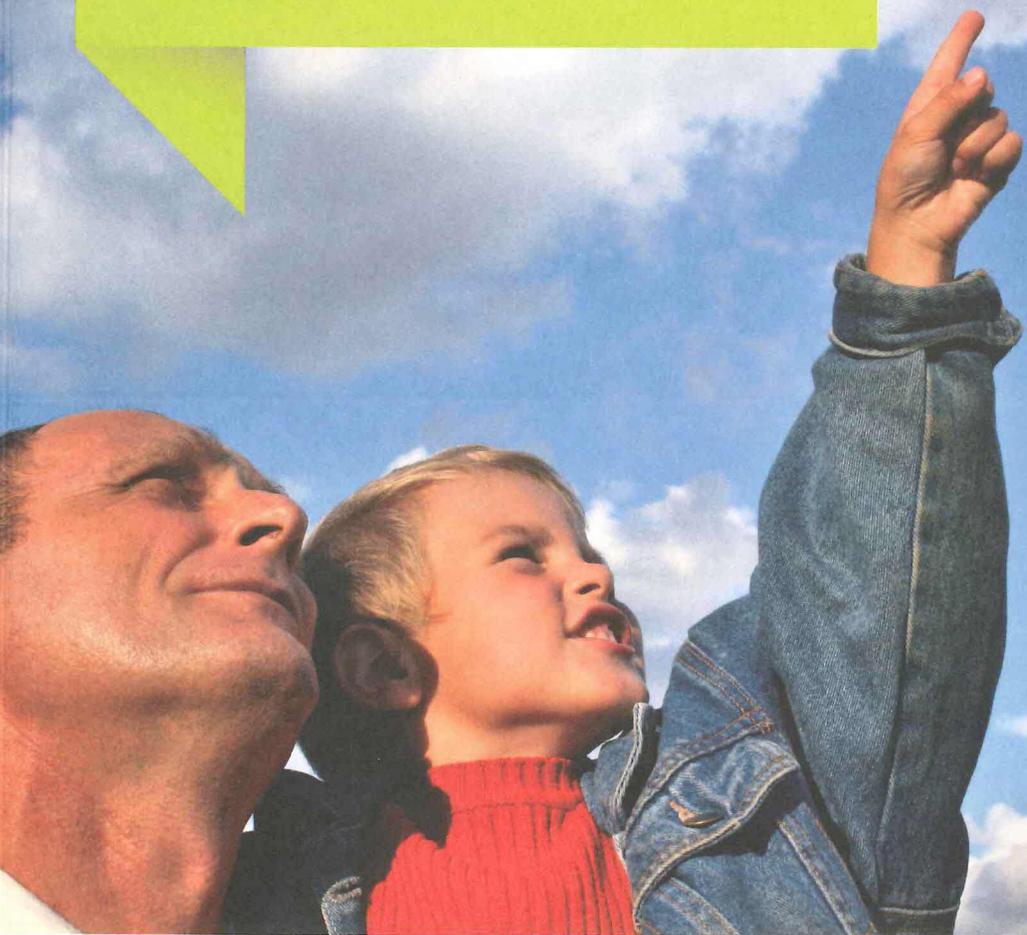


Election programme 2006-2011

*Confidence in the Netherlands.
Confidence in each other.*



CDA **EFF**

*Eduardo Frei
Foundation*

***Confidence in the Netherlands.
Confidence in each other.***

Election programme 2006-2011

DOCUMENTATIECENTRUM
NEDERLANDSE POLITIEKE
PARTIJEN

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Foreword

Dear Member, dear Sir, Madam,

Before you lies the election programme
'Confidence in the Netherlands. Confidence in each other.'

This election programme is the result of an intensive process, in which thousands of members and voters were actively involved. During numerous debate meetings in the country and via the special website – www.hetdebat.com – thousands of members and voters have made their contribution.

Additionally, the programme committee has exchanged ideas with over one hundred social organizations. The programme committee has made use of the results of party discussions about sustainable development, Europe and the knowledge economy with respect to the labour market and education. Also reports of the Scientific Institute offered many intrinsic points of departure. Finally, there has been much debate within our party. This led to the entry of approximately eight hundred amendments to the draft text. During the Balkenende cabinets the Netherlands has climbed back on its feet. Around the turn of the century our economy had lost the connection to the frontrunners in Europe, the government's finances were no longer in good order and people had to fear for losing their jobs. The Netherlands had also become a country of irritations. Irritations about waiting lists in health care, about integration problems, about galling regulatory measures, about insecurity and aggression in the streets. Fortunately we may say that much has changed for the better. The reforms of the Balkenende cabinets have been effective. First of all, our country is in a much better economic position. The rise of the number of people receiving social benefits has been halted. There is now a decrease. The waiting lists in health care have been reduced, safety has been increased, there is now more space for people in education and health care, more attention to social rules and decency, and more also to families. The CDA wants to move forward with the Netherlands. Exactly now that things are going better, we can together see that we pass on the Netherlands to the next generations in excellent condition. Much work is still to be done in this respect. The Netherlands must remain competitive in the globalising economy. The Netherlands must become more innovative, safer, cleaner, more sustainable. The Netherlands must also remain a country in which people with so many different backgrounds live together in harmony, a country without dichotomy. A country in which everybody takes part. The CDA therefore wants to start the future debate with a social investment agenda. The essence of consists of: give people, schools, institutions and companies more space and more support to excel on the basis of their own drive and energy. This means fewer rules, make more initiative possible, facilitate and equip more. To phrase it differently: the CDA wants to give society the space to work on community spirit and mutual confidence. The CDA wants to contribute to generations feeling involved with each other, to cultures and religions living together and not being opposed to each other. It wants a labour market in which also those with a lower education find a good place. The CDA wants to enhance the community spirit,

exactly now that people wonder whether they will feel at home in a multicultural society and in a greater European Union. The CDA does not consider the increasing international interconnectivity of countries and peoples as a threat, but wishes to contribute to a joint effort for peace, security, prosperity, sustainability, based on standing values that differing countries, cultures and religions share with each other. Confidence in the Netherlands and confidence in each other are the key words in the CDA programme. We can see all around us that people are prepared to make an effort for a better Netherlands for the years to come. We wish to mobilise those people, with all their talents and ambitions. Without this effort of many we shall not succeed: a society without confidence is not a strong society. We have the greatest confidence that the CDA lays a strong foundation for a strong Netherlands, ready for the future. The Netherlands, a prosperous country that offers certainty and especially a country that is characterised by mutual respect. In which we proceed in a safer, cleaner more innovative and more sustainable fashion. A country in which everybody takes part. Where people have confidence in each other.

With kind regards,

Marja van Bijsterveldt
Party chairman

René Smit
Chairman
Programme Committee

Ab Klink
Secretary
Programme Committee

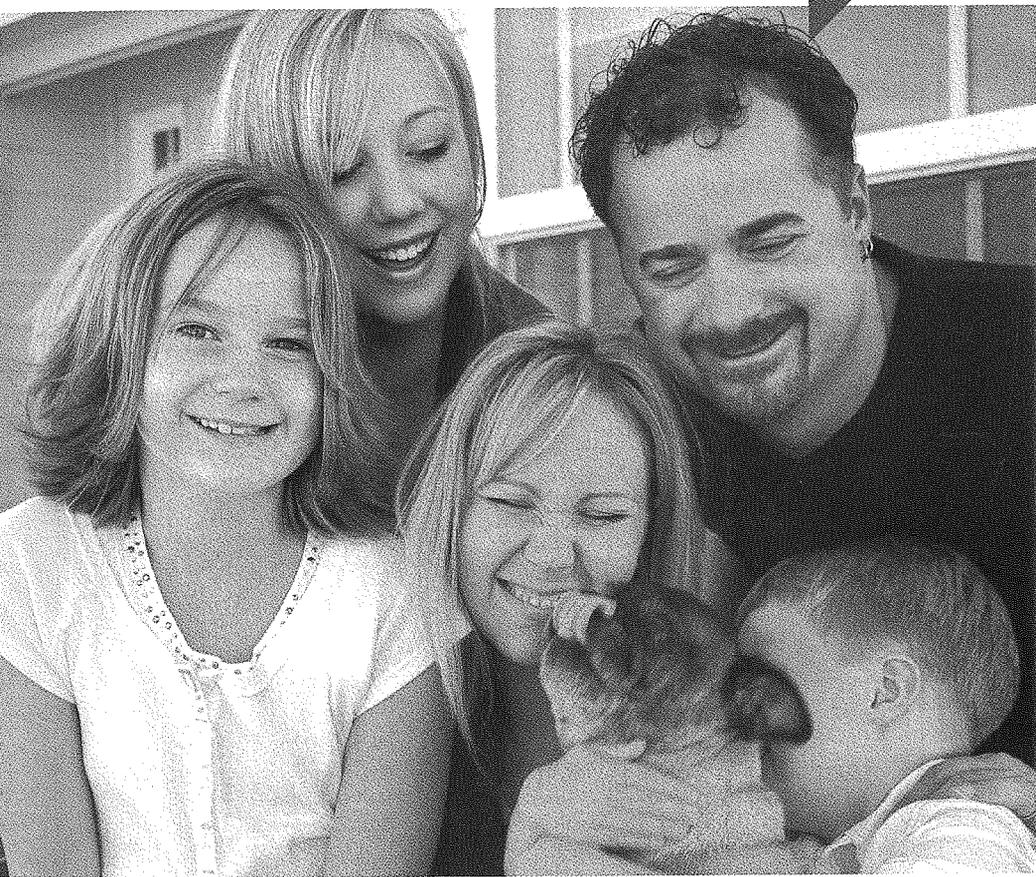
PROGRAMME COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

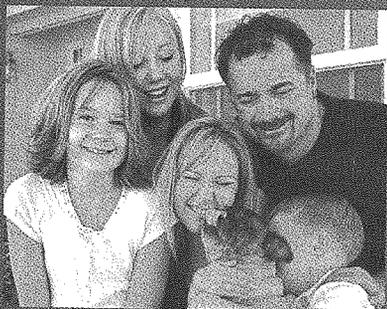
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Marja van Bijsterveldt (party chairperson), Camiel Eurlings (delegation leader CDA in European Parliament), Maxime Verhagen (chairman CDA Parliamentary Party), Gerda Verburg (deputy chairperson CDA parliamentary party), Jos Werner (chairman CDA party in the Upper Chamber) and Jack the Vries (campaign leader) were consultants of the Programme committee.

Ab Klink was author and Cecile Heemels was political assistant.

At home





A family means managing things and caring, but also having attention for each other. The family stage is the rush hour of life. A busy and expensive stage of life. The future of the Netherlands is growing up here. Here children are given their basis. Therefore we must spare the family. The family gets all possible chances with us. Financially, by supporting the purchasing power of families. But also by greater possibilities for combining education and work.

WHAT ARE THE NEW CHALLENGES?

Where are the challenges of the near future? This concerns a number of issues that are strongly interconnected.

- Prosperity in the world has increased. The Netherlands has an open economy and culture, and also strongly profits from the globalising economy. On the other hand still tens of millions of people are still leaving home, flee for poverty, for civil wars or for plundering and violent authorities. The security issue has recently become more and more complex: failing states, terrorism and the possession of nuclear knowledge may coincide. Terrorist networks are bent on letting cultural tensions spread to the streets and schools of London, Paris, Madrid, New York and Amsterdam. The task of joining people, cultures and religions together is becoming more and more urgent through all of this. Far away and nearby. Therefore an international effort is needed, but also a credible and ambitious policy to let newcomers participate. No country can meet the challenges that globalisation creates by themselves. Therefore we need: a convincing foreign policy and a Europe that contributes to innovation, sustainability, security and anti-terrorism policies.
- Important for our country is a vital and sustainable economy. The Netherlands will have to be competitive and innovative, exactly now that countries such as India and China throw down the gauntlet. The Netherlands must therefore innovate, develop new products and secure a place in the growth markets of the future. Meanwhile this growth will have to be sustainable. Otherwise environmental pollution will outgrow us. The rise of new economic giants enhances the seriousness of the CO₂-problems and of the scarcity of energy. But this is exactly why there are also new opportunities. Investing in sustainability and clean energy offers chances.
- Not less substantial is a labour market that functions well. There is a diminishing professional population. There is a lack of workers. At the same time still too many people are out of a job. The lack of workers then go hand in hand with unemployment. In such a situation the wages will soon increase and our country is running the risk of becoming too expensive. The other side of the tight labour market is that there will be extra opportunities for (sometimes) vulnerable groups on the labour market: older employees, partially disabled people and new Dutch people. How do we promote their participation?
- Solidarity between generations requires us to keep the Dutch National Old Age Pensions Act, the pensions and the health care system affordable and accessible, also in the future, when the tendency of an ageing population is becoming more and more strongly apparent. This requires money, but at the same time the current generation calls for a good and well-aimed income protection to combat poverty. In this respect it is important not only to focus on the income of people, but also take into account the standing charges that sometimes put pressure on the actual income.
- It is important that schools, care institutions, etc. turn in top-notch performances. The Netherlands is a knowledge society. School dropouts and a culture of only doing the minimum required must

therefore be avoided. In health care the innovations and efficiency are important to keep health care up to standard and accessible and to avoid huge rises in premiums. It is important that institutions justify themselves towards patients, students and parents, respectively. This stimulates, enhances the performances and strengthens the confidence in each other. Creating a challenging work climate is also substantial to prevent staffing deficits, avoid waiting lists in health care and cancelled lessons in education.

- A good education, a safe climate at

home, the transfer of values and standards by schools and the media, and the awareness that a valuable contribution may be asked from everyone, enrich life, enhance the awareness that a person is more than a customer of society. This is essential for the social coherence and gives depth and content to life. Exactly now that participation in the labour market is of such great importance, we must see that there is space for the family, for education and for volunteer work. Safety in the street is an essential precondition for solidarity.

HOW WILL THE CDA MEET THOSE CHALLENGES?

1. Confidence in families, therefore investing in time, support and money.

In the families of the Netherlands the future of our country is growing up. Here children and grown-ups learn what love, security and self-confidence is and learn to respect others. Here they get to know the values and standards of our society and how to bring them into practice. Therefore we must be careful about families. Bringing up children demands much of parents, especially now that the family stage has more than ever become the rush hour of life. There is often time pressure and there is a smaller budget. In the past few years families have been helped financially among other things by the abolition of the tuition fees for 16 and 17-year-olds and the free care insurance for children. The CDA wants to do more to support the purchasing power of families. We also wish to give parents more possibilities to find a good

balance between work and family, certainly now that the professional population is diminishing and an increasing appeal must be made to people to participate.

Therefore the CDA wants that:

- there are more options for parents. They must be able to determine themselves how they wish to arrange their childcare and receive more money for this;
- there is extra money for the family allowance and the income-dependent children's bonus;
- schoolbooks in secondary education will become free for parents;
- people are better able to combine their families and their jobs. Those who interrupt their career for their families or education must be able to do so without this resulting in a great loss of income. Those who put something from their income aside via the early retirement plan,

receive an extra contribution from the government in case of parental leave;

- the employer's contribution to the early retirement plan must be given in a targeted manner, i.e. only to those who join in the arrangement. This will stimulate employers to make CAO (industry-wide collective bargaining agreement)-agreements about this and to stimulate employees to participate in the arrangement;
- addictions are counteracted by seeing that children eat healthier food at school, by promoting sports, keeping drugs out of the way of children's playgrounds, school yards and sports fields, by a stricter prohibition of the sale of tobacco and alcohol to young people and by giving parents more influence on what can be viewed on television;
- parents can receive help in educational questions. They can receive educational advice and -support, but especially also consult each other in Centres for Youth and Family. This, too, delivers a contribution to a timely signalling and especially assistance in case of problems;
- starters on the housing market can get assistance from a fund, so that they can form a family and receive a bit of support for their mortgage expenses;
- the household income is point of departure for limiting the (standardised) expenses that people make for a living, the care premium for the basic package and for the costs of their children, to a ceiling or maximum. This way poverty, also in middle incomes, is counteracted in a targeted manner. For the rent allowance and children's bonus more money is reserved in order to fight poverty in a targeted manner.

2. Confidence in people, therefore investing in volunteers, standards, values and safety

Social coherence is no longer a fact of life in our time. Society is multicoloured, the European Union continues to grow, working hours are shorter than they used to be. But the need for community spirit is undiminished.

We shape a liveable neighbourhood, a liveable city, a liveable country together. We can expect from people that they can actively contribute to this. It is therefore good to learn this at an early age. Numerous volunteers – young and old – are giving a good example.

Common values are the cement of society. Families, schools and social organizations, which transfer our core values, deserve more space. For the CDA these values are not free of obligations. We must continue to hold each other accountable. Antisocial behaviour merits an answer. The government itself must especially see to a climate of safety. It acts thoroughly and in a standardising manner against nuisance, crime and extremism. The government monitors the core values of our constitutional state.

Therefore the CDA wants:

- that all youths follow an obligatory social apprenticeship of three months during their school years. For then pupils learn to make an effort for others and get intensively acquainted to society and the needs of other people;
- to give extra money to sports. Sport is

good for the health and sees that youths learn to do things in a team at an early age. Population groups meet each other. This makes prejudices disappear;

- that a media expertise centre is created, where parents, programme makers, broadcasting corporations, the cinema and video branches develop standards for the protection of children and youths.
- to value religions and give them a place in the centre of society. Religious communities enhance mutual bonds, solidarity, and inspire people to make a contribution to society. This also applies for Islamic institutions, including schools;
- that we know at an early stage whether children are going off-track. Schools, youth relief workers, police and municipalities will exchange information better. If children are in danger of slipping down, there is an obligatory upbringing or guidance course for parents. Placing under supervision must already be possible before a child is really going off the rails;
- that possibilities are found to send unteachable and criminal youths to special approved schools, if necessary. For they, too, have a right to a new chance. Punishments are generally carried out in such a manner that they give a firm stimulus to improve lives.
- that the government watches over the core values of the constitutional state, combats sowing of hate, and does not tolerate phenomena such as murder in the name of family honour, forced marriages, etc. Even religion can and may never mean that people are free to behave against the core values of society. Around those core values, as far as the

CDA is concerned, there is no space for a multicultural society. A multicoloured society and differences only thrive if basic values are shared;

- improve safety even further. Especially violent crimes must be counteracted. The police get more possibilities to use DNA and finger prints in the tracing of criminals. This will improve the investigation results even further. Privacy is protected by seeing that the personal details are removed if no judicial judgment is effected.

3. Confidence in society, therefore investing in entrepreneurship, involvement and creativity of social institutions.

The government has for tens of years strongly interfered with education, health care, house-construction and welfare work.

This has led to many civil servants, many regulatory measures and much supervision, but also to much irritation in the people in all those sectors. Their area of work was tightly controlled, which caused their professional honour and creativity to get wedged.

In the past few years a beginning has been made to changing this. With the readjustment of the system in health care a new course has been set out. In the education more space has been created. But it is not yet enough. Schools, care institutions and housing corporations still too often have a feeling that they first have to ask the government for permission before they can undertake anything. This must change and it can change. Fewer rules, scaling down,

more confidence in the workmanship and the creativity of people, and more space for initiative.

