

Newsletter Peer review Netherlands Sustainable Development Strategy

May 4th, 2007

This newsletter is intended to inform all those interested in this project and is updated regularly. For questions please contact Fieke Krikhaar, project manager, +31 70 3155213 or Fieke.Krikhaar@rmno.nl.

What has happened since March 27?

* Review: The review has taken place from 1 to 5 April 2007. The peers discussed in different sessions with more than 80 experts from various fields. On the last day the peers have presented their recommendations. It was an intensive week for the peers, they get a lot of new insights in the Dutch sustainable development strategy from the experts sessions. These new insights, combined with the knowledge from sustainable development in their own countries, formed the basis for the peers to formulate recommendations for a sustainable development strategy for The Netherlands.

*Executive Summary: An Executive Summary is written based on the recommendations of the peers. Pancho Ndebele, chair of the peers, has presented this Executive Summary to prime minister Balkenende and to minister Cramer (environment) and Koenders (foreign affairs) by a personal letter.

The Executive Summary can be downloaded on:

[http://www.rmno.nl/files_content/exec%20summary%20_def_%20_2_%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.rmno.nl/files_content/exec%20summary%20_def_%20_2_%20(2).pdf)

Coming up

*Meeting prime minister: Pancho Ndebele is invited by the prime minister Balkenende to present and discuss the recommendations of the peer review on May 21. Important issue is the process by which a new SD strategy can emerge, because of the new cabinet's policy programme that will be launched in June 2007. Sustainability is already an important issue in this policy programme, we see a growing support for SD among political leaders.

* Final Report: The review team will write their final review report, giving insights and explanation to the recommendations presented in April. The report will be ready in the beginning of June,

* Presentation: The review rapport will be presented on the festival "midzomern8" on June 21, 2007 in Amsterdam, supported by a newsletter for the press. In September 2007 a conference will be organized by a group of Councils and on that meeting government, business, science and social community will reflect on the recommendations: how can SD work in the Netherlands. One of the issues is by what organisational system SD activities are initiated, supported, watched and commented in a way that government but also the stakeholders create an effective approach for managing SD in the Netherlands.