by sustainable development (strategy) experts from three countries. Germany, Finland and South Africa have been selected. From each country four experts were invited, representing government, NGO's, business and science.

* **Consultant:** The consultant of the French peer review process, Dr. Barry Dalal-Clayton, has been contacted to assist the peers in their review work.

Coming up

*** Scoping meeting**

In the planning of the process three important moments have been created.

- 1) scoping meeting, 1-2 February 2007
- 2) review, 1-4 April 2007,
- 3) presentation of the results, one or two days, probably in June 2007

During the scoping meeting, reviewers will meet for the first time. They will also meet with members of the steering committee, as well as Dutch experts, the consultant and representatives of Dutch ministries. They will share expectations, discuss the background report, set the agenda for the review and assign tasks among themselves.