The CDA wants to give schools and care institutions the possibility to get the best out of themselves, to perform and to do so by having them directly account to the parents, patients, etc., instead of to the government alone. More joint responsibility therefore, also to regain pride, appreciation and confidence. This will at the same time lead to a more challenging working climate, and this is in itself important – with a diminishing professional population in the background – to prevent staffing shortages, waiting lists in healthcare and cancelled lessons in education.

Therefore the CDA wants:

- to lift barriers for new organizations that would like to offer healthcare services. This enables new supply that anticipates the demand better. Care institutions will pay more attention to the wishes of patients. Hospitals and insurers will negotiate more about content, price and rates of their services. Patients' organisations get more influence on the policy of healthcare insurers;
- that schools determine for themselves what their education looks like. The government clearly indicates what must be achieved. How they do this, is determined by the schools themselves. Yet they must be accountable about this clearly and more consistently, especially to the parents. The quality of education must be high. The school is a community in which teachers, parents and pupils are

- intensively involved with each other;
- that schools that have their affairs in good order and are clearly accountable to parents, can claim reduced supervision from the inspectorate, except for where the core values of the constitutional state are concerned;
- that the government chops off dead wood and discrepancies in rules, restricts the supervision and relies on the critical contribution and the choices of people themselves much more;
- that there is more than market and government only. Therefore the social enterprise gets a place in the Dutch Civil Code. In this respect internal supervision, social responsibility and the social, not profit-aimed goal of the social enterprise is regulated. This concerns a legal form that elaborates on the foundation and society, and that is suitable to fill social tasks, such as care and education in an environment with market forces;
- make mergers that lead to great concentrations impossible, and by doing so see that people have a realistic option to choose for a certain school or care institution if they have a preference;
- give people more choices: the personal budget in healthcare as well as in social support and learning rights in higher education are intended for this purpose.

4. Confidence in the Netherlands that is a social country, therefore investing in labour participation, lifelong learning, an improved certainty of income, and a trust-worthy pension scheme

Now that our society as a whole is getting older, and we have to face the competition

with countries such as India and China, the Netherlands will need labour participation and knowledge more than ever. However, there are still too many people out of action today. This may lead to a situation in which staffing shortages go hand in hand with unemployment. This is in itself undesirable, but it entails an extra risk: the wages may quickly rise in such a situation, so that the Netherlands prices itself out of the international market. This will also rapidly lead to waiting lists in healthcare and cancelled lessons in education. Social scantiness therefore. A tight labour market has far-reaching consequences in an economic and social respect.

It is therefore important to use the decreasing professional population and the labour shortages to create opportunities for (sometimes) vulnerable groups such as older employees, partially disabled people and newcomers. To make the most of those opportunities we must invest in education and employment mediation. Also for those with paid jobs additional schooling will become increasingly important. The job for life no longer exists. Those who can work for a salary, must provide in their own income, also because labour offers people possibilities to develop themselves, to participate, to take part in society. Work often gives pleasure and meaning. Employers and employees will have to create space for this together. However, those who cannot work are entitled to decent benefits and good provisions. Working must also be rewarding. It must not be so that people are left with too little from an extra earned euro, for example because they receive a much smaller amount of rent allowance because of these extra earnings.

Those who are 65 years or over, have paid a premium for a long time and are therefore entitled to a safe old age pension and to the pension they have built up themselves. The CDA wants to hold on to the solidarity between generations, also in a time of an ageing population. This is possible if we cope with the costs of the ageing population by economic growth, by a greater labour participation and by creating a surplus on the estimate. If we put money aside now for later, it will not be necessary any more to aggravate the expenses for the future generation.

Therefore the CDA wants:

with regard to education and schooling:

- to tackle the lack of education at the root. Newcomers get the duty and the opportunity to learn Dutch better and – if possible – to obtain a professional qualification via education or work. The CDA wants to invest money in this;
- that children with substantial lags in language receive education from their third year of age. Pupils who still have lags in language after this, receive targeted education, for example via intermediate classes;
- reserve extra money for teachers, so that more possibilities to move on are created, in a manner of speaking scale 12 comes within reach for good teachers again, it becomes more attractive to become a teacher and the quality of education increases;
- that pupils can learn for a specific job at school from an earlier stage. Vocational departments of preparatory intermediate vocational education will thus become

modern technical schools or departments;

- to further stimulate good relations between professional trainings in the relevant field of professions/trade and industry, for example by actively supporting apprenticeships of teachers and students.

With regard to the tax system and social security, that:

- working becomes rewarding and the poverty trap disappears. For people at the bottom of the wage scales it becomes financially more attractive to take on (more) paid work. The labour discount is used in this manner to promote participation and the surcharges are given shape more properly. The rent allowance for single persons is gradually terminated, as the income becomes higher. Also the career growth from small part-time jobs to greater part-time jobs is stimulated;
- the tax structure is gradually more targeted on stimulating labour participation and economic independence (with a good transitional provision for the older generations). For younger generations paid work is becoming more attractive in this manner. Parents with children keep freedom of choice between labour and family care among themselves;
- employers can employ a person for two years against the current minimum wage level of 21 years. The net spendable income remains the same at the current level. If necessary, the government supplements the income up to the social minimum to this aim. In return the employer compensates the costs of education of the employee up to at least 10 percent of the legal minimum wage.

In this manner people can qualify for the labour market via work and schooling.

The CDA does not want any new permanently subsidised jobs, but to give people the prospect of regular work;

- the number of jobs in the social work provision is extended by thousands of places. The social work provision offers protected employment to people with a restriction for whom a regular job is not a serious option. For those people who receive a benefit for this reason, working in this environment is a better perspective than the prospect of a lifelong benefit while sitting at home;
- a higher benefit is created for fully and durably disabled people in the WIA (Act Work and Income according to Working Capacity), also for those who have been re-tested. The benefit goes up from 70 percent to 75 percent of the last enjoyed wage;
- the old age pension is maintained as a prosperity-proof basic pension at 65 years, no extra taxation for over-65 and the pension deduction continues to exist to keep our solidarity pension system going.

5. Confidence in Dutch entrepreneurship, therefore investing in innovation and a sustainable economy

The Netherlands once more belongs to the leading group of Europe. This is splendid, but we must now develop our good position further. To this aim we must especially invest in innovation. Innovation requires a good investment climate. It asks for companies that take the lead and that know the growth markets of the future. Incidentally,

innovation not only provides economic opportunities, but can also be good for the world in other respects. Sustainability and clean energy are pre-eminently 'green growth markets' and offer possibilities in abundance. In this field the Netherlands can take the lead. To this aim we must do more than the remainder of the world to reduce the emissions by fossil fuels and we must invest in developing and making other sources of energy usable. This has the additional benefit that it makes us less dependent on the energy import from the oil-producing countries. A vital, innovative economy asks for excellent education, a high labour participation, a good road infrastructure, moderate wages, professional people, entrepreneurship and responsible social partners.

Therefore the CDA wants:

- that the investments of companies, government, universities and academies in innovation, research and development are increased;
- that the administrative expenses are forced back. General rules will replace the permits as much as possible. Where they are required yet, they will be bundled, so that much gain of time can be achieved and there will be fewer procedures. The number of civil servants in public administration is strongly reduced;
- to promote a 40 hours' working week to prevent staffing shortages, control the wage costs and create a better financial basis for pension provisions. Being the greatest employer, the government sets the example, giving employees a free choice of making longer working weeks with compensation in their salaries;
- to further stimulate the middle- and small-scale business with innovation vouchers to anticipate innovative opportunities;
- an ambitious accessibility offensive. The broadening and specific extension of roads is effected in the long term via a kilometer levy that is only intended for this purpose and goes hand in hand with cleaner driving. Cleaner fuels (bio-ethanol, hydrogen) and cars (for example flexi fuel) must become available against competitive prices and become the legal standard in the long term;
- to let industry and agriculture work together, aiming to replace polluting fossil fuels by bio fuels;
- to give the research and applications of sustainable energy (including solar energy) an impulse. Applications will produce employment, also because the expenses for generation of for example solar energy will in the long term probably not be greater than those of conventional electricity;
- that the Netherlands takes the lead in catching CO₂ and storing it underground and in the expertise that it (meanwhile) builds up in that manner. Also the Netherlands Railways must be able to drive on electricity that has been generated in power stations that no longer emit CO₂;
- to invest in the green infrastructure, especially in national scenery and in public parks and gardens, so that people can meet each other and relax and there will be a good environment for companies to locate themselves;
- to stimulate lifelong learning, also via learning rights;
- an extra levy to tackle air traffic, if pos-

sible in European connection, to enhance the environmental consciousness.

6. Confidence in a Netherlands that keeps the windows open and therefore invests in peace, security and the combat of poverty, also across the boundaries

In the last few decades the world has become smaller and smaller. The internet revolution is literally borderless. Countries worldwide are interlaced with each other. The prosperity in the world has increased. The Netherlands is an open economy and culture, and also strongly profits from the globalising economy. At the same time this does not alter the fact that poverty, overpopulation and underdevelopment are a daily reality for hundreds of millions of people. Tens of millions are on the run. The CDA will not resign to this. Poverty may at the same time lead to disruption, stir up the resistance against the West and produce a new breeding ground for terrorism. Failed states, terrorism and cultural differences of opinion may coincide. The energy dependence of the West may easily be misused here. Economic development, poverty alleviation, the search for new sources of energy, the promotion of security and the struggle against terrorism are more and more connected. No country can meet the challenges that globalisation creates alone. International cooperation and authoritative international institutions within and outside Europe are vital.

Therefore the CDA wants:

- a democratic and effective decision-making process in the European Union. A new

balance is needed between European and national legislation: a good demarcation of tasks is better than a power of veto that constantly paralyses the decision-making processes with 25 or more member states. Important parts of the energy policy, durability and of the combat against organised crime and terrorism will comprise part of the range of duties of the EU, over which decisions can be taken by a qualified majority. European harmonisation of the asylum policy is necessary. Conditions must be created for acting effectively in the field of foreign affairs and security policies;

- a UN of four pillars: security, development, humanitarian affairs and environment. The recently established UN human rights council must become an effective organization, of which countries where human rights are demonstrably violated cannot become members;
- international agreements that stop refugees from having to stay in camps for years on end. The road must be paved for their return. If this is impossible, a possibility must be created for them to build up an independent existence in the region where they have been received. In the last resort migration must become an option. Where the relief and protection of people on the run in their own country (the so-called Internally Displaced People) is concerned, it is necessary that the UNHCR explicitly gets the mandate;
- a NATO that evolves from a classical security pact into an alliance that also has an important role to play and expertise to develop in the field of conflict prevention and reconstruction and rehabilitation. By participating in peacekeeping mis-

sions the Netherlands makes an essential contribution to peace, the building up of societies and to international political relations;

- take the inter-religious and intercultural tensions extremely seriously. The CDA wants the Netherlands to make an effort for an institutionalised dialogue between Europe and organisations from the Islamic world. Purpose is that human rights become the benchmark for all countries and cultures. Priority must be given to support of democratization processes and the improvement of the position of women;
- that the international community responds timely to threatening humanitarian crises, so that the available resources can be rapidly deployed for conflict prevention. If, as a last resort interventions with military resources are required to protect citizens, this goes hand in hand with the responsibility to contribute to the reconstruction;
- the Netherlands holds on to a percentage of 0.8 percent of the GNP for international cooperation;
- that poor countries get a real opportunity to develop and that no trade barriers are raised against them;
- that companies and social organizations make it clear to consumers that Corporate Social Responsibility is the standard and that in trade and production there cannot be question of child labour, exploitation, etc.

The CDA has confidence in the Netherlands. A country that is conscious of the fact that economic and social success do not go without saying, but require ambition.

This ambition, however, as far as the CDA is concerned, cannot be translated into a larger government. The government must start working differently and give society space to manoeuvre. The government will then have more time to focus on its core tasks. Safety, maintaining the legal order, promoting good market forces, facilitating social connections, supporting the weak and contributing to peace and justice in the world.

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC VALUES AND IDEALS: AN INVOLVED SOCIETY

In this election programme the CDA gives an answer to the changes and challenges and solutions for the structural problems. In the vision of the CDA the solutions can only be realized in a more and more differentiated and articulate society if people realise their freedom and ideals in cooperation with others. The CDA has a Christian view of people and society. This means that people achieve personal growth by taking the responsibility for each other. The government has an important encouraging role to play here. Therefore the Christian democracy not only wants to look at the government, but utilise the strength of society. Do justice to people. The CDA has confidence in people. Every talent must be utilized. This view starts from our Christian Democratic principles, which are inspired by the Bible:

1. *Spread responsibility*: full justice is done to freedom if people are able to bear responsibility for themselves and their fellow human beings and therefore get the space to make their own choices in which the government restricts itself to its core duties. Then space is created for a motley and solidary society. We wish to lay down tasks and responsibilities where they can best be taken and this is as close as possible to the people that are concerned.

2. *Public justice*: on the basis of standing values a reliable government must offer citizens the certainty of the constitutional state again and set clear limits. The government can make demands and set limits, it may ask something in return from society. But it must not thwart people, it should be subservient to society.

3. *Solidarity*: asks for involvement between generations and between poor and rich and a just and predictable income policy in which the strongest shoulders carry the heaviest burdens and the financial capacity of households is point of departure. Solidarity will flourish where people look beyond their own interest, have an eye for each other and make an effort to let the other develop as well.

4. *Stewardship*: only if we handle our everyday surroundings, nature and the environment in a responsible manner are we taking care of a sustainable prosperity, also for following generations.

The principal idea for the CDA is the biblical notion that the value of human life finally does not depend on money, status or power. People have value in themselves, irrespective of these qualities. The government must create the preconditions to let the value of each person, each individual come out well. Nothing more, but nothing less either.

0. Financial headroom and investments

In the past few years a reliable financial policy has been pursued. A balanced budget is coming into sight and in the process, even stronger than in the surrounding countries, a good basis is laid for economic recovery. Thanks to the reforms of the social security, labour market and care, the accent may now shift to repayment of debts and a further strengthening of the economy.

This is needed too, for the world economy is becoming increasingly competitive and it is important that the Netherlands keeps a good position in it. The measures taken in the past period and the wage restraint that was observed make this possible. Now that the professional population is decreasing, we shall increasingly require innovation, fewer rules and procedures and promotion of entrepreneurship. It also remains important for the Netherlands to offer a healthy investment climate.

It is clear that the cost of old age pensions and in case of an unchanged policy also the costs of care, will rise. The CDA believes in solidarity between generations and therefore takes the position that the bill for the ageing population cannot be unilaterally presented to future generations. This is not necessary either, for people stay healthy longer and can also continue to work longer than used to be possible.

The CDA wants to take measures for the future-proof budget policy. This consists of the following parts.

The CDA aims at a surplus of 1 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) on the national estimate. For now that the econ-

omy is rising, the government can indeed save. We can for instance pay off the national debt in 20 to 25 years. This will create more space when the costs of the ageing population are rising. The CDA does not want to create this budget surplus via increases in the tax and premium burden.

We shall have to control the costs of care and the rises of premiums in health care.

The reforms of the past few years make it possible to reduce the bureaucracy in healthcare. This, in combination with more social entrepreneurship in healthcare and with a more effective deployment of the resources for buildings, will reduce the costs and increase productivity, so that the premiums remain controllable. Living and healthcare are taken apart, because this will give people more choices.

More people to work. A higher labour participation is good for the economy and for the treasury. Fewer benefits are needed, more tax money will be received, and this leads to lower wage costs. The CDA opts for an optimal labour participation, so that paid work will not be at the expense of care and education. Therefore the family allowance and the children's bonus will be raised. The career plan is improved. Raising the old age pension-age is not an option for the CDA, but the CDA wants to stimulate all healthy people to continue to work as long as possible. It must become more attractive to work for payment for more hours and also to continue to work in a worthy and productive manner until the pensionable age, and if they like, even after that. The point for the CDA is an optimal labour participation. Paid work must

not be at the expense of care and education. Families with children must not end up with less money if one of the partners chooses to spend the time fully to the upbringing of the children.

The CDA aims at a solid budget

- The CDA therefore does not fool itself with adventurous calculations and starts from an estimation of the economic growth of 1.75 percent.
- The CDA holds on to an index-related budget policy, in which revenues and expenses are separated. This brings administrative rest. It also prevents procyclical behaviour of the government and all this leads to a more reliable government.
- On the income-side automatic stabilizers must be active. This means that windfalls in the income will be used in their entirety to reduce the national debt. Setbacks in income are at the expense of the national debt, unless the deficit threatens to exceed 2 percent of the GDP. Then measures will be taken to remain within the 3 percent standard of the Growth and Stability pact.
- The expenditure frameworks are laid down for the entire cabinet period in long-range expenditure frameworks for the sectors State, social security and care.
 - Exceedings of the budget within the sector State must be counterbalanced within this sector itself.
 - The social premiums for the employed persons insurance schemes are fixed more to cover the costs beyond the trade cycle.
 - In health care the space for (social)

entrepreneurship is further enhanced. The budgetary framework includes the AWBZ (Exceptional Medical Expenses Act) and the part of the second compartment for which standing rates apply.

- The criteria for investments of the Fund Economic Structural Enhancement (FES) have been accentuated. The natural gas profits in this fund are only be used for investments that enhance our economic structure (including knowledge and innovation): good stewardship demands that underground capital is converted into above-ground capital for future generations. Agreements will be made for a fixed input for the FES at the beginning of the cabinet period and an independent advice will be obtained about the way it will be spent.
- Principles of policy in the pursuit of a solid estimate and in a justified spending of the resources are:
 - the enhancement of the cost-consciousness and a prudent handling of public resources and services by applying the profit principle more (for example the traffic infrastructure);
 - the better deployment of the fiscal instruments for the benefit of:
 - a) labour participation, without this being at the expense of upbringing and care for children;
 - b) better education and lifelong learning;
 - c) promoting innovation and research;
 - d) promoting sustainability.
 - restricting government interventions

- via the financial instruments (conditions for bearing the cost, subsidies).
The CDA exactly wants to create more space for private initiative
- setting off the costs of the old age pension and health care within the available resources.

Respect





There is a need for community spirit in a world that is changing rapidly. In a country where different cultures live together mutual involvement is the best guarantee for the future. We have Respect for each other and make ourselves clear about what is and what is not possible.

1. Confidence in people: families, safety and responsibility

The Dutch society is a multicoloured mosaic of people with differing social and cultural backgrounds, with differing religions and convictions. Those differences play an important part in our lives. We feel connected to the family of which we are part, to the neighbourhood, city or region in which we live, with the church, mosque or synagogue where we experience our religion, the society of which we are members, with the enterprise in which we work. All those connections add to our identity.

Living together with all these differences, however, is only possible if we have confidence in each other. The fundament for this lies in the values that we share. Respect for each other, solidarity, the conviction that all persons are equal, the belief in democracy and freedom of opinion and speech, the awareness of incompatibility of religion and force. Without this fundament society falls to pieces and we only live as individuals. Then tolerance turns into indifference. Therefore we can and must call each other to account, also within and from religious institutions and identity-bound organisations. And these values must also be transferred. In the upbringing, in education, in the art and culture policy, on national holidays. Therefore a targeted family policy is needed. Therefore volunteer work merits recognition, also from the government. Therefore the core values of the constitutional state merit attention, also during national holidays, in history education, in the art and culture policy. Decency, respect and tolerance are important aspects of citizenship. Confidence, responsibility and safety are integrally interconnected with each other.

