

Appendix 3

The Speaker of the House of Representatives
of the States General
PO Box 20018
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The Hague

Our reference

DE/2008/4655

Subject

Monitoring of the emancipation policy and annual
progress report (realisation of the Hamer motion)

I would herewith like to inform you about the proposed implementation of the Hamer motion (parliamentary document number 2007 – 2008 30420 no. 86). In this motion you ask me to further inform the House of Representatives about which aspects of the emancipation policy I will be monitoring, and in what way.

General

There are a number of different monitoring times and formats for the emancipation policy. When it comes to the assessment of the general progress in the area of emancipation in the Netherlands ('the state of the nation'), I have the Emancipation monitor published every two years. The publication of the next issue of the Emancipation monitor is expected early in 2009.

With regard to the emancipation policy in the ministries (the overviews of which my colleagues have sent to the House of Representatives individually), I have agreed with my colleagues that the government will conduct a midterm review in 2010. This review will be conducted by the ministries themselves, will look at the results that have been achieved in the terms of government up to that time, and will contain an exploration of new opportunities.

In addition to the ministry reviews and explorations, I, in my capacity as Minister for Emancipation, will issue an overview of the progress of all the priority objectives included in the Emancipation memorandum in 2010.

Annual progress report

With regard to the progress of the objectives of the emancipation policy that are defined in the Emancipation memorandum, the following. As I explained in my letter on the distribution of responsibility (Parliamentary document 2007 – 2008, 30420 no. 61), the primary responsibility for the implementation of the policy and for achieving the objectives in the various areas rests firmly with the line ministries. They are accountable for this and will report to the House of Representatives individually.

As the Minister for Emancipation I will, where necessary or desirable, contribute to the priority themes. In order to further define this contribution I have, on a number of subjects, reached collaboration agreements with the responsible ministries for the provision of (temporary) support in order to contribute to realising the objectives. The obligation for achieving the objectives lies with the individual line ministries, but I am jointly accountable for those aspects on which we work together. With respect to the subjects on which I work together with the line ministries and/or on which I have taken the lead, I will report to the House of Representatives on an annual basis.

In real terms these are the following aspects/projects:

- the Part-timePlus Task force, aimed at women working more and working more hours;
- administrative agreements with frontrunners among provinces and municipalities about flexible opening hours and tailor-made services for improving the possibilities of combining a working and a caring role;
- reduction of m/f segregation in education and the employment market;
- further definition of the TopBrainstorm and the Women to the Top Charter;
- the 1001 Strengths project, which aims to support women from ethnic minorities in social participation;
- emancipation of boys and men from ethnic minorities;
- national rollout of emancipation initiatives of social institutes that have proven effective;
- the study into the consequences of the sexualisation of (the role of girls and women in) society for both young people and society;
- increasing the resistance of young people against (sexual) violence and increasing the media awareness of young people;
- increasing the ability of professionals to recognise signs of sexual intimidation and (sexual) violence at an early stage;
- supporting innovative programmes from women's networks;
- supporting the emancipation knowledge infrastructure;
- administrative agreements with municipalities about the emancipation policy;
- collaboration and support agreements with ministries with respect to the emancipation policy.

Once a year, prior to the budget meetings, I will provide you with a progress report that will outline the status of the aforementioned issues.

The Minister of Education, Culture and Science,

Dr Ronald H.A. Plasterk