1.1. Families and young people

How people function, how they deal with others and which priorities they set in life is for a large part determined by their upbringing. And, as we know, this mainly takes place in the family. We can therefore say: what is good for families, is good for the Netherlands. Families that function well offer security and transfer the values that keep our society together. Therefore the CDA pleads for a family-friendly government policy. This concerns a community within which one or more grown-ups bear the responsibility for the care and education of one or more children.

But: parents are busy. Mostly they both continue to work. The CDA has therefore created the career plan in combination with paid parental leave, so that more time and money is available for the children. The CDA thinks that it must be possible to combine bringing up children and working and therefore attaches great importance to childcare. Many parents, incidentally, keep one day in the week free for the upbringing. In this manner they can combine working and the care for children well. Right now the government gives parents a contribution during the parental leave in the form of a parental leave discount of 50 percent of the minimum wage per leave hour when they participate in the career plan. In the past period the CDA has done much to improve the position of families. The tuition fees for 16-17-year-olds have been abolished, children are co-insured for the care insurance for free, the family allowance and children's discount have been raised. But still the purchasing power in the family

stage is lower than in the stages before and after. The CDA therefore wants to support the families further in the costs of children. The children's bonus (as from 2008) in the taxes guarantees that families with a low to middle income can bear the costs of upbringing.

In families unfortunately also sometimes things go wrong. And if things have already gone wrong, things sometimes get even worse, because social workers cannot or dare not intervene, or because these vulnerable families are not open to professional guidance. A stronger urge and duress is then called for. The youth policy will have to take the home situation and the opinions of parents into account, but the safety of the child must be the principal thing. The CDA thinks that upbringing support and family coaches are important. Parents must be able to receive low-threshold advice about the upbringing and especially be able to consult each other in Centres for Youth and Families.

1.1.1.1.

The CDA wants a family-friendly policy. A minister is charged with the portfolio of emancipation, youth and family issues.

1.1.1.2.

The family allowance remains independent of the income per child. The family allowance is raised. The children's bonus, which will replace the children's discount as from 2008, takes the family income and the family size into account. Those who have a minimum income, are better able to bear the costs of a child by the combination of both regulations.

1.1.1.3.

Parents have the possibilities to organise childcare themselves. The childcare allowance per child is income dependent and is based on the standard price for childcare for three days or six shifts per week. This surcharge will be raised, and the application for this compensation will be simplified. This surcharge is also applicable in case of informal childcare, for example by baby-minding grandparents. Schools get the duty to organise (or have organised) after-school relief for parents who wish to use this.

1.1.1.4.

From singles a high degree of solidarity is asked, so that a basis will be created for the preservation of necessary provisions. Singles must from their side be able to trust that – if necessary - they can claim sufficient and adequate support and care.

1.1.1.5.

The government gives parents a contribution during the parental leave in the form of a parental leave discount when they participate in the career plan.

1.1.1.6.

We cannot start early enough making people conscious of the risks of an unhealthy lifestyle, for example alcohol, drugs, tobacco and excessive use of computers. Also the prevention of HIV and aids must be brought to the attention of the people. Via health centres, schools and media children, parents, carers and the environment must be informed about these risks. To postpone the moment of starting experiments with stimulants, children are taught a fighting

spirit against peer pressure as from the top groups of the primary school. Programmes and provisions to enhance a healthy life-style are available to parents and children as from their birth through to the entire school career. In this respect youth health care works together with organizations for childcare, infant schools, schools and social organizations.

1.1.7.

Upbringing assistance or help from a family coach may be a welcome support for many parents. Parents and children with educational questions can turn to a Centre for Youth and Families. There all institutions and parties involved in children and family work together on prevention, premature signalling and if necessary help. Also families can meet each other there, exchange ideas and give each other information and advice. Also the internet can be utilized. The government stimulates that provinces and municipalities at area level bundle provisions for families, children and youths in Centres for Youth and Families.

1.1.8.

The right to youth care is incompatible with long waiting lists and waiting times. There must be enough money for an effective youth care in order to continue to be able to meet the demand for care, by also investing in the increasingly heavier forms of youth care, also via secure shelter (not penal). But we must also work more effectively in the interest of the child, by decompartmentalisation (also between ministries), the prevention of unnecessary and dropping of superfluous bureaucracy.

1.1.9.

If it is necessary for an unthreatened growing up of the minor, it must be possible to impose supervision faster. Between voluntary supervision and force there must be more possibilities for urge, interfering care and an appropriate perseverance power.

1.1.10.

Foster parents play a very important part in our society. They take care of children and feed them, to whom it has not been given to grow up in their own families. The CDA wants to remove obstacles, including financial ones, for these foster parents. It must also be arranged by law that foster parents are given more rights.

1.1.11.

A media expertise centre for parents will be created. This expertise centre, which includes all media, equips parents and enables them to develop standards together with producers, broadcasting companies, the cinema and video branch for the protection of youth in TV programmes and films.

1.2. social participation and sports

People who actively participate in society add something to life. They often derive part of their happiness from this. The CDA wants to stimulate social involvement and let it flourish. Involved citizens form the heart of a vital society. Fortunately we still see this involvement all around us, even if it is more and more in new forms. There is a shift going on from the traditional social organizations to non-institutional, small-scale initiatives. An example: temporary action groups that organise projects in their own neighbourhood. Less strictly organized

perhaps, less for the long term, but with the same effort and involvement.

The CDA thinks it is important that also children and youth are taught that 'being a citizen' is more than 'being a customer of the government.' We make out a case for an obligatory social apprenticeship of three months for pupils of secondary schools. Introduction to volunteer work stimulates youths to form a picture of their role in and their contribution to the society of tomorrow. Also it is another important extra opportunity to familiarise children with the values and standards of our society – besides all that has been done already to this aim in families, at school and in (sports) clubs.

Volunteer work is a critical factor in giving shape to social involvement. The CDA wants to give even more space for this. The possibilities for giving compensations to volunteers have already broadened on the initiative of the CDA recently. Volunteer organizations are also liberated from galling rules with regard to the working conditions. The CDA wants to continue to stimulate volunteer work. As partners of the municipality the local assistance centres must become the spider in the web and bring supply and demand together.

Recognition of volunteer work also implies that we utilize the ageing population. The ageing population also offers the necessary opportunities: Many elderly people dedicate themselves to be the carer for children, contribute hands-on expertise to the upbringing, but they also coach starting entrepreneurs, for instance. For this

work they ask for attention and recognition with good reason. Not only can the elderly participate, they also want to do this. This also applies to the disabled. It is exactly for those groups that obstructions must be cleared as much as possible.

Participation is the main thing in the Social Support Act (WMO). The municipality is the contact for people who encounter obstacles here. In order to offer optimal support, municipalities work together with housing corporations, volunteers' initiatives and welfare work. Within the WMO the personal budget gets a prominent place. In this manner people get an opportunity to choose for provisions tailored to their needs. Many people take care of a sick or disabled partner, relative or friend. This natural care for each other is intensive and emotionally often heavy. It must be possible to take some rest now and then and to regain one's strength. Within the WMO this volunteer aid has received the recognition that it merits.

Sport is also a binding factor in society. In the view of the CDA sport is therefore more than 'the main side issue in life'. Sport touches on all that we find so important in the Netherlands right now: health, safety, sense of standards, integration and social binding. Over 10 million Dutch people practice sports. Over 1.2 million volunteers are active in sports associations and still much more people enjoy the sports performances of others. This is why the CDA is also well disposed towards top-class sport. The Netherlands must show the ambition to be available for sports events at a high level.

The CDA thinks it important that especially children practice sports. Sports activities are not only healthy, but in sports activities there is attention for the transfer of values and standards in a natural manner. Sports activities promote the learning performance and may contribute to the prevention of social isolation, nuisance and problematic behaviour.

1.2.1.

The CDA wants to go on removing obstacles from laws and regulations for volunteer organizations: fewer rules, less bureaucracy and a simpler (multiannual) system of permits. There will be a further research of the personal liability of administrators of volunteer organizations.

1.2.2.

By making a social effort, young people gain competences that are important for their social functioning. The CDA wants to see that a social apprenticeship of three months becomes an obligatory part of the curriculum in the secondary schools. If during the initial school education no social apprenticeship has been taken, this social duty must be filled during the stage of working-and-learning. Schools and non-profit organizations can fill this in according to their own view, without this being at the expense of the curriculum. The government intensively works together with the youth work organisations, also in the field of the preventive youth policy and creating social apprenticeships. Within volunteer work the administrative pressure of burdens is reduced and galling regulatory measures are abolished with due speed. Although youth organizations

are themselves responsible for the financial preservation of their organization, the government may provide project subsidies. Besides, the CDA thinks that national volunteer organizations for active leisure activities of children and youth merit specific support from the government, in particular in pathways of management training and education, coaching and support of involved young volunteers.

1.2.3.

The accessibility and attainability of provisions on all social fields is a condition for participation of disabled and chronically ill persons. Municipalities receive future-proof budgets for the execution of the WMO-tasks that bear in mind the demographic developments.

1.2.4.

Discrimination of disabled and chronically ill persons will be counteracted by actively working on better conceptualization and by a dynamic extension of the Equal Treatment Act for the benefit of disabled and chronically ill persons. The government promotes the improvement of accessibility of service and buildings.

1.2.5.

The municipality remains the first responsible body for the support of voluntary efforts. The national government supports a central national helpdesk and knowledge centre for volunteer work: the centre sees to a good provision of information about laws and regulations and acts as an encyclopaedia for volunteer organizations, volunteers and assistance centres.

1.2.6.

Volunteer aid is a form of non-professionally granted care. The notion of 'customary care' may therefore not be stretched any further. The personal budget gives citizens, who receive more than 'customary care' from their voluntary aides, the possibility to reward their voluntary aides for this. Voluntary aides must not be overburdened and must be able to take rest now and then. Then replacing care in the form of respite care must become available.

1.2.7.

The CDA wants to promote that municipalities give inhabitants of neighbourhoods a budget, so that their involvement in the neighbourhood will be enhanced. This stimulates the social coherence. Housing corporations play an important part in keeping and making neighbourhoods liveable, by organising services, realising hire-bying, working together with schools in the relief of problem youths, etc.

1.2.8.

The administrative structure that the CDA wants to realise for the social enterprise, provides a transparent responsibility of corporations, schools, care institutions and institutions for (young people's) assistance. The CDA also wants to put this form down legally in the Dutch Civil Code. This concerns a legal form that elaborates on the foundation and society, and that is suitable to fill social tasks, such as care and education in an environment with market forces.

1.2.9.

The CDA supports the sports-active school and wants to (further) stimulate the coop-

eration between schools and sports associations by involving physical training teachers in the regular sports. Sports trainers and coaches may also give sports lessons in at schools.

1.2.10.

Top-notch performances of Dutch people produce pride and binding. Sports stars are often role models for the youth. Top-class sport gives identification and stands for performance, innovation, quality and opportunities. The government supports Olympic broadcasts, stimulates the bringing in of events and realises a well-balanced and staggered supply of accessible top-class sport accommodations, also for people with a functional restriction.

1.2.11.

The organised sports themselves are in the first instance responsible for their professionalism and continued existence. The great social value of sports, however, justifies specific support from the government. State, provincial and local authorities together have a responsibility to equip the sports with the necessary infrastructure: swimming pools, grass plots, bridle paths, sports centres, education and support of volunteer work. This infrastructure is preferably located in or around residential areas, so that the social coherence will be strengthened by it. Recreational sport is the fundament for the professional practice of sports, for which there is a public of millions. The broader the basis, the higher the top. Extra resources for sports are needed.

1.3. Values, standards and citizenship in the Netherlands

Citizenship is more than being 'at the bottom'. It is more than being a 'customer' of society or of the government. Together we give shape to public morality, our attitude towards each other. In the past few years more attention has arisen for the unmanageable sides of the integration of large groups of immigrants in society. Newcomers here are faced with manners and mutual relations that often differ from those in their country of origin. Besides, a large group of people have lags in language and education. This obstructs their participation in society and their chance of work. Right now much money is being spent on combating the consequences. Examples are the costs of assistance in unemployment or extra money for schools to eliminate lags in language. The CDA wants to help people with arrears right from the beginning and to help tackle the problems at the source. This means: money for more sizeable facilities for education and making higher demands to the naturalisation of newcomers. An average of six hundred hours is too little to achieve this.

Training is essential in all respects. It enhances the chance of work. For the labour market it is the condition for an adequately trained labour supply and for the city or quarter education is a way to more social coherence. It is therefore of the greatest importance that schools can function properly. Too many schools are faced with children who start in the education with a substantial language deficiency. Often these deficiencies continue to haunt people and

schools and despite the investment of much money, for example in the form of weight arrangements, the problem is not solved. It also leads to differences in the quality of schools and therefore contributes to the development of white and black schools.

Our society must be willing to equip newcomers so that they can function as citizens, parents and wage earners in the Netherlands. On the other hand we may therefore ask of them to fully participate in education and the labour market. This yields a lot, too. Among immigrants we can see much new entrepreneurship arise. In this manner they create employment. The diversity in society is also a source of innovation, and that is exactly something that we need to remain in the globalising economy. The Netherlands has a long tradition in forging coherence between groups of people with different backgrounds. This coherence does not go without saying - we have to continue to work on it. We make our society together. As we already said: citizenship is more than only being a 'customer' of society or government. Citizenship means to participate.

Together we give shape to public morality, our attitude towards each other. Decency, respect, tolerance are important aspects of citizenship. The CDA expects from people that they contribute to society. This is not an informal matter. Social effort and taking care of others simply belong to being citizen. This means that everybody must be able to participate.

1.3.1.

Shared values and standards form the basis

of our society. They bind us and make that we can be proud of our country. They are also formulated in our Constitution and based on the Dutch tradition of freedom in responsibility. The government must protect these values. People and their organizations may be expected and must if necessary be demanded to participate in our society on the basis of these shared values and standards. Here the endorsement of the separation between church and state is a prerequisite. Also the part of the autochthonous population in the pursuit of social cohesion merits attention.

1.3.2.

Integration of newcomers is a mutual process between the society that welcomes newcomers and newcomers who acquire the Dutch language, become acquainted with the Dutch legislation, culture and history and show respect for all this. The demands made of the obligatory naturalisation test are therefore being raised, so that newcomers are fitted out to be able to function in our society as parents, citizens and wage earners. The supply of schooling will be intensified and the facilities that prepare the newcomers for this examination and their functioning in our society, are being improved. Here we have an eye for people with limited capacities. The Naturalisation Act and the Work and Assistance Act are linked to each other at a municipal level, in order to realise the earliest possible reintegration on the labour market. For refugees we pay attention to the Employment Offensive Refugees. Besides, more custom-made work is created for higher educated newcomers. It must be possible to wind up the naturalisation

faster. Besides this, oldcomers and illiterate people also receive an opportunity to learn the Dutch language.

1.3.3.

The integration policy must be aimed at both social-economic participation (participating through work) and social participation (participating in society), and political administrative participation (participating in politics and administration). The effort of parties involved, such as employers, institutions, clubs, etc., can therefore no longer be free of engagement.

1.3.4.

Freedom of opinion belongs to the foundations on which our society is based. This freedom is not meant to hurt people in the depth of their souls. The CDA makes an appeal on society to deal with this freedom in a responsible manner. The government pursues an active policy against the misuse of this right for example in the form of prosecuting sowing hate and agitating.

1.3.5.

Religion and life principles are a source of inspiration to give shape to life based on deeper values and inspiration. There must be space in abundance for this. Besides the Jewish, Christian and humanist tradition, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and other ideologies are part of our society. The CDA attaches great value to working from Christian values and standards on a society in which respect for each other is of great importance. Ideological organizations can offer people something to hold on to in order to find their place in society and from there to be socially active. On

the other hand religion can and may never legitimise behaviour that conflicts with the core values of our society. For any subsidies the government sets the condition that a contribution is made to society from those core values. The government stimulates and facilitates that imams and spiritual servers are trained in the Netherlands and that, if they have not, they obligatorily take additional training in the Netherlands. All imams in the Netherlands must have been trained in Dutch values and standards.

1.4. The Netherlands, a safer country

Security is and remains one of the core duties of the government. People must be safe in their direct living environment; unthreatened by violence, burglary, nuisance or even terror. For years on end there has been an increase in crime. The trend could hardly be turned, or so it seemed. Meanwhile it has become clear that most certainly something can be done against this development with a targeted policy. The goal that the Balkenende cabinets set for themselves is in sight, i.e. that crime will have been reduced by 25 percent in 2010.

In the past few years the figures of organised crime have decreased all along the line. It is at least as gratifying that the percentage of solved crimes is rising and feelings of unsafety are decreasing. The toolbox and the capacity of the chain of criminal justice have been brought more up to standard, unnecessary obstructions of privacy have been abolished and penalties have been made more severe. Within the European Union the cooperation to combat

criminality has been improved.

Incidentally, safety is not only a matter of police and judicial authorities. Crime must be dealt with at all levels: administrative, from the trade and industry and in society itself. For combating crime not only concerns tracing and prosecution, but also combating the causes of crime. Examples are possession of arms, corruption, unacceptable group behaviour and new media that “normalise” the use of violence.

Much has been achieved, but that does not alter the fact that the crime figures are still too high.

In the next period the following issues will have to be tackled:

- combating all forms of violence and aggression. This doesn't only concern bag snatchers, but also aggression in traffic, violent images on TV and the Internet and the well-known 'short fuses'.
- dealing severely with fraud. Fraud is disastrous for mutual confidence and harms an open, social traffic. To combat it, it is necessary that the services involved cooperate and exchange information intensively;
- combating crime via the internet. Cybercrime (threats, sexual intimidation and sowing hate) does not restrict itself to the national boundaries and therefore requires a close international cooperation;
- an undiminished severe approach of organised crime, especially by a broad approach and especially international cooperation. It is effective to take away

unlawfully obtained profits. In financial criminal investigation and in other fronts the privacy of people is important, but it must not be so that privacy stipulations unnecessarily stand in the way of tracing and prosecution of criminals. Furthermore the CDA pleads for enhancing the possibilities to take DNA-profiles and fingerprints, to use them in tracing, and for more possibilities for camera surveillance. Condition is, however, that it can be guaranteed that the acquired data are destroyed if no judgment is passed. The attention for radicalization and terrorism must not diminish.

Crimes are still too often committed by persons who repeat themselves. Especially for entrepreneurs (and their personnel) their behaviour is a source of damage and trouble, even though especially crime in shops has strongly decreased in the past few years.

Prevention and youth

1.4.1.

The CDA wants to end the toleration of coffee shops, to start with a decrease of the number of coffee shops especially in the vicinity of schools. Schools, sports accommodations, children's playgrounds and their vicinity must be free of drugs. Selling on soft drugs outside the coffeeshop will be tackled more severely. Especially, but certainly not only the large cities experience nuisance from this. Illegal cultivation of hemp will be counteracted, also by an intensive (international) cooperation between government services and companies and by linking files. Grow shops are too often suppliers for illegal cultivation of hemp. They

will be checked more strictly. If it appears that they are involved in illegal cultivation of hemp they will be closed down.

1.4.2.

Nuisance will if necessary be tackled by means of individual prohibitions of alcohol. Age limits for the sale of tobacco, alcohol and drugs must be checked more strictly: not only the seller to youth is punishable, but as from a certain age also the youth themselves and their parents. Youth may be punished in a manner that is appropriate for their age.

1.4.3.

Brutalisation of the social climate rather quickly becomes a breeding ground for violence and crime. The government calls the media, schools, catering establishments and individual citizens to account about their contribution to mutual respect and social decency.

1.4.4.

Discrimination will be dealt with. Discrimination is not only hurtful and painful, but it also sharpens the relations between groups of the population. Especially combating exclusion on the labour market in apprenticeships gets top priority from the government and the trade and industry. To this aim objectives are formulated about which parties involved can hold each accountable. Diversity of the workforce in the government, in the trade and industry are planned in an effective manner.

1.4.5.

Successful and highly educated 'role models' with different cultural backgrounds and

of different nationalities are stimulated to make contact with youth of their own target groups to serve as an example for them and to advise them about their opportunities and possibilities in society.

1.4.6.

The combat of domestic violence and honour-related violence, of which especially women and children are the victims, keeps our undiminished attention. Existing policy with regard to prevention, tracing and enforcement will be continued and, if necessary, supplemented.

1.4.7.

The CDA wants to combat crime on or via the internet. This especially concerns threats, sexual intimidation, sowing hate, but also the spreading of computer viruses. Cybercrime does not restrict itself to the national boundaries and therefore requires close international cooperation. Schools, parents and owners of websites that address children, bear the joint responsibility for the prevention of cyber pestering. The government has to play a steering role in this.

1.4.8.

People are stimulated to make use of possibilities to prevent crime themselves: via Citizens' net, hallmarks, such as the Hallmark Safely Living, etc.

1.4.9.

In order to fight nuisance and corruption of the public domain, rules are enforced better. Especially in the large cities the urgency of this stands out. Light offences that cause great irritations for citizens, such as

dog dirt, urinating in public, illegal parking, graffiti and throwing dirt in the streets are going to be tackled. A legal possibility will be created for municipal civil servants to impose fines for committing such offences.

1.4.10.

Safety net provisions are important for pupils that are hard to handle at school. Possibilities for this group to have an extended school day, are also important. The CDA wants to link the resources for this to performance agreements. Skipping school and other 'signs' of prematurely dropping out are recognized at an early stage and dealt with seriously and consistently. After the reason for skipping school has been found out, appropriate (punitive) measures will be taken. To this aim the schools get the space that they need.

1.4.11.

Via the municipal Centres for Youth and Families and via other social organizations, including schools, all parents will receive a varied supply of courses and guidance on bringing up children. Parents of problem youth will obligatorily go to a guidance course before these children slide down to the criminal circuit. Damage caused by rowdy behaviour of youth, may not be shifted on to society. The youth and their parents are liable for this. For problem youth an electronic follow-up dossier will be made. Social workers, police and Public Prosecutor will be obliged to supply information, have access to this and execute consultation about the approach. These data remain available after the youth has come of age.

1.4.12.

A great part of the nuisance is caused by problem youth that hang around without any perspective of education or a job. In the framework of combating nuisance the public prosecutor or the mayor gets the competence to give so-called public order commands to persons who cause nuisance, for example by means or refusal of alcohol and residence permits. These youth must, if necessary with force or urge, be offered a perspective to give them a prospect again of a future of their own. We are thinking of special campuses that focus on schooling and getting people back to work. The CDA wants to take this seriously. For them, too, must be offered chances.

1.4.13.

Youth under 18, who with an authorization of the court undergo a forced (closed) treatment, must be obliged to complete this, also after they have come of age. To prevent a young person from repeating himself after he has been released, he will be coached intensively and we shall invest in schooling during the detention period.

Organization and police equipment

1.4.14.

Right now the police force still too much consists of autonomous parts. We have to create a national police organisation. The authority over the police, as far as public order is concerned, continues to rest with the mayor and for law enforcement it lies with the public prosecutor. By means of safety plans, over which municipal councils remain in control, the regional and local priorities come out well. The administra-

tion of the new police organisation will be placed with the National government, so that decisions with regard to e.g. the purchase of equipment and information systems can be taken rapidly and can be applied in the same manner for the whole police organisation.

1.4.15.

It will be made easier to file a report by telephone or via the Internet. Especially for middle sized and small companies this is important. The police will deal with the report forthwith. The police take care that victims are kept informed of the progress of the case and they will be involved in the inquiry upon request.

1.4.16.

Investments will be made in the scope and quality of detectives' expertise to better answer to cases with a detective indication. Besides, there will be an extension of detectives that are occupied with surveillance on the internet. Finally, the expertise will be brought up to standard with regard to financial economic crime.

1.4.17.

Besides the national DNA-databank, a national databank for marks will be formed, where forensic-technical marks are stored that have been collected at a crime scene, but in which still no perpetrator has been found. For the police a coherent, robust and future-aimed information system will be created. Furthermore one communication and information system will be created for all assistance institutions, so that in case of calamities an optimal cooperation will be possible.

1.4.18.

We shall invest in new technologies, such as intelligent camera's, to help trace down and prevent crimes. This also applies for technologies to fight cyber crime. Powers for tracing down criminals must be adjusted to the current state of technology. In the framework of combating identity fraud new identity papers will be equipped with biometric characteristics as soon as possible. It is important to continuously weigh the possibilities and the use of all these new technologies against the privacy interests of persons.

Organised crime

1.4.19.

The approach from the administration of organised crime will be continued forcefully. Municipalities receive more powers for obtaining data about dubious enterprises by extending the range of the law BIBOB (Public Administration [Probity in Decision-making] Act). Permits are not granted if there is a risk that they will be used for committing punishable acts. The same must apply for the registration of dubious enterprises in the register of the Chamber of Commerce.

1.4.20.

Recovering criminal profits from individual members of criminal organizations will be simplified. It will become easier for judicial authorities to take possession of money of which it is plausible that it has been obtained by committing punishable acts. In order to fight laundering it must be possible for the police and judicial authorities to be able to follow financial movements

better. This requires a more far-reaching European cooperation.

1.4.21.

There will also be a European co-operation to exchange information in order to expose international networks and to tackle them. All this to safeguard the strongly developed financial sector in the Netherlands against infiltration by the underworld and to keep it vital. To this aim joint investigation teams will be formed and information that is available in one country will be exchanged with the other.

Effective punishment

1.4.22.

Punishments will be considered in a new way. It will be considered how a person who has committed a punishable fact can effectively be prevented from repeating himself. The rehabilitation institutions fill an essential role here. For instance, probation times will be extended so that during an even longer period after serving their time, there is a title available to make conditions to persons concerning their behaviour. When habitual offenders overstep the mark during their probationary release, they must sit their time all over again, taking a possible (conditional) punishment and the proportionality of the crime into consideration. The option to give special punishments, such as banning someone from a profession, will be extended.

1.4.23.

Prison terms do not stand alone; adequate aftercare after this period is of great importance. For instance prisons inform municipi-

palities about the fact that a person wishes to go and live in that municipality after the termination of his detention. Together with the municipality they see that an ex-prisoner gets a house and work, if possible. A person is only released earlier in case of good behaviour and if he adheres to certain conditions. If he does not do so, the remainder of the punishment will be upheld.

1.4.24.

The actual punishment will then be closer to the imposed punishment. For less serious offences it will be possible to impose electronic house arrest besides community service. The possibility to place several persons in one cell will be extended. Basically prisoners will be placed in a sober regime; the better the behaviour, the more privileges a prisoner gets.

1.4.25.

Persons who are permanently dangerous, will not return into society. Categories of persons subject to an indefinite detention order who cannot be maintained according to current standards, remain in a closed facility.

1.4.26.

The Dutch constitutional state must be defensible. Persons with a double nationality who commit terrorist crimes, lose their Dutch nationality and are expelled and declared undesirable after they have served their time. In case of terrorist crimes committed by persons with a Dutch nationality more attention must be paid to the attack on the democratic constitutional state when considering the penalty. We must aim at extending the possibilities to

depriving people of the active and passive of voting right.

Help to vulnerable persons and victims

1.4.27.

The government gets the competence to interfere at an earlier stage with persons who form a real threat for the public order and cause much nuisance as a result of a psychic disorder. The criterion on the ground of which persons can be hospitalised in a psychiatric institution by force will be applied more freely. To this aim there will be a more compulsory cooperation between crisis relief and municipal health care. Persons that form a risk for themselves or the environment or whose behaviour leads to serious nuisance, can be forced to cooperate in a treatment or in a change of their housing environment.

1.4.28.

The government helps victims of serious violent crimes who join in the legal process in recovering the damage they have suffered from the perpetrator. This also includes the costs made for legal assistance of the victim. The damages for the victims of this kind of serious offences will, if it is necessary, be paid to the victim in advance and later recovered from the perpetrator by the government. The victim may not be left empty-handed.

1.4.29.

Assistance to victims of domestic violence and/or of honour-related violence (via women's refuge centres) must be insured. The relief will also be open to girls under the age of eighteen years.

1.5 asylum policy

The asylum policy must be just. Those who have to fear persecution deserve asylum. The policy must, however, also be clear and if necessary strict for people who are not persecuted. Procedures must be completed in a short time, so that parties involved are quickly fully informed about their request for asylum. For those who do not have a right to stay, there must be a return policy. Asylum seekers who cooperate in the realisation of their return, receive accommodation until their actual return. Children do not belong in detention pending expulsion.

1.5.1.

By specific measures of individual countries of the European Union, a European asylum policy must prevent the flows of asylum seekers from being transferred to the most favourable country for asylum seekers and people smugglers. Countries must also be prevented from unilaterally introducing a large-scale general pardon related to illegal persons.

1.5.2.

A European asylum policy must be based on the Convention related to the Status of Refugees and the conventions on human rights and on good practices that exist in the EU.

1.5.3.

Procedures must be completed in a short time, so that parties involved are quickly fully informed about their request for asylum. If ascertaining the identity costs more time or an examination of traumata and

other medical aspects is required, the first term (the AC procedure) can be extended with another 48 hours.

1.5.4.

Residence requests on medical grounds must be settled faster. The required capacity of the IND (Immigration and Naturalization Agency) and the Agency Medical Advice must be attuned to this.

1.5.5.

Persons with a residence permit on medical grounds and their families with a residence permit have access to work and education.

1.5.6.

Asylum seekers who are awaiting a decision about their final residence status can qualify for schooling and labour. This does not entitle them to social security. Any paid premiums will be returned to the persons involved when they return to their country of origin.

1.5.7.

Asylum seekers who are in a (continued) procedure for a residence status in the framework of a request for asylum and legitimately stay in the Netherlands on that account, are entitled to a proper relief from the government.

1.5.8.

The asylum relief must be arranged in such a manner that safety and a good social climate are guaranteed. This should include that children from asylum seekers must be prevented from having to move many times as much as possible.

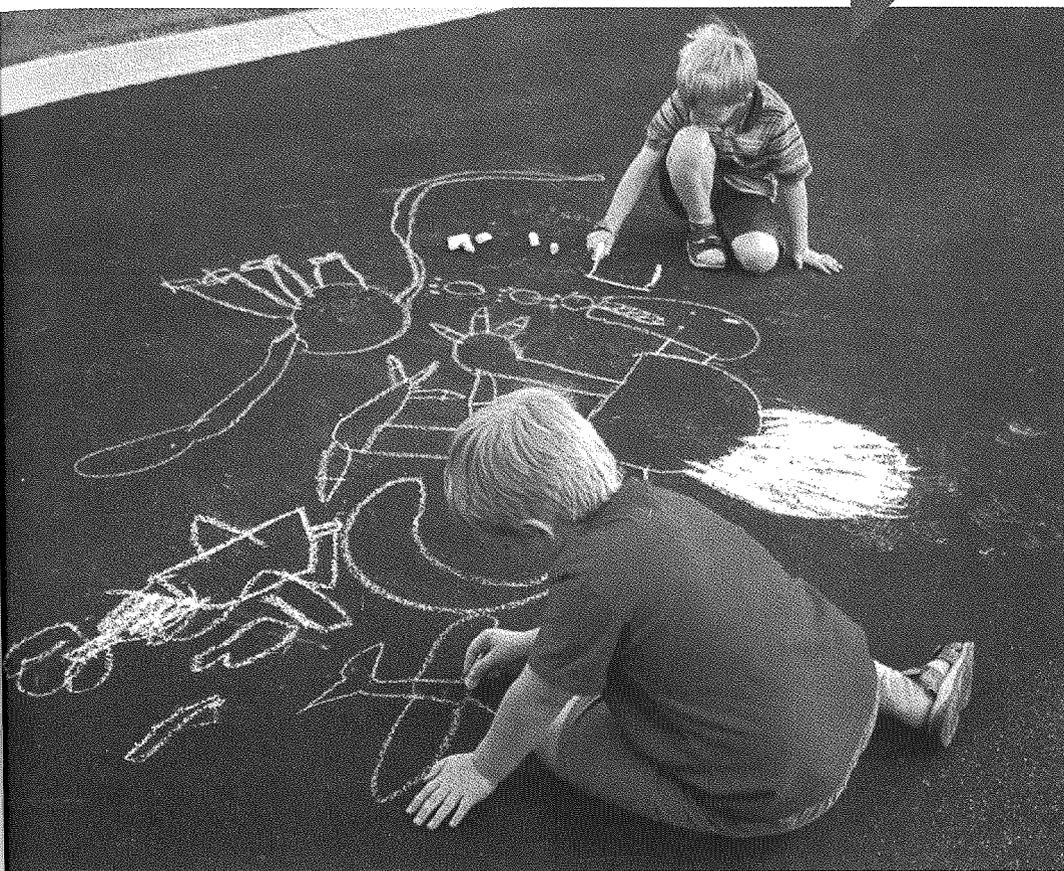
1.5.9.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) gets an express role in the return and obtaining of (replacing) documents. In all current cases a good return policy requires that society in its entirety collaborates more on the actual leave of asylum seekers who have exhausted all legal procedures and illegal aliens. This requires on the one hand a good cooperation between government and non-governmental organizations and churches. On the other hand people, for whom no documents can be obtained, so that they cannot be expelled, must be given a provisional residence status. This gives clarity to the asylum seekers and puts up a barrier against illegality.

1.5.10.

With diplomatic representations of other countries agreements must be made about the soonest possible handling of applications for replacing travelling and identity documents. If still no replacing travelling document has been received after expiry of the legal term of departure, the relief will be continued as long as the alien involved can demonstrate that he undertakes activities to meet the conditions of the embassy to make his identity and/or nationality plausible.

Space





The CDA wants fewer rules. Also education and health care we want to offer more freedom. In this respect institutions and schools must give account to those whom they serve: the patient of the care institution or the parents of the pupils.

2. Confidence in social organizations: organizations that choose for people.

For the CDA schools, universities, care institutions, housing corporations and welfare institutions are not branches of the government. They are organizations that have originated from the ambitions and ideals of people who want to mean something for each other. Much too long has the government treated these institutions as if they were official services. New conditions were attached each time to the provision of funds. One package of rules followed the other. As the mountain of paperwork grew, the passion and inspiration pined away in these sectors. Professional honour was replaced by professional pain. Approval of the government gradually became more important than the satisfaction of parents, students or patients.

Recently a new course has been set out. In healthcare, thanks to the personal budgets and the revision of the system in curative care, more control has been placed with the patients, care providers, insured persons and insurers. In education the room for manoeuvring of schools, concerning content and administration, has been enlarged. The CDA wants to go further with this. We expect much of a social partners in the field in which students and universities annex academies together can address their energy more to excellent education, in which insurance and insurers make agreements with care institutions about the quality, the price and the accessibility of care, and in which housing corporations contribute to a good housing, affordable rents, liveable quarters, and a good service for inhabitants.

The CDA chooses to return confidence to society. Not so much motivating inspec-

tions to provide good education and good care, but especially the direct contact between student and university, parents and the school, between patients, their organizations and the care institutions. By placing responsibilities with these junctions of relations, the CDA wants to work on community spirit, social innovation, spirit of enterprise and to strengthen creativity.

2.1. Confidence in talent: space for education with a mission

The CDA wants to invest more in education. It believes in the strength of good education, based on the freedom of education as laid down in article 23 of the Constitution. Good education is in the interest of pupils and of society. Education enhances the opportunities for a job, for an income, for socio-economic security. It enables people to develop their talents and to make a positive contribution to the community.

Good education may help prevent disadvantaged areas and typical large city problems. Exactly now that the economy is more and more becoming a knowledge economy, there is more and more need for well-trained people. No-one may actually leave school without a finalised education. Therefore the student and his career must be the central point. Gradually, if possible, compulsory education will have to be linked to reaching an initial qualification and less to age. Good education is not only for those 'who can learn well'. Everybody is valuable, also people with fewer capacities. It is not about what you can, but how you handle your talents and possibilities. We want education to encourage all students

to get the best out of themselves, to stand out, to show courage and a spirit of enterprise. In this sense the CDA wants to get rid of a 'culture of doing the minimum that is required.' Dutch educational institutions must be among the top, otherwise the good students will leave and study abroad.

The CDA believes in the contribution of inspired teachers, driven by the love of their subject. These people make a difference.

They stimulate youth to form a picture of their part in and contribution to the society of tomorrow. Not only do they teach what they know, but especially also who they are. They stimulate and inspire and propagate that more is possible in life than getting a C minus. For this is what they themselves are the living examples of. In this manner they propagate values and standards. They also maintain the contact between the school and the parental home. These teachers are the best ambassadors for working in education and that is needed hard now that there is little animation for the profession of teacher and shortages of teachers threaten to occur. Especially in the large cities the first shortages are becoming apparent.

The CDA relies on the professionalism of the people in and around the class. Therefore we have given schools much more room to manoeuvre in the past few years. Schools themselves are now working on educational reform. Professional training offers practice-aimed learning, in a 'life-like' learning environment. Cooperation with companies in the region is starting to happen. More attention has developed for old-fashioned workmanship. This educational reform must be pursued forcefully, because we

still have a long way to go. For after many years of rules and regulations, of mergers and restrictions, many still have a feeling that permission is first required from the department or the inspection before the schools can undertake anything. This must change. By organising education in a small-scale fashion, appreciating teachers more, by space for initiative from the bottom. And by replacing the giving of account to civil servants by giving account to the parents.

We wish to pay special attention to the group of children that have a language deficiency when they arrive at the primary school. This leads to problems in the long term: in families themselves, in the neighbourhood and certainly also in schools. This prevention starts in the family and in an early signalling. In the naturalisation the demands will have to be set higher. Children with language deficiencies would have to go to school at an earlier age. In short, the CDA thinks that we must not accept that talent goes unused. No-one must leave school without a certificate, the general education level must be set higher and more pupils must move on to higher education. As to content and level education must connect to the demand from the labour market and there must be more possibilities for lifelong learning. The education system will have to be better geared to this. Now the system is very much focused on compulsory education and initial education, also in the MBO (upper secondary vocational education), higher vocational education and universities. Innovative education is needed to make it connect to the education needs of employees, grown-ups and the labour market.

Role of the government

2.1.1.

The CDA attaches value to the freedom of education. To the freedom of establishing a school and the freedom to choose a school according to people's own preferences and convictions. Schools may express their identity in abundance, in solidarity with the values of our constitutional state.

2.1.2.

The government provides a good provision of funds per student, sets the key targets and final terms and provides guarantees around the quality of education. How the education is given, how the resources are spent is a responsibility of the schools themselves. Also the inspection doesn't control the didactic approach of schools. There must be sufficient space for filling in the own profile of the school as to content.

2.1.3.

The CDA wants to organise education in such a manner that the pupils can go through an uninterrupted development process. Pupil tracking systems and an obligatory final test in primary education helps schools, children and their parents to make good choices in the learning career of their children. The Schools inspectorate is then better able to evaluate whether the key targets are achieved.

2.1.4.

The provision of funds and regulatory measures must enable and promote a small-scale organizing of education. The CDA wants to provide branches with better funds. The standards for discontinuance can

be lowered, especially in the countryside. There will be a once-only extra impulse in small-scale housing for schools. A better utilisation of possibilities of multifunctional school buildings offers opportunities to also preserve provisions in the countryside. An (Administrative) increase in scale can not lead to monopoly positions. The CDA wants a test on intentions of mergers, in which the interest of children, their parents and the quality of education are the central points.

2.1.5.

The schoolbooks in secondary education must not be at the expenses of the parents. The schools for secondary education therefore receive an adequate provision in their financing to enable them to purchase the required schoolbooks for the pupils themselves.

2.1.6.

Schools receive more possibilities to fill in the education, by the lump sum (to be increased) and by fewer central rules. Yet, the responsibility and the administrative structure must be in good order. The responsibility towards parents must e.g. compromise the pedagogic approach, the overhead expenses and the finances: how many resources does an administration receive and what is it used for? Schools make transparent which results they accomplish. If things do not go well with the quality of the school, parents and government must be able to adjust better and faster

Space and appreciation for teachers

2.1.7.

Schools get more financial possibilities to

offer teachers a better career perspective by rewarding performance and applying more differentiation in rewards and functions. This encourages teachers to develop and train themselves further. They can end up in a higher scale and/or move on to higher forms of education. The higher reward may end up with practical teachers as well as with academics. The schools decide about this themselves. The government facilitates this by awarding more money to education institutions, and takes the extra problems in the large cities into account.

2.1.8

There will be national (higher) final terms for the secondary teachers' trainings. Schools make it clear to parents and other parties involved whether teachers have kept their professional knowledge and didactic skills up to standard.

Additional organisational freedom for schools

2.1.9.

Schools may claim a reduced supervision of the inspectorate during a period of five years, except for the point of meeting the core values of the constitutional state. They have therefore extra space to innovate. Condition is yet that schools demonstrate that they have their quality in good order, tackle the question of drop-outs well, are able to realise a balanced approach of problem pupils and have organised participation well. These schools have a transparent estimate, including a clear division of the budget over schools and a transparent destination of reserves. The division of salary scales over tasks is transparent for third

parties, including the parents. In this manner it will be clear how the management and the coordinators are compensated in relation to those who teach. The authority structure between school and higher management is clearly laid down. The external responsibility is in good order.

2.1.10.

Also the MBO (upper secondary vocational education) and the higher educational institutions get more freedom. On the other hand, they have to indicate how quality and a good administrative structure (internally and externally) are guaranteed. They must explain what the structure of education looks like and which chances on the labour market the trainings offer. Furthermore we have included how the consultation with partners (for example the regional trade and industry) and the adjoining education has been secured. Also these schools must provide insight in a transparent and clear manner into the utilisation of the resources and give account about this. Finally, they must clarify that internal quality care is guaranteed. All this is part of the statute that is approved by the Minister of Education, Cultural Affairs and Science. A nationally recognisable education structure is a benchmark here. The inspectorate sees to it that they achieve the targets they have formulated themselves and may take action if necessary. Many national rules and a lot of supervision may then be abandoned.

2.1.11.

Schools guarantee the legal minimum education time to parents and pupils and do all they can to prevent lessons from being cancelled.

2.1.12.

The CDA thinks it important that schools involve all parents – therefore also those with a foreign background– in the education. Upbringing assistance to parents who qualify for this, may clarify which part parents can play in the education and which part the school can play in the upbringing. The CDA incites schools to set up exchange projects as it is being done right now in the friendship schools in Rotterdam. Exchanging teachers and/or pupils between schools produces more knowledge of each other's backgrounds and culture. Much energy will be put into this kind of exchange programs with schools abroad. This must also be possible in our own country. Also secondary teachers' trainings play a part in deepening the knowledge of new teachers with regard to the different cultural backgrounds of their pupils.

2.1.13.

Schools must intensively cooperate with the youth assistance, the socio-educational and welfare work and signal problems rapidly to prevent pupils between from falling between two stools. The broad school offers many possibilities in this respect. The school will become a meeting point for these institutions. The municipality guarantees the attuning in the signalling and referring of pupils.

Combat of arrears

2.1.14

The prevention of (language) arrears of children starts with the parents. Newcomers will be faced with higher demands for education if they wish to establish them-

selves in the Netherlands for many years, of course with possibilities of exemption for example for people with limited capacities. Should anyone refuse this, then financial sanctions will follow.

2.1.15.

Parents of children with a great (language) backlog will be stimulated to let their children participate in a group 0. For those pupils who would pre-eminently profit from participation in group 0, participation cannot be without obligations. The primary school is responsible for a continuous line of studies, the student tracking system and the personnel policy. Pupils with a language deficiency get extra reading skill trainings. Schools get more resources for this purpose in the next cabinet period. The resources for fighting lags in education will be more focused on tackling the source of the language deficiencies. An early signalling via the health centre is important for recognising (potential) language deficiencies and for specific help in the linguistic development. There will be extra resources for group 0 for the benefit of young children with language deficiencies, for intermediate classes and for obligatory adult education for newcomers. These investments will be supplemented with extra resources for schools in the framework of coaching of pupils. The schools for special education must be enabled to offer the necessary care to children who depend on this. Waiting lists must be prevented here.

2.1.16.

The existing resources for intermediate classes can also be utilised for education outside the regular school hours

(Wednesday afternoons, weekends, summer schools), on condition that the education is explicitly targeted to the combat of arrears in pupils. The combat of (linguistic and educational) arrears is – just like the cooperation between schools, youth assistance and judicial authorities – especially of vital importance for the vitality of large cities.

2.1.17

The qualifying compulsory education applies to capacity for youth up to 27 years. The qualifications may be obtained in a combination of working and learning.

2.1.18.

A great challenge for education is to be found in forcing back the number of people who leave school without professional or initial qualification (certificate at least at Havo - Higher General Secondary Education - or MBO2 - upper secondary vocational education -level). Due to this, a large number of young people find it very hard to find work on the labour market. This cannot be accepted. In the educational profession cooperation must improve, so that a flowing course of study is created. Pupils can start learning a profession at an earlier age at school. This requires investments in practical schoolrooms and a good regional cooperation with companies. The career of the student must be the central focus more than today. Otherwise demotivation threatens. Incidentally, this also applies for very gifted children. They must be given an opportunity to excel in their own learning path.

Higher and scientific education

2.1.19.

Scientific research and higher education are substantial for the strength of our economy and culture. The Netherlands must keep a tie-up with the international top. A broadly educated basis of more highly educated people is needed for e.g. our labour market. Especially research that can be applied is important. In such a climate it is important that students and educational institutions keep each other sharp mutually. Then we get better education and more possibilities to study faster. Therefore it must be possible to utilise learning rights in all institutions that meet the national standards. Innovation resources will be deployed to give the quality of research and education an impulse. The tuition fees will not be increased in order to guarantee the accessibility of higher education. It will be investigated whether a regulated open order in education may offer advantages for the Dutch educational order, before any introduction will be effectuated. Those whose study fast, can use learning rights later on.

2.1.20.

Moving on to higher education must not be impeded by selection at the gateway. The predictive value before the student has started education is too uncertain.

2.1.21.

To keep higher education accessible, study financing and tuition fees credit continue to exist. Everybody will refund their own student loan as far as possible. After 25 years at the latest the student loan will be remitted.

Lifelong learning

2.1.22.

It must be possible to deploy learning rights that have not been spent during the initial education, at a later stage, with an extension after the age of 65. Also the remaining learning rights can be realised in all accredited educational institutions. The career plan makes it possible that the income is continued during education.

2.1.23.

The appreciation of competences that have been acquired elsewhere (CAEs) will be further stimulated. This also requires an investment from companies. These will be stimulated fiscally to do so. The cooperation with the knowledge bank for CAEs and working with recognition procedures are part of the investment.

2.1.24.

The share of education in the economy must increase. New trainings and education organisations must be able to contribute to this. Also institutions that provide initial trainings, can contribute to this.

2.2. art and culture

Culture connects people. It is an expression of the whole of their values and standards and gives them identity. Becoming acquainted with each other's cultural expressions may bring groups of people closer to each other and helps building up a society that is experienced as a real community.

Artists often hold a mirror up to our faces or exactly open up new and inspiring panoramas with their creative power. They have an antenna for social developments that is directed differently from that of policymakers and administrators. In this manner they show us new possibilities. Also the amateur practice of art represents a social capital of inestimable value. Choirs, painters clubs, brass bands, pop groups, street dancers, theatre companies, amateur archaeologists, etc. give meaning to the notion of participation and give colour to our society.

Dutch art is doing well abroad and is thus an important export product. Yet art can certainly not make a living out of the market only. The CDA stands for a government that lets art and culture flourish, increases the quality and provides distribution and accessibility.

2.2.1

In the next four years we must look how we can build on a valuable cultural infrastructure further. The CDA wants an even and proportional division of the financial resources for the cultural level of facilities outside the Randstad.

2.2.2.

History is an important point of orientation for a community. What happens to a person who loses his memory, also happens to a society that is not conscious of its history. The future has a long past. Much attention must continue to be paid to this in our education system. This especially concerns the values and standards that lie at the basis of our society. Culture must take a prominent place in education. It connects young peo-

ple with questions about giving meaning, with depth layers of our culture and with underlying values of our society.

2.2.3.

A rich past lies stored in our movable and immovable cultural heritage. Restoration and maintenance are therefore important. The moratorium on adding new monuments on the Schedule of ancient monuments will be lifted. Our heritage must tell the complete story of our national history. In this time of secularisation the preservation of religious cultural heritage deserves special attention. Working with a fund in stead of with loose incidental allowances from the budget is necessary for a successful policy concerning monuments. Through such a fund owners of monuments are given an opportunity to have long-range restoration plans developed and carried out.

2.2.4.

Amateur art and folk culture must be stimulated, for example by making more fruitful cross-pollination with the professional arts sector possible. Obstacles such as galling regulatory measures must be removed.

2.2.5.

The Frisian language and culture, just like Dutch, is officially recognized in Europe. Regional languages are a living heritage, which must be cherished just like the characteristic folk culture of regions. These issues demand attention in education and research, in the media and from the authorities.

2.2.6.

It is worthwhile to promote abroad what

the Netherlands have to offer with respect to art and its own culture. This must be done in a professional and systematic manner by cooperation between the arts sector and the government.

2.3. media

The media landscape is strongly on the move. The internet, mobile data traffic and the rise of international commercial media companies produce huge dynamics and an overwhelming supply. Cable and telephone lines compete with each other for distribution of the digital media supply. People are more and more able to request programmes at any desired time themselves. Classic media patterns are therefore under pressure. The dividing walls between newspapers, broadcasting companies and publishing companies are disappearing.

All this requires a government that has to ask itself what its role should be in all this. Public and social interests play along: an objective news service, a multiform interpretation of the news, ideological programmes, and culture and education are important in our modern society. The CDA thinks that the public broadcasting order must see to the availability of all this. Gradually the responsibility of the government for the availability of programmes and therefore their content will be more important than programming and the specific channels along which this content will be spread or called up. Whether people wish to view a programme is something that they will determine themselves more and more. The establishment will carefully and gradually have to adjust to this. The

obtrusiveness of the visual material at the same time requires carefulness in the suppliers. This applies for the broadcasting corporations and for the commercial media.

2.3.1.

By their social anchoring the national stations and the accompanying broadcasting corporations fill an essential part in our democratic society in all its social and cultural dimensions. This part is filled by a legally regulated organisation, irrespective of government and commerce. The government stands at a distance in appointments, in the division of the total budget and in the programming from the national stations.

2.3.2.

Especially now that people more and more determine themselves when they wish to view which programme via the Internet, it is important that the government makes sufficient money available for a varied package of programmes that belong to the broad conception of duties and the social functions of the national stations. For instance, as part of a broader supply of programmes there must be sufficient budget for good news service, current affairs, the interpretation of the news and ideological programmes on the one hand and for culture and education on the other. Also in the latter a variety of socially embedded broadcasting organisations will be utilized.

2.3.3.

The objectiveness and multilateral nature of the news service, provided by the NOS, will be monitored. Opinion features do not belong with the NOS. The multiformity of current affairs programmes, the interpreta-

tion of the news and of the ideological and deepening programmes will be guaranteed by sufficient budgets and by making a broadcasting time that is programmed in a proportional and well-balanced fashion available to socially embedded broadcasting corporations. Content and insertion of programmes are interrelated. When broadcasts for culture and education are programmed, our multicoloured society and thus the cultural minorities will be taken into account.

2.3.4.

The national stations must be able to count on a solid financial basis that makes it possible to fulfil their tasks. The national stations will depend less on advertising monies, as the government compensates the lack of resources as from a certain moment of loss of advertising income. Being social (non-profit) enterprises, broadcasting corporations get maximal space to be active outside the establishment and generate financial resources, too. Net profits of society activities remain available for the society. The structure will be adjusted so that the broadcasting budget is much less sensitive to the short-term development in the government and the advertising market. Education must maintain a separate place and an organisational independence within the national stations.

2.3.5.

The organization form of the national stations must be focused on guaranteeing the balance between on the one hand necessary unity and coherence of the national stations as a whole, and on the other hand the substantive, financial and organiza-

tional independence of external, multiform organizations that are bound to members.

2.3.6.

Private organizations that are bound to members form an essential part of the national stations, because they guarantee that the supply is given shape and made out of different idealistic principles. Substantial numbers of members, contributing to the programmed diversity, demonstrable social basis and influence of members are the demands that broadcasting corporations must meet. If they meet these demands, they can receive a concession for broadcasting for five years. The demands with regard to representativeness will be tested periodically.

2.3.7.

The current additional tasks (a.o. Internet and theme channels) will become part of the main task of the national stations. The national stations take the lead in innovation. Experiments are being invested in substantially. For new media and experiments, too, external multiformity is point of departure. Broadcasting organizations are therefore of vital importance.

2.3.8.

The broadcasting corporations get space for the cross-medial approach that is necessary in a digital era. Being able to maintain direct relations with members and other citizens is a part of this, just as more space for social enterprising via the cooperation with others, including publishing companies and other producers of information. To this aim the restrictions of the Media Act will be removed if necessary and as

much as possible. This enterprising always remains focused on the mission and identity, or the thematic order of the broadcasting organizations, respectively. Enterprising therefore remains limited to social enterprising and the profits from it will be naturally beneficial for the programme-supply of the broadcasting organizations.

2.3.9.

Programmes and clips with sex, excessive violence or anti-child and anti-woman content must not be tolerated. The government will tackle the media about their social responsibility and make agreements with them to adhere to the social standards around drugs and not to normalise (the excessive use of) alcohol any further.

2.3.10.

The CDA thinks the regional and local media of great importance for the recognizability of social cohesion in cities, regions and provinces. Here, too, it applies that the government must watch out for the multilateral nature and independence of suppliers to remain maintained. Broadcasting corporations may also make productions for regional broadcasting companies if desired.

2.4. health and welfare

In order to participate in society, being and staying healthy is an important condition. A healthy lifestyle may prevent many problems. The CDA is worried about the increasing number of Dutch people with serious overweight. Serious overweight, or obesitas, is becoming a great problem, unfortunately also among youth. The government has made agreements with the

trade and industry and social institutions to join hands in fighting obesity. Information in schools and in companies must make the choice for healthy food and moving more, easier and more attractive. This must lead to measurable results.

Another subject for worry is the use of drugs and alcohol among youth. The CDA thinks we cannot start early enough with making people conscious of the risks of drugs and alcohol and of an unhealthy lifestyle. Therefore sports are also crucial.

It is one of the challenges of this time: keeping health care in the Netherlands good, accessible and affordable for everybody. Due to the ageing population the demand for care will increase. The capacity must be raised, just like the space for new institutions. We wish the quality to improve even further. But at the same time the costs of all this must be kept under control. Without cost containment the system and the solidarity will be subjected to great pressure. Another aspect of the challenge: many people are needed in healthcare sector. Staffing deficits can only be avoided, if working in healthcare is challenging enough and offers perspectives.

During the Balkenende cabinets major steps have been made already to make health-care future-proof. In the Netherlands people are generally attended to quickly and well if they are ill. The waiting lists have reduced. And, very important, the new Health insurance act of 2006 offers many possibilities for keeping the care healthy. It is now important to fully utilise these possibilities.

The government remains responsible for the quality demands, payability and accessibility of care. The CDA wants less regulation and more space and stimuli for initiative and entrepreneurship, but not a complete market system. For the insured there will be more and more clarity about price, quality and service in health care. This is why, exactly because they are often united in associations, they are increasingly an actor to take into account for the care providers. This stimulates care providers to continue to innovate, to offer care even faster and even better, to limit the bureaucracy and overhead. Hospitals get space to anticipate to this with a spirit of enterprise, but on the other hand they will have to meet fluctuations in turnovers themselves. The gatekeeper function of the family doctor remains of great importance.

The CDA thinks that good care must be affordable for everybody. This is guaranteed by the care surcharge. The CDA wants to maintain this certainty for the future, too. Also if there have to be rises in premiums, the spendable income must not get pressured.

Another point of attention is the AWBZ, the insurance for long-lasting, chronic care. The AWBZ is and remains a peoples' insurance as far as the CDA is concerned. The premiums are income-dependent and everybody is entitled to care without any individual contributions. Yet it is time to reassess the AWBZ at some points. The AWBZ has too much come in the grasp of bureaucracy and large-scale thinking. This is sometimes at the expense of the attention that the personnel can give to the patient. Also, the

elderly and disabled of today have needs that differ from those in the time when the AWBZ was created. Today, for example, living is co-insured. This limits the freedom of choice and is strictly speaking not a matter of an insurance against chronic disorders. The CDA wants to remove the component of living from the AWBZ, the most important purpose being to make new combinations of care and living possible. The AWBZ will be paid for in a way in which persons are followed to a greater extent. The personal budget and the rent allowance make it possible for people to receive care and housing tailored to their needs, in an environment and in a form that they choose themselves. All this connects to the intention of the Social Support Act (WMO) and makes it possible for people to receive support in a more specific manner in the obstacles that they experience.

The CDA believes in care that is tailored to people's needs. People have their own preferences, their own identity and their own conception of quality. Therefore, for instance, we wish to give space to the elderly who do not wish an anonymous, large-scale institution to determine how they must live and how their days are filled. There will be a richer diversity in forms of care and assistance. As we said: the government remains expressly responsible for the quality, the affordability and the accessibility of care and assistance.

The Social Support Act gives space in abundance to people for bearing responsibility for each other. The local government must see that users of care and welfare are enabled to continue to participate in society

despite their obstacles. The CDA will follow the introduction of the law with involvement and with respect for the municipal autonomy. Here we wish to support a one-counter approach in the WMO.

Curative care

2.4.1.

Citizens are entitled to good health care. In order to keep health care available and to enhance the well-being also towards the future, citizens, care providers, care insurers and the government must pay more attention to prevention and healthy living (nutrition, movement). There must be more attention for the prevention of diseases within the curative care. The knowledge and experience from preventive health care must be utilised for that purpose.

2.4.2.

Patients have a choice. There will be more care to size and more attention for prevention. Care institutions may differ from each other in medical approach and in costs. Space will be created for private entrepreneurship, in which healthcare by the public guarantees may not be secondary to the financial profit. This results in a better care for the patient. The preference of the CDA here lies with (social) enterprises that see that profits from good care and organisation will be invested in a further improvement of care. The social enterprise must therefore receive a recognisable status in the Dutch Civil Code.

2.4.3.

A diminishing of regulations in health care is needed. The entry of new suppliers

will be simplified. Hospitals and insurers get more space to negotiate about content, price or rates of medical attention. Gradually insurers, care providers and insured persons will determine themselves at what price and in which form care will be given, of course within the frameworks of the demands that are legally made of the quality of care, the scope of the basic package and the premium differentiation that applies for everybody. The efficiency that then arises creates space for the necessary investments in healthcare and causes a realistic development of premiums. These necessary investments in healthcare will have to flow back to the essence of the care relation, i.e. the relation between the patient and the care professional, and must not develop into even more management layers. Care providers decide themselves about investments and bear the risks. This is beneficial to the innovation in the sector. The risk balancing to insurers will be adjusted to this: in advance in stead of afterwards.

2.4.4.

The social services must get more possibilities for the management of and the investment into its immovable property, as it has also happened in certain sectors of education and social rental sector. The profits must be beneficial to social services. For the issue of booking values into the budget a solution will be found in consultation with the sector.

2.4.5.

The CDA wants initiatives in the 'one and a half line care' and the chain care to be stimulated. This concerns cooperations (in

between the first and the second line) of family doctors, physiotherapists, dieticians and hospitals around often-occurring disorders, such as diabetes, CNSLD and obesitas. These medical treatments are customer friendly, low-threshold and cost efficient.

2.4.6.

Prevention is better than cure. Nurses and attendants play a prominent part in prevention, the first link in the care chain. Nurses and attendants get a place in the care chain that must not be underestimated. Of their competences more use will be made in the form of advice, instruction and guidance of for example chronically ill persons (prevention). The elderly and ill persons can then remain independent longer, while health care becomes more accessible. Regulatory measures that obstruct a suitable shifting of tasks from physician to nurse, must disappear or be adjusted.

2.4.7.

The CDA takes the initiative for measures that promote non-smoking in sports canteens and in the catering industry.

2.4.8.

People must know where they stand in health care. They are entitled to information. The government must see that hospitals make the quality and the price of medical attention transparent. Also insured persons must know what exactly they are insured for: what is the content of the care package, under which conditions can they choose a hospital or dentist themselves? This clarity must be extended to the content of all policies. The CDA wants to bundle the existing laws that are related

to the protection of the position of the patient/consumer in a Care consumer act and expressly involve the patients' associations in it.

2.4.9.

Medicines are part of a treatment. By linking the medicines to a Diagnosis Treatment Combination (DTC) differences between hospitals in the prescription of also expensive medicines will become clear. This will lead to a more price-conscious attitude.

2.4.10.

The CDA opts for a private system under public conditions. The health insurers are responsible for an all-covering system of provisions. The government must guarantee the attainability, quality and financial accessibility. The care system must guarantee the conditions for a qualitatively good health care. A health care in which the treatment and care not only meet the necessary medical standards, but in which there is also space for personal attention, guidance and care to size. In which 'quality of life' is the guide for professional actions. The latter is the field of the care professional. To be able to guarantee the quality of the care professional, the CDA supports the development of a national quality register. In this manner the quality of nursing will be guaranteed.

2.4.11.

The care surcharge remains the backbone of the basic care insurance and guarantees that people can actually afford the premium for the basic package, even if they have a lower or middle income. In case of rises of premiums their spendable income will

not become under pressure. The capacity of the family income remains leading in the allowance of the care surcharge.

2.4.12.

The demand for care will increase considerably in the time to come. It is important that youth choose for healthcare as a profession. Only then can we guarantee the accessibility of care and waiting lists can be avoided. The professions of physician and nurse must be attractive. This calls for a positive provision of information to pupils, for good and sufficient apprenticeships, for a good career perspective, for good possibilities for extra training and refresher courses and for a labour climate in which the people who actually stand at the bed are also appreciated. It is also for this reason that it is good to fight bureaucracy and the excessive regulatory measures and to increase the space for new initiatives.

2.4.13.

The CDA wants to abolish the no-claim arrangement. The basic package will not be meddled with during this cabinet period.

2.4.14.

The need for short-term, physical care after discharge from the hospital is part of the treatment. This short-term care (shorter than one year), aimed at recovery will therefore be transferred from the AWBZ to the health insurance act. In this manner new corporations will arise between home care, nursing homes and hospitals. Also care hotels and home care organisations compete for the favours of the customer.

Chronic care

2.4.15.

The AWBZ remains a National Insurance for care that is not aimed at healing and lasts longer than one year, such as care for physically and mentally handicapped people and people with a chronic psychic disorder. In due time living will no longer be part of the AWBZ. For housing regular rents will apply. Those who rent a house, can – depending on their income – appeal to rent allowance. This also applies for those who live in a care centre, so that good living remains affordable for everybody. For those who rent their own house, the intramural own contribution expires. People will not pay double. Yet, in stead of rent, institutions may demand a contribution for the building. If necessary, a rent allowance will be provided for this, too. In this manner the identity and the social climate of an institution remain guaranteed and vulnerable groups, such as inhabitants of nursing homes, are spared.

2.4.16.

New concepts of living and care get space. Institutions can offer housing to size. The clients get more influence and decide themselves how they live. Living in a large institution remains possible. The personal budget and the rent allowance make it possible for people to receive customized care and housing in an environment that they choose themselves as much as possible. Not the indication body, but the clients themselves decide which housing they choose.

2.4.17.

When the AWBZ will have been reduced to an insurance for long-lasting care and nurs-

ing, the CDA unequivocally chooses for an abolishment of the individual contributions. Only individual payments for example for living and staying remain possible. These contributions will from now on directly be paid to those who make these provisions available. If necessary, for the other accommodation costs an appeal to the municipalities is possible. Municipalities will be enabled to meet this demand.

2.4.18.

People can choose to buy health care that they are entitled to themselves. The CDA wants to maintain the Person-bound Budget (PGB) to promote dynamics, custom-made work and customer orientation in health care. The bureaucracy all around the PGB must be abolished. The only thing done in exchange by the PGB-holder is that he reports to the authorities that they have paid the personal budget as compensation.

2.4.19.

The number of people that will be struck by dementia will increase considerably in the next few years. Provisions, especially housing provisions, for people who grow demented (and their partners) must therefore meet the increasing demand as soon as possible.

2.4.20.

Good care at the end of somebody's life is of great importance. Besides professional help great efforts are made by voluntarily aides. Real palliative care for those who are finished with treatment in the hospital will comprise part of the AWBZ. People must be able to choose whether and where they wish to receive palliative care: at home, in

a hospice, or in a nursing home or institution. Differences in compensations will thus disappear.

2.4.21.

The care offices in the AWBZ will disappear. The execution of the AWBZ and the basic insurance will be effected by a chosen health insurer. By doing so, attuning between long-lasting care and care that is not aimed at recovery from the AWBZ and care that is compensated by the basic insurance will automatically be brought about without intricate system revisions. Measures for the restriction of bureaucracy in health care and the separation of living and care will not be at the expense of the actual assistance, not even if there is question of disappointing profits.

2.4.22.

The personal budget also gets a prominent place within the WMO. This gives citizens the necessary freedom to get customized help. There is more to choose from, incidentally, only for those who can and want this.

Dignified medical technology

The pursuit of quality of life or reducing human suffering sometimes touches on ethical dilemmas. May or must we also look at the profits when considering the costs of a treatment? Is life termination in grown-ups or children always condemnable? How much space must we give to modern technologies such as screening for disorders and stem cell technology? Which price are we prepared to pay for cosmetic operations, for outward appearance? Modern humane biotechnology not only

contributes to the quality of life, but also brings the Dutch health care on a higher plan and stimulates innovation and employment. The CDA therefore wants to stimulate the research and application of techniques to prevent and treat diseases.

2.4.23.

Terminating a pregnancy is a far-reaching step. People must be able to make a well-considered choice. The CDA holds on to the legal reconsideration period and pleads for independent information about alternatives (adoption) and (psychic) consequences. Termination of pregnancy must remain restricted to real emergencies. Extra attention must be paid to the prevention of undesired pregnancies.

2.4.24.

Termination of pregnancy outside the legally permitted boundaries and life termination of newborn babies is punishable. Yet in emergencies such a choice may sometimes come into the picture. In those cases the CDA supports the benefit and the necessity of a commission of experts to assist the work of the public prosecutor.

2.4.25.

Bringing about the growth of embryos especially for scientific research is forbidden in the Netherlands. The CDA wants to maintain this prohibition. Signalled uncertainties and lack of clarity in the current legal framework – the Embryo Act – have to be removed (at short notice).

2.4.26.

In our own country and in the European Union the government stimulates research

of techniques that form an alternative for research in which embryos are used. It also stimulates research that enhances the success percentage of in vitro-fertilisation treatments (IVF) and prevents the existence of rest-embryos. Actions with embryos will only be permitted insofar as they are in the direct interest of the beginning human life within the framework of the pregnancy. The prohibition of creating embryos for the benefit of experiments, cloning and stem cell therapy remains applicable.

2.4.27.

It must be possible to test gene therapy aimed at somatic cells, not those on the germ line. Patenting of human genes may not be permitted.

2.4.28.

A good care, guidance and assistance of people for whom the terminal phase has started, must be guaranteed. Palliative care must be widely available. Care providers and patients must be informed of the directive in palliative sedation. The Public Prosecutor sees to it that the legal standards are strictly enforced in case of euthanasia.

2.4.29.

Over two hundred people per year die while waiting transplantation organ. The CDA therefore wants to increase the number of donors. Municipalities play a stimulating role in the registration via the Population Affairs Department. It follows naturally from this that the CDA pleads for further research of the effects of a system in which people can more explicitly choose whether or not they wish to be donors. The

organization in and around hospitals must furthermore be focused on realising every donation.

2.4.30.

The CDA wants to realise a prohibition of animal tests for non-medical purposes as soon as possible. Sufficient alternatives are available.

2.5. Affordable and liveable living

Living in a suitable house, in a pleasant neighbourhood. This is what the CDA wants to work on.

Right now the housing market is fairly locked. Young people find it hard to find an affordable house to rent or to buy, the elderly find it difficult to find a suitable house, many people continue living in a house that is too small or too large from sheer necessity. Families with a middle income can not live suitably and affordable in the city. Therefore they move to the suburbs and growth centres, the consequences being that the people with the low incomes stay behind in the cities – the result being an unbalanced composition of the population.

Affordable and suitable rents are a shared responsibility of corporations as social enterprises and authorities. Corporations are building more houses in a more varied manner, by order of the municipality. Freedom of choice for people to rent or purchase a suitable house, is only possible if more different houses are built. Additional building with quality is therefore our motto, both in the purchasing and in the renting sector. In the cities houses must

be built for youth, families and the elderly. In the villages and centres houses must be built for the own population. Now that municipalities and provinces have received more freedom to arrange the locations for house-building, they have been given ample chances to make agreements with housing corporations and investors. Therefore corporations can fulfil their task: to offer affordable and suitable houses for rent. The assignment of houses will be influenced more by renting agencies, such as corporations. There will be enforceable performance-agreements between the housing corporations and the municipalities.

The CDA wants to continue to promote the ownership of houses, also because the purchase of a house generates more attention for the neighbourhood and the environment. The deduction of mortgage interest helps in this respect and therefore we wish to keep this intact.

Furthermore, the CDA wants to adjust the rent allowance, so that in the next period we shall grow towards a situation in which the lessee never has to pay more than a fixed percentage of the income on (standardised) rent. If the rent is higher than this percentage they receive a rent allowance (maximisation of charges). In ascertaining this rent the government starts from the average rent that is paid for houses. Lessees who want to pay more rent, will also have to put more on the table themselves.

But living is much more than only the house or apartment. Also the neighbourhood and environment determine the enjoyment of living. The quarter is a place

for people to meet each other, to relax and help each other mutually. Green in and around the city, space for meeting and relaxation make living pleasant and city and village liveable. Especially old quarters in small and large cities require extra money and attention to remain attractive.

2.5.1.

More and also more appropriate houses will have to be built by sharp agreements on performance between the Ministry of VROM, municipalities, housing corporations and investors on the basis of a municipal perception of living. In formulating this perception lessees and/or organizations of lessees will be involved. Municipalities and provinces invest to make the construction of more houses possible. And to arrange quarters and neighbourhoods in such a manner that people can live there in a liveable and safe surrounding. In this respect the CDA aims at an integral approach of the total housing market. For people with a lower income more affordable houses will be made available, additionally. In the agreements the height of prices of lots will also be involved. On the basis of the value of the municipal immovable property (the hidden reserve) the municipalities can make extra investments in houses and in liveability. The house-building must also be advanced by speeding up the procedures around zoning plans, building permits and such. Equality between contract parties is an absolute condition for reaching agreements on performance. The CDA stands for an integral approach of the housing market and will prevent unilateral operations on the purchase or rent market.

2.5.2.

Housing corporations take their responsibility as social enterprises and build more houses, in which they pay extra attention to affordable houses for starters, youth and the elderly. They also invest in old neighbourhoods in large and small cities together with municipalities. Especially in certain quarters in large cities there must be more expensive houses. The ISV-system will be maintained here, in which there must be attention especially for making it suitable for the future consequences of demographic developments.

2.5.3.

Housing corporations are social enterprises, which must receive the space to live up to their social responsibility. Not only do they manage the houses, they also invest in the living environment. They can for example make combinations of living and care, invest in social immovable property and signal financial problems of lessees at an early stage.

2.5.4.

The CDA wants people to have more freedom to choose where and how they want to live. In the agreements on performance of municipalities, housing corporations and investors – in which lessees and/or organizations of lessees will be involved – there must be much more attention for specific wishes for living of youth, families and the elderly. Limited assignment of houses is only permitted if a municipality is not able to realise much new building or at restructuring an existing neighbourhood. People must also be enabled to design their own house more easily.

2.5.5.

The CDA wishes to support the further broadening of the rental policy, on the condition that the housing construction is stimulated strongly. In this way allocation may enable a more suitable way of living. The marginal return for the housing corporations must be invested in keeping the rents affordable. All this may also help to settle the gap between unilaterally cheap and unilaterally expensive areas in cities and regions and in the process also meet the wish of the four big cities. Together with an extra investment from the government in the rent allowance of some hundreds of millions of euros in the next period we shall be growing towards maximisation of charges.

2.5.6.

Municipalities, also smaller ones, must become greener in order to improve the liveability of quarters and the health of people. There will be an coordination between building projects of suburbs of cities and building projects in cities. This is intended to give restructuring of old city quarters priority and so to prevent Vinex (Supplement to the Fourth Policy Document on Spatial Planning) locations from causing the middle class to leave the city.

2.5.7.

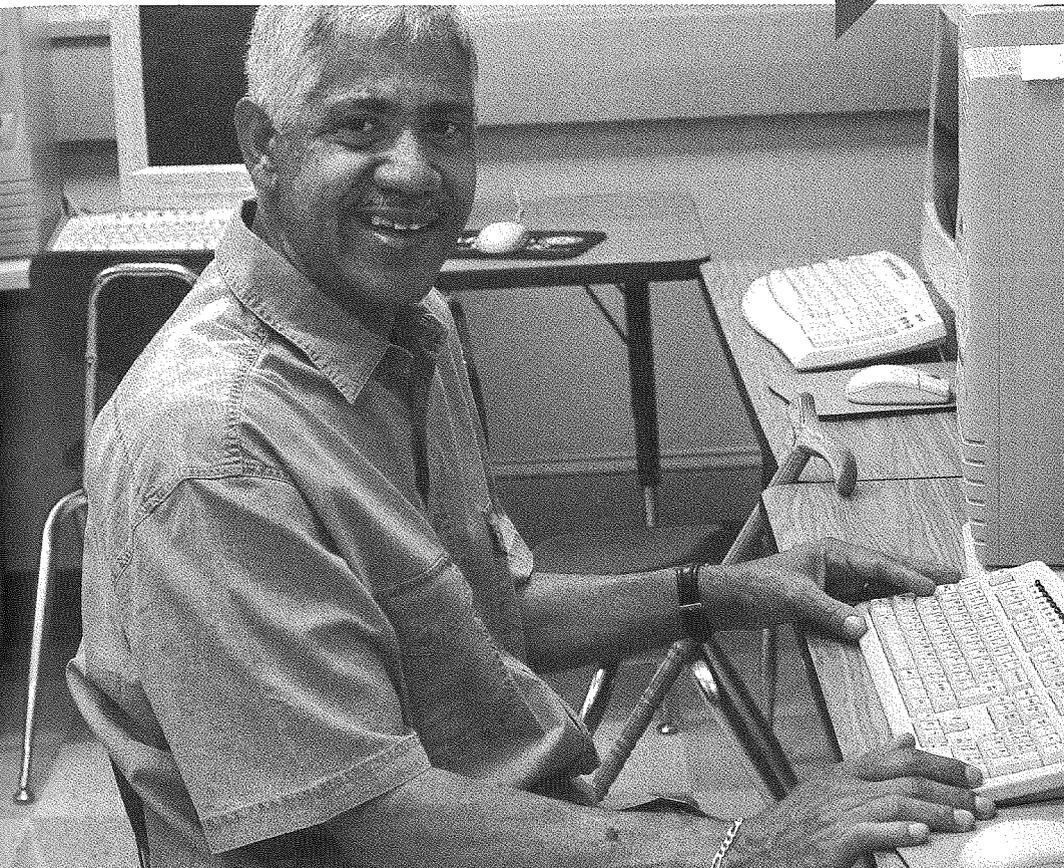
The CDA wants to promote the ownership of housing permanently, e.g. by maintaining the deduction of mortgage interest in its present form. Additionally, the CDA wants to promote social purchase and socially bound property. The CDA previously took the initiative to achieve a fund to

make it easier for starters to lend money. This fund must receive an extra impulse. The possibilities for starters on the housing market will be enhanced this way. The CDA pays attention to property-neutral request-support of living.

2.5.8.

Sustainable investments in maintenance of houses will be stimulated. The greatest energy savings/sustainability can be organised in the existing supply of houses. Moreover, it contributes to sustainable innovation, employment and revaluation of old city quarters. This may be given shape in the form of a starting investment / facilitated loan via a revolving fund or Public Private Cooperation (PPC). The revolving fund may be filled by existing amounts from Economic Affairs and VROM, Economic Structure Enhancing Fund (FES) and (part of the) energy tax profits. Execution must simply be effected via one counter with power of decision.

Participation





The labour shortage offers opportunities. We shall invest in education and employment mediation to create opportunities for older employees, women, youth, newcomers and partially disabled persons. Everybody is entitled to income, work and an old age pension.

3. The Netherlands, confidence in a social country: promoting participation and protecting the income

Work gives people opportunities to develop themselves and to participate in society. Paid work also offers the best income protection. It enables people to take care of themselves and their families and to build up their pensions for later. People who can work must also be able to set to work. This requires a good economic policy and a justified development of wage costs. The wage costs have fortunately been moderated in the past few years via social agreements.

It remains distressing, however, that on the one hand we signal shortages in well-trained professionals, while at the same time there is a large group of people with insufficient qualifications who find it hard to get work. The combination of staffing deficits and mass unemployment is risky: staffing deficits produce high wages, leaving companies and loss of competition. Personnel deficits also result in too few nurses and therefore waiting lists. Schools are faced with shortages of teachers. We cannot permit ourselves all this. Also because we need everybody to be able to pay the rising expenses of the old age pension and health care. Therefore it is necessary to educate people well and to see that, also during the career, knowledge and skills are kept up to the required standard. This diminishes the risk of unemployment. This is in the first instance a joint assignment of employer and employee.

Most people can provide in their own income. For those who are (temporarily) unable to do so, the CDA gives yet certainty of income via the social security and/or via surcharges. Here the CDA not only looks at the income, but also at the costs that peo-

ple have to make. If the costs of children, the rent and the premiums of the care insurance turn out too high, the CDA wants to compensate this. The height of the old age pension-benefit and the pensionable age are in safe hands with the CDA.

3.1. A social Netherlands, with job security and labour supply

The CDA aims at increasing the labour participation, but in a way that people can combine their work with care and lifelong learning. The latter is badly needed, for knowledge is increasingly important. The job for life will occur less and less often: people will fill various functions with various employers during their careers, refresher courses belong to this.

Even more can be done to increase labour participation. We can for instance stimulate the elderly to continue to work until they are 65 years of age. We can make it easier to continue to work voluntarily after this age. We can incite employers (and employees) to prevent people from becoming disabled or unemployed via changes in social security. We can scale down the government, so that the workers that are becoming more and more scarce can set to work where they are needed most: in enterprises, in schools, in care institutions or for example with the police.

We also see possibilities to improve the labour market policy and reintegration policy that is now very much disintegrated. By transfer of dossiers, waiting time, through time and non-consecutive guidance people unnecessarily fall

into arrears. Fortunately more and more work is based on individual reintegration agreements. The new Unemployment act (Unemployment Insurance Act) comprises the test Eligibility for Permanent Invalidity Benefit (Restrictions) and custom-made work in reintegration obligations. Many municipalities work with work-first- and made-to-measure routes. Yet gaps remain, especially in the route between the Unemployment Insurance Act and the Work and Assistance Act (WWB). This route can be made more effective by improving the division of responsibilities within the execution structure. Those who are unable to work at the regular labour market owing to any restrictions, must be able to find a place in the social work provision. Of course this requires sufficient capacity.

We ask from entrepreneurs that they cooperate in the integration process, by helping people with a backlog, often also newcomers, to get to work. Participation is good for the integration and by working people develop their talents. It offers youth and minorities places for learning and apprenticeships, and provides sustainable social relations.

3.1.1.

The career plan supports people in their career in a rapidly changing labour market. The career plan aims to support people in care, education, entrepreneurship, run-down of the career, early pension and a second career. The save-as-you-earn deduction continues to exist.

3.1.2.

The career plan will become an individual

saving insurance for periods of less income. There must be a similar arrangement for the self-employed. The career plan is there for financing e.g.:

- unpaid leave (which is already possible) for care, parental leave;
- a period between jobs;
- a supplement to the income if someone is going to earn less at a career change or part-time work;
- a supplement to the income when accepting a less burdening function at the end of the career or at early pension;
- an income during the start-up of an own company, if the company does not generate sufficient revenues yet.

3.1.3.

It must be possible to give the employer's contribution specifically: only to those who participate in the career plan. This stimulates collective regulations. For young people the credit facility will be interesting, because it will be supported fiscally. The CDA wants to stimulate lifelong learning. If people use the career plan to get some schooling, they receive schooling-leave discount (comparable with the parental leave discount).

3.1.4.

In CAOs (industry-wide collective bargaining agreement) customized agreements can be made about education and 'routes from work to work' in case of discharge. It will be attractive to invest the discharge compensation in education. In the height of the discharge compensation earlier investments in the education, the labour market position and employability (defensibility) of the employee on the labour market will

weigh expressly, too. In this connection it will be considered whether and to what extent the transfer to social partners of the Unemployment Insurance Act may contribute to the prevention of unemployment and investment in availability.

3.1.5.

Civil servants law will be levelled up with labour law in the Dutch Civil Code.

3.1.6.

To prevent fluctuations, we shall work towards structurally cost-covering premiums for employers and employees in social security. A justified development of wage costs is of great importance if we do not want to price ourselves out of the market, to maintain employment and to prevent the wages from being pushed up in the collective sector. The CDA relies on the social partners to settle on a justified development of wage costs.

3.1.7.

Personal service provides much simple employment. The wage costs for employers will be reduced, so that there will be more jobs. For working people it is important that the fall of income for the employee will be prevented. The labour discount is in this manner used to promote participation and the surcharges are given shape more properly. Point of departure is that a person who can work and does that, too, must always be better off than while receiving benefits. During two years employers can engage a person against the current minimum wage level of 21 years. It is important that, at the beginning of the route, employer and employee both have the intention to

continue with each other against a regular wage or CAO-wage after two years. In return the employer compensates the costs of education of the employee up to at least 10 percent of the legal minimum wage. In this manner people can use work and schooling to qualify themselves better for the labour market via so-called step-up jobs. The CDA does not want any new permanently subsidised jobs, but to give people the prospect of regular work. Afterwards the job-seekers must have a perspective of a regular job with CAO-wages with the employer.

3.1.8.

The tax structure will be more focused on stimulating labour participation and economic independence. For younger generations working will be made more attractive. Parents with children keep freedom of choice in the division of labour and care among themselves. Also the career growth from small part-time jobs to greater part-time jobs is stimulated. The first and second wage bracket will be joined together. This goes hand in hand with a rise of labour discount, which is subsequently gradually run down as the income is increasing. The surcharges will be given shape better.

3.1.9.

Municipalities get the financial and administrative responsibility for the Centres for Work and Income, the social work provision (WSW) and the Law Work and Assistance. They will cooperate at a regional level. The CWI (Centre for Work and Income) and the municipalities in the region are the pivot in employment mediation and reintegration to size. Reintegration and labour market

policy will be in one hand this way. This will improve the quality and effectiveness of reintegration, because the right reintegration route can be started up energetically earlier in the process. Such a coherent policy gives the municipality an option to save on social security. Therefore we shall create one fund for reintegration and integration for municipalities. The WSW-infrastructure may be used for leading people who are at a greater distance towards the labour market. By specifically guiding people in the activities, their productivity and independence will grow. The number of jobs in the social work provision will be extended.

3.1.10.

The financing of municipal tasks is subject of research in the next cabinet period. The division of budgets must do justice to the local problems.

3.1.11.

The CDA wants to continue to utilise the talents of older employees. To enable people to continue to work with pleasure in the last part of their careers, many pension arrangements have a part-time pension and flexible pensioning. The CDA wants to enable a continued use of the career plan for part-time pensions. It must also be possible to use the arrangement as a completion of the income if a less burdening function is accepted.

3.1.12.

For the elderly who choose to do this, it must be possible to work after their 65th year with preservation of their old age pension. There will not be a loosening up of the old-age pension, but legally and practi-

cally it will be simpler for employer and employee to continue the employment at the age of 65 on the basis of a new employment contract, if they want to. The CDA wants to stimulate lifelong learning. Also the authorities stimulate longer working of their personnel.

3.1.13.

A 40 hours' working week is promoted to prevent staffing shortages, to control the wage costs and to create a better financial basis for pension provisions. Being the greatest employer, the government sets the example, giving employees a free choice of making longer working weeks with compensation in their salary in return.

3.1.14.

Participation of women must receive a considerable impulse in the next few years. In this respect there must be equal rewards for men and women for equal functions and performances.

3.2. The Netherlands, a social country with certainty of income

Most people can provide in their own income. For those who can (temporarily) not do so the CDA wants to offer certainty of income via two paths:

- **social security.** The employed persons insurance schemes Unemployment Insurance Act and WIA offer certainty of income to those who are disabled or temporarily unemployed. During the Balkenende cabinets these insurances are better aimed at prevention: preventing leave and helping dropouts back to work

as soon as possible. In the disability act this has worked so well that the benefits for fully disabled persons can be raised to 75 percent of the wages. Then there is the social security: the relief for those who cannot provide in their income via work, employed persons insurance schemes, old age pensions or pensions. The CDA thinks that social security in combination with the surcharges and family allowance must be sufficient to be able to lead a useful existence with perspective.

- **surcharges.** The CDA adheres to a policy of extra allowances that supports households in the standardised costs of living, care and children, so that sufficient spendable income remains.

Then another important theme: the old age pension. The CDA thinks that the old age pension must remain a prosperity-proof basic pension that people receive from their 65th year onwards and is against an extra levy for senior citizens such as the so-called public funding of the old age pension. For this would reduce the value of the built-up pensions; a labour condition for which employees have saved together with their employers. For the same reason letting the elderly pay premiums will be of no avail to younger generations either. On the contrary, they will be put to great expense. For in due course they will also have to pay for their old age pension and therefore already now have to pay more pension premium to meet this.

The Netherlands has one of the best pension systems in the world. The CDA does not want to meddle with this successful

system. The secret of our success: a prosperity proof basic pension in the form of the old age pension, deductible pension contributions that enable the employees to build up a capital-covered pension amounting a maximum of 100 percent of the salary and additionally possibilities for individual arrangements. In this construction it has been taken into consideration that later, as old-age pensioners, they need not pay any old age pension-premium anymore. Anyone who changes this, actually increases the expenses of the pension contributions.

Poverty has received much attention of late. What has remained underexposed, is that in comparison with ten years ago and with other European countries, the Netherlands has little poverty. Moreover, not everybody with a lower income is poor. Also people with higher incomes sometimes get into great financial problems. Poverty has many faces and causes. This does not alter the fact that the problem must be taken seriously. Therefore, in combination with the extra allowances and family allowance, social security must be adequate to be able to live with perspective. The CDA also wants to invest in this in the next few years and reserve extra resources for children and for the rent allowance. In this manner poverty is counteracted specifically. People must indeed be able to participate in society to the full. Incidentally, poverty is often not only a matter of a lack of money, there is also social poverty. This also merits attention.

3.2.1.

In the past few years the CDA has worked towards guaranteeing certainty of income

for the future via the Unemployment Insurance Act, WIA, old age pension and extra allowances. The CDA has also worked on solid finances to cope with a future rise of expenses by the ageing population. The CDA will continue this policy and wants:

- to maintain the old age pension as a prosperity-proof basic pension at 65 years;
- to preserve the pension deduction in order to keep up our solidarity pension system;
- to maintain the deduction of mortgage interest to promote the ownership of housing, also for the middle incomes;
- to keep the family allowance income-dependent for all families in order to guarantee the solidarity between households with and without children;
- not to let the health care based on the AWBZ become dependent on the saved capital.

3.2.2.

Everybody keeps an option to save for a pension in a fiscally friendly manner. In many pension arrangements the pension can be taken out, if desired, earlier or later than at 65 years, whether or not in part-time. Pension funds (and insured regulations) see that the influence of pensioners is amply regulated, as it has also been agreed with the senior citizens' associations.

3.2.3.

The social insurances have the function to offer certainty in spendable income and well-being when people are at age, unemployed or disabled. The number of disabled persons has decreased. Therefore for fully and durably disabled persons, also for persons enjoying Disablement

Insurance Act, WAZ (Self-employed Persons Disability Benefits Act) or Wajong (Invalidity Insurance [Young Disabled Persons] Act), the benefit can be raised from 70 percent to 75 percent and the Pempa-penalty (Premium differentiation and market forces in disability insurances) can be abolished.

3.2.4.

The arrangement of resumption of work for partially disabled people (WGA) will be effectuated per sector/ enterprise (preferably privately). This makes it possible – in good consultation between employer and employees – to achieve a chain approach of quality of labour, prevention policy, active absence management and reintegration as early as possible in the path of illness or disablement. In this manner the chance of recovery and reintegration is optimally utilized. In case of optimal utilisation of the partial earning capacity a wage-related benefit for the disablement part is appropriate. Employers and employees are responsible for the execution of the arrangement of resumption of work for partially disabled people. If reintegration companies are deployed, they will be judged by the success percentages.

3.2.5.

Income policy is a matter of the national government. The maximisation of charges will be given shape in such a way that people have more certainty about their capacity. In the standardization of the minimum wage and the extra allowances for rent, care premium and children, the necessary costs of existence will be taken into account. The extra allowances for rent, care policy, childcare and the children's

bonus (as from 2008) will be standardized; the percentages must be legally laid down. These percentages are: 15 percent for the rent, 10 or 5 percent for health care (depending on the degree of so-called standardisation) and 10 percent for the costs of children. Especially for singles the rent allowance will be improved, so that the poverty trap will be avoided: work must be rewarding. The cost standards will be determined in such a way that the special social security can function for special costs. For the sake of efficiency the implementing bodies must dispose of linked data of the Municipal Basic Administration (GBA) and the administration of the WOZ (Valuation of Immovable Property). The different levy discounts, allowable deductions for special costs will be simplified and streamlined.

3.2.6.

Municipalities execute the Law Work and Social security. To prevent poverty, good and specific information about provisions is needed in order to force back the 'non-use' of this. Also low-threshold standardized application procedures and forms can help, just like correct and active treatment of customers by municipal and other public services.

3.2.7.

Exceeding on overdraft facilities may lead to a problematic debt situation. The CDA wants the government to make a covenant with credit providers about the loan ceiling and central registration. For the existing cases of exceeding on overdraft facilities help with debt problems is of great importance. Help with debt problems by

municipalities is stimulated and supported by the national government. Maintenance will be collected and paid centrally where necessary. If possible, a financial sanction is imposed in case of non-fulfilment of the agreed arrangement concerning (parental) access rights. It will be investigated whether this is also necessary for the contribution of the parents (Wsf, Student Finance Act) to the study expenses of their studying children.

3.2.8.

The CDA wants to investigate how a pregnancy and delivery benefit for the self-employed and cooperating partners can be given shape.

3.2.9.

The CDA wants to promote a balanced scale of salaries and makes an appeal to enterprises and their shareholders. They have a moral responsibility to limit excessive compensations. The CDA anticipates that the new legal duty of information to the Works Council about compensations will stimulate equal relations within enterprises. Shareholders get full transparency in all compensation components of administrators and commissioners and their voice in this respect. The CDA thinks that social enterprises have an extra responsibility because of their social objective and anticipates that they will mitigate the top incomes via a governance code.

3.2.10.

The CDA wants to achieve that the incomes and compensations of civil servants and administrators in the government, government companies and administrators with

the government and where the government has a majority interest, are not any higher than the income of the Prime Minister. Also in sectors such as health care, education and public housing the wages will be moderated and the ministers' salaries are guiding here.

3.2.11.

The CDA wants the highest rate for tax on inheritance to be levelled up with the highest rate of the income-tax.

Leading





Our country has the future. And keeps it, too. This is why we are going to invest in innovation and knowledge. So that we can trust that our country will continue to count on its own. And belongs to the leading group of Europe. Our attention is focused on the exports markets: sustainability, clean energy, innovative care. For a healthy, sustainable economy.

4. The Netherlands, confidence in an enterprising country: sparkling and working

4.1 The Netherlands, competitive and innovative

The economy is growing strongly, fortunately, after many years of economic recession. In the past few years the Balkenende cabinets have done much work to make our country and our economy stronger. We have invested in innovation and education. The climate for entrepreneurs has improved and rules and administrative expenses have been reduced. And indeed investments are made again and the economy is strongly growing this year, after many years of economic crisis. In the next few years we can build on this further.

The Netherlands is an innovative country with much knowledge and creativity. Historically we have had a trading spirit and commercial talent for booking successes on the world market. This gives us a strong position. Our country is the home of many large Multinational Corporations and is rich in fast-growing middle companies, family companies and new entrepreneurship. The economy of tomorrow will build further on the strong sectors of today, and on the new and rising sectors of tomorrow. For instance: agrifood, high-tech, specialised chemistry, water technology, transport and logistics, telecom, the financial sector and a growing creative sector. In short, the Netherlands has sufficient possibilities to continue belonging to the most thriving countries in the world.

The globalization, which sometimes seems to be a threat, provides many new opportunities. The Netherlands relies on trade and export, and therefore has an interest

in an open economy. New opportunities arise also because ICT makes it possible for people all over the world to work together. Huge markets are coming up, now that countries in Asia are rapidly transforming into economic superpowers. Also in Europe we see that economies are getting more and more interconnected. Inhabitants of the previous Eastern Bloc countries can gradually come to our country to work freely.

An interesting development is that to develop alternatives for the polluting consumption and production does not only cost money. Cleaner production and innovation fit excellent in the agenda of a knowledge economy. At the same time innovation creates jobs, exactly also in our 'making industry'. Innovation can at the same time promote the export. Other countries are also interested in the innovations that function here. Innovation enables agriculture to contribute to nature conservation and to sustainability: bio fuels in stead of petrol and plants in stead of oil for the industry.

Research and development are necessary for further growth. But especially the private investments in research and development stay behind. By creating good preconditions, the government can obtain private investments, so that knowledge can be used by entrepreneurs for developing new products and services and new production processes.

And, we have said this before, but we shall repeat it again here: space is needed for new entrepreneurship, but also for existing enterprises. For the entrepreneurs create

the jobs and see to it that the prosperity of the Netherlands grows. A growing number of entrepreneurs with a foreign background are giving an impulse to the Dutch economy. The Netherlands is also the home basis for many large global chains. We can be proud of this, as we can be proud of our family companies, the fast-growing middle companies and much new entrepreneurship. Yet there are obstacles. Too often good ideas and simple solutions of citizens and companies break down in procedures and bureaucracy. In the next few years the government will have to give entrepreneurs, institutions and people space and confidence. For example by providing permits more easily and not interfering until someone appears not to have stuck to the rules. A good establishment climate at the same time requires investments in the so-called green infrastructure, in a green environment, so that it also remains attractive for companies in this respect to locate themselves in the Netherlands.

4.1.1.

The Innovation platform advises about innovation, industry policy and the promotion of entrepreneurship and will integrate existing advisory bodies in this domain, so that overlaps, duplication and bureaucracy disappear. The platform especially aims at sectors and research where the Netherlands is or can be strong: the key areas must be further developed.

4.1.2.

Unnecessary obstacles for starting a company at home will be removed. Making a restart and expanding an enterprise will be made easier. Often contracting personnel is

a threshold for independent entrepreneurs because of the costs and the rules and administration that go hand in hand with having personnel, while in some situations the balance between rights and duties is lost.

4.1.3.

The CDA wants to further improve the climate for entrepreneurship and reduce existing pressure points in the fiscal succession problems. Furthermore existing venture capital arrangements must be utilised more effectively, focused on a good access to the capital market for starters and growing companies. Also micro credits will be provided more easily; they especially give entrepreneurs with a foreign background a better start and development possibilities. A guarantee arrangement will be introduced for micro credits.

4.1.4.

More money will be made available for higher education and research. A part of it will go to the transfer of knowledge. The research funds are partly bound to co-financing from the private sector. Government and trade and industry will have to invest more in research and development and then especially in valorising research. Additional focus and mass in scientific research can be achieved by further working out strategic choices, in such a way that it also contributes to the competitive capacity of the Netherlands. Practice-oriented research in Higher Vocational Education can contribute considerably to the knowledge circulation between academies, companies and institutions. Here it is important that Dutch universities work

together with foreign universities in the framework of scientific research. Dutch universities must be able to bind foreign scientists to themselves in a simple manner, to prevent an outflow of knowledge.

4.1.5.

Enterprises in the middle- and small-scale business produce a healthy Dutch economy. To remain healthy companies must innovate. Entrepreneurs know this like no one else does. They continuously improve their processes or launch new products and services. This urge to innovate is what the CDA wants to enhance strongly. The cooperation between universities, academies and knowledge centres and the trade and industry must be further enhanced. The investments in innovation vouchers for the middle- and small-scale businesses will be continued. Applied research will be effected in a more demand-driven manner. By means of personnel exchange between higher vocational education/university on the one hand and middle- and small-scale business (SME) on the other hand direct connections will be realized. In this manner the innovative power of the trade and industry can be enlarged and knowledge institutions will work more demand-driven.

4.1.6.

To promote private investments in research and development and to step up innovation the Law Promotion Research- and Development work (WBSO) will be extended, e.g. focused on starting innovators. In this manner the Dutch investment climate for research and development will be strengthened to a considerable extent and new activities will be obtained.

4.1.7.

In the acquisition of foreign companies the Netherlands uses the strength of the various regions. Foreign Research & Development-companies can make an appeal to the innovation instruments that our country disposes of, also prior to establishment. In this manner foreign R&D-companies will be stimulated to proceed to invest in the Netherlands during the process of choosing a location. Actual establishment will then be conditional for actual granting of subsidy.

4.1.8.

The government can promote innovation with its tender policy, for example by placing innovative government assignments, in which not only the price but also the innovation and export potential are weighed. A certain percentage of government assignments will be earmarked for the mid- and small-scale businesses.

4.1.9.

The CDA wants the government to stimulate a market for more sustainable energy and sustainable products by speeding up innovations and their propagation. In this manner new employment will be created as well. The latter can be done by making sustainable products more attractive in price as compared to polluting products (fiscal greening). Instruments preferably stimulate self-regulation, so that parties themselves work on innovative solutions for the environmental problems.

4.1.10.

Also the government can work in a more clever way. For instance, the digital govern-

ment can see that citizens and enterprises need to supply their data to the government only once. The government stimulates that knowledge and practical experience, especially around ICT, are embedded broader and more specifically in education, in the safety policy, in identification, in the infrastructure and in the application of law.

4.1.11.

For the next four years a hard reduction of administrative expenses and fulfilment expenses will be agreed upon, as well as a shorter through time of procedures. Permit systems will be further pushed back and where necessary bundled or replaced by general rules. The government diminishes the number of supervisors, and prevents supervisors from making additional rules themselves. Fewer checks enhance the confidence. In case of offences the sanctions will be higher.

4.1.12.

In education, from the preparatory intermediate vocational education to university, the choice subject 'entrepreneurship and professional preparation' will be introduced, of which entrepreneurship is a part. Schools of course have the option to fill this in by all sorts of variants, for example via mini enterprises, via entrepreneurs in class and apprenticeships in the trade and industry. In cooperation with the trade and industry entrepreneurs' centres will be formed where the entrepreneurship education gets an impulse. Learn young, learn fair.

4.1.13.

People with knowledge and skills of which there is a shortage in the Netherlands and

which cannot be solved by formation and education of residents, will more easily be given access to our country. On the basis of a speedy test they acquire access to our labour market for a certain period. At their departure they will receive part of the paid premiums for the legal social security back. For foreign students it will be easier to start working in the Netherlands after their study. The granting of visa to foreign employees of Dutch companies, and to their families, and to bona fide foreign business people must be improved in such a way that it does not produce a needless barrier in international business traffic.

4.1.14.

Naturally illegal employment will be severely punished. In the framework of free traffic of employees within the EU there can be no question of unfair competition on conditions of employment.

4.1.15.

The point of departure of the consumer policy is and remains the own responsibility of consumers and companies. Therefore the CDA wants to aim at strengthening the self-regulation and low-threshold, speedy and binding settlement of disputes. Additional freedom of choice (and therefore more parties in the market and fewer rules) goes hand in hand with more individual responsibility for consumers and companies, but does not dismiss the government from its task of tackling abuses. With the incorporation of the Consumer authority these abuses can be dealt with.

4.1.16.

To prevent bureaucracy, the border country

effects will be established in new regulatory measures. This will make it transparent for each new law or amendment to an Act which consequences the propositions have in the border areas as to economic and social consequences. In this manner we promote that the legislation is consistent with the European economic integration and that competition is promoted.

4.1.17.

Protectionist measures of trading partners are a permanent threat for the free development of the world trade and for the world economy, including the position of developing countries. Therefore the CDA want to work on a justified further liberalisation of the world trade. The WTO as a pillar of the international economic legal system must be fully supported. The Netherlands and the EU must make an effort to see that the European economic, social and ecological values that are aimed at sustainable economic growth also find imitation in the rising new economies.

4.1.18.

The government must support companies to conquer a place in markets that are hard to access using a well-equipped trade promotion policy and an adequate instruments.

4.2. A durable economy

The earth and nature have been given to us; we may use it to live on and to enjoy. But we shall also have to hand all this over to our children and grandchildren in a good condition. The CDA does not want to shift environmental issues to future generations or developing countries. Economic growth

must not be at the expense of the environment. In the Netherlands much has been achieved already. We produce much more environmentally friendly than some years ago, also thanks to good policy and cooperation between government and trade and industry. Economic growth and a healthier environment go together better and better. Further results can be booked by involving consumers, producers, companies and social organizations in the environmental policy and by calling them to account about their responsibility.

Environment is a cross-border issue. Rising economies, such as China and India, will have an extra environmental impact and accelerate the speed of pollution. In the Netherlands we see that a large part of our air and water pollution comes from across the border. There are examples of good international cooperation. With the so-called Kyoto agreements progress has certainly been made, but still not enough by far.

Then another important issue: energy. Our dependence on fossil fuels makes us vulnerable for instability in those parts of the world where these fuels are produced. The supplies of oil, natural gas and also coal are also not only limited, but more and more also expensive (oil) or dirty (pit coal). Our economy is vulnerable for fluctuations in oil prices. At a global and European level we must therefore cooperate, for example about the certainty of supply in Europe.

Energy must be affordable, reliable and clean. A full switching over to sustainable energy sources will take a few decades.

Still we shall have to start with it right away. In the short and medium term this can be achieved by energy-saving, a cleaner use of fossil energy sources and the utilisation of climate neutral sources, for example CO₂-storage. The final purpose is the change-over to sustainable energy such as solar energy and wind energy. This transition also offers huge opportunities for innovation and new employment.

4.2.1.

The Netherlands will have a minister of environment again in the next cabinet. The Netherlands supports the European environmental objectives, as long as those environmental objectives are accompanied by an ambitious approach at the source. It must also be made transparent in advance what the effects of the European regulatory measures are on the specific Dutch situation. The CDA wants to translate target values, included in EU-directives, in the field of the use of energy (sustainable electricity, bio fuels) as soon as possible into Dutch legislation. All 'national heads' on European directives in existing Dutch legislation will be abolished, except when specific Dutch circumstances require a Dutch solution and/or if the realization of targets of this program is obstructed.

4.2.2.

In setting the standard for the environment, the government must choose methods that make an appeal on the responsibility of people, enterprises and organizations as much as possible. This invites innovation. The standards must be consistent and stable and not overlap or contradict each other. Regulatory measures, granting

permits and enforcement must be adjusted to the demands of this time (for example one environmental permit including water). The government will not work with extra levies until there are realistic alternatives for citizens for the extra taxed product (for example really available cleaner fuels).

4.2.3.

Energy is essential for our society. The Dutch government therefore remains responsible for the security of energy supply. It will see to it that the energy companies guarantee this. They will have to invest substantially in the production capacity of the electricity sector and the supply of gas in the next few years. Important for the surety of energy supply is ensure sufficient storage of gas. Here small gas fields may offer a solution and even an important economic opportunity. The high-voltage network remains in the hands of the Dutch government. Energy companies that sell their power stations and supplier companies, split of their distribution networks, so that they remain in public hands.

4.2.4.

Energy-saving is a good manner of decreasing the risks of the current use of energy. Moreover, it yields money. As from 2010 or as earlier as possible, 2 percent energy usage will have to be saved.

4.2.5.

The CDA wants the environmental tax to be more calculated in the costs of air traffic, if possible in European connection. Flying will therefore become more expensive.

4.2.6.

The CDA wants to officially realise a market for more sustainable energy and sustainable products by a consistent investment policy and stimulating innovations and speeding up their propagation. The CDA wants to let the Netherlands and Europe switch over to sustainable alternatives and clean fossil raw materials for 25 percent within twenty years. The CDA wants a regulation for sustainable energy that is aimed at continuous improvement of performance and at stimulating innovation.

4.2.7.

Stimulating natural gas and bio fuel in traffic and transport must immediately be started. Natural gas can be used as a transition fuel. Around 2015 the first zero emission vehicles will roll off the production line. Therefore by 2015 it must be possible to tank hydrogen in the Netherlands.

4.2.8.

In the energy provision for new houses and commercial properties we must try to find more economical methods of heating. For example geo-thermal energy, residual heat and bio-energy from the industry, solar energy and heat-cold-storage. An exploration of the (im-)possibilities of Concentrated Sun Power will be carried out. The CDA wants to process sustainability in the (energy)price of goods, for example via high and low VAT. For energy-saving lamps the low rate of 6 percent VAT will apply in stead of 19 percent. The Energy box for consumers will be widely spread. And the government will only have energy-saving buildings erected.

4.2.9.

Sustainable energy will gradually become a growth market. The Netherlands has good possibilities to store CO₂, to work on a knowledge-intensive agriculture and to see that its knowledge institutes in the field of sustainable development belong to the top of the world. The Netherlands also has provisions for relatively clean natural gas. Storage of natural gas in empty gas fields and in for example salt domes also offers our country an opportunity to become a central connection point for the certainty of supply in West-Europe. Employment may grow in the offshore-industry (CO₂-storage and wind energy at sea), in the bio mass sector (agriculture, processors of waste and distribution) and in the PV-industry (for the benefit of solar cells).

4.2.10.

The trade and industry will minimise the expenses under the new system of the emission trade; this will promote innovation. Storage or catching of CO₂ may be brought under the emission trade system. Ample before the Kyoto period terminates, investors must be given certainty about the future emission rights policy. The system for trade in emission rights can be broadened with a perspective of many years for investors. 4.2.11. Within the context of Europe, and starting from a developing innovative waste processing and from the possibility to store waste safely, nuclear energy remains one of the options to decrease the CO₂ emissions from the electricity production in a climate-neutral manner during the transition to sustainable energy. Naturally, high demands will also be made of the production: safe and with

the latest techniques. Also in the light of the important international part that the Netherlands plays in enriching uranium, efforts will be continued intensively to apply/make applicable nuclear energy in a responsible manner. Further research of nuclear fusion merits support. The use of solar energy will be strongly promoted.

4.3. Space, nature, scenery and water

The Netherlands have a magnificent scenery, from which much can be learned about our history. We wish to keep it this way. But space is also needed for other matters. Companies must be able to be established at suitable and accessible locations. This is important for employment and for economic growth. Also realising a good living and social climate requires space. At the same time for example the climate change, high-water problems, the development of Schiphol airport and the attainability in and of the Randstad require space.

This must be fitted into each other wisely and in our little country this requires an integral approach. The CDA sees much perspective in combining functions, for example combinations of water and living, tourism and agriculture (blue services), economic activity and nature. Qualitative investments in the green infrastructure, including ecological main structure, connection zones and national landscapes, remain necessary. The scenery asks for a quality impulse and must be liveable and accessible.

4.3.1.

The CDA wants to preserve the Dutch scenery with its cultural-historic landscape

patterns and characteristics. The scenery has its own, intrinsic value with qualities such as rest, space, beauty and wealth of flora and fauna. The scenery also has an economic value: as an establishment factor and as a source of income for agriculture, recreation and tourism.

4.3.2.

The CDA wants to invest in a green infrastructure. Green 'in and around the city' and the national landscapes get a financial impulse. The CDA wants the implementing programmes to be carried out to the full and the necessary resources to be made available. Besides this, the CDA continues to aim at the realisation of the ecological main structure, including robust connections. Robust connections will be realized with sufficient support at the local level. The development of the national heritage for the benefit of green/blue investments will be explored. By private initiative (for example via revolving funds) the Delta landscape may get a follow-up.

4.3.3.

Without agrarian entrepreneurship a vital countryside is impossible. This is only possible if the agrarian use of land is economically profitable. Then the landscape will be preserved and developed, without high extra costs for the government.

4.3.4.

Where necessary and possible, rivers must get more space; water is co-managing for the spatial layout. Working on safe dikes and improved seawalls deserves priority, so that no catastrophic disasters can happen as a result of extreme weather conditions,

subsidence and the rise of the sea level. It is therefore desirable that the system of water boards are maintained as separate form of government.

4.3.5.

Many projects in the spatial planning are brought about without direct interference of the State. A national spatial main structure only indicates which values are at least guaranteed and for which structures the State has a greater responsibility. An integral spatial investment strategy, also to be financed from the Economic Structure Enhancing Fund, takes long-term developments such as climate change, attainability of the city and the surroundings of railway station in cities into account.

4.3.6.

Integral area development, that takes the environment, economy, nature, scenery and water into account, will be stimulated. Examples are the IJsseldelta, the Blue City, the Wieringerrandmeer and the southwestern delta's. Economy, infrastructure and a sustainable living environment will be developed at the same time, so that authorities, enterprises, organizations and people also feel responsible for them. The CDA wants to promote research of new land reclamation projects that may serve to unburden the pressure on the old country.

4.3.7.

It is exactly where daily life happens, that citizens must have the confidence that they do not run any excessive health- or other security risks and harassment and nuisance must be restricted to a minimum.

4.3.8.

On the basis of long-range agreements the CDA preferably wants to involve farmers in care for the Dutch cultural landscape in order to realise an accessible and more liveable agrarian cultural landscape. As far as the CDA is concerned the government must offer space to country entrepreneurs with new or broadened activities, who want to earn their own place in the country. To improve the quality of the tourist-recreational sector the CDA aims at a coherent approach of area qualities (nature, wood, scenery, cultural-historic elements), public recreation-infrastructure (areas for daytrips, city parks, paths, routes) and the supply delivered by entrepreneurs (parks for daytrips, accommodations, museums, agro-tourism, etc.).

4.3.9.

The CDA wants to deploy a 'databank natural data' to make it transparent which natural data are important for building locations. This online-provision can make an end to the delay of building projects as an unintentional side effect of the policy to protect nature and biodiversity.

4.3.10.

A new balance will have to be found in the nature policy between ecology and economy. To this aim the regulatory measures for the Natura2000-areas must be reviewed. In these regulatory measures economic interests with a social basis for measures that are to be taken and the long-term perspective will be taken into account.

4.4. mobility

Most people travel every day: by car, bike or public transport. We earn much money in the Netherlands with transport of goods. But we are often faced with traffic-jams. This is a problem of economic and social costs. Traffic-jams also cause more environmental pollution.

The CDA therefore wants to invest in roads: in a restricted number of missing links in our road network and especially in the broadening of roads. Furthermore we plead for a pricing of kilometres. This will not make driving a car more expensive. But the money will be spent on maintenance and construction of roads. The CDA wants to increase the reliability and the quality of public transport.

The CDA wants to make an effort for cleaner driving, for sustainable mobility. By more and better public transport, but also by rewarding clean driving. The polluting emissions of petrol and diesel must be tackled at the source, by stimulating cleaner fuels and motors.

4.4.1.

The CDA wants to make the Netherlands as a whole and urban areas in particular better accessible. The CDA gives priority to a broadening of roads and better utilisation of existing roads. Around a restricted number of missing links new crossings of the landscape may be under discussion. In the EU the international road, rail and water connections must be further developed, here we may think of connections that are important for the international

economic development. The CDA thinks that only new roads may be constructed if broadening does not offer a solution and there is a sufficient support in the region.

4.4.2.

In case of the construction of infrastructure more use must be made of knowledge and risk capital of the trade and industry. For example by combining construction, financing, administration and maintenance in one package. This will lead to enhanced infrastructure and to a better maintenance.

4.4.3.

In the next period a different pricing system for driving will be prepared. It is our intention to introduce the payment system in 2012. Payments will then be made per driven kilometre, according to time and place. At places and times where it is quiet people pay less than in busy places and times. BPM (tax on passenger cars and motorcycles), road tax and Euro sticker will be finally (in their entirety or partially) be replaced by a system of payment per kilometre. The collection costs may amount at most 5 percent of the revenue. The proceeds of the pricing will actually be spent on infrastructure, public transport and accessibility. It must become possible for regions to speed up the construction of roads by asking a price for this.

4.4.4.

The CDA sets itself the target that the elderly and disabled can take part in social life. The CDA aims at making public transport completely accessible. The CDA wants to invest more in (maintenance of) railway traffic. The backlog must be eliminated. The

rapid and high-grade connections within Randstad and Brabantstad have priority. The public transport connections to the east will be improved. The agreements with the North Netherlands about enhancement of the economic structure by a rapid Zuiderzeeliner railway connection must be fulfilled (including the promised national contribution of 2.7 billion). If such a rapid connection yields insufficient structure-enhancing performance and/or cannot be operated in an efficient manner, we must coordinate with the North and Flevoland and, starting from these agreements, we must make arrangements for an alternative, coherent package. Infrastructural measures are a substantial part of this. The CDA is against further liberalisation and privatisation of national railway traffic. Decentralisation of regional railway lines is possible, if the full exploitation budget is transferred. Cross-border connections are important in all border regions. The government forces back air pollution and CO₂-emissions by preferring clean public transport and hybrid motors in the granting of concessions.

4.4.5.

The CDA wants to combat environmental pollution at the source as much as possible. Clean and fuel-efficient motors and fuels, for example in hybrid cars, and environment-sparing fuels, such as LPG and bio fuels, will be fiscally stimulated. For instance the air pollution, caused by exhaust gasses, on (arterial) roads around the large cities will be reduced drastically. In the system of pricing, too, driving in a clean car must become substantially more advantageous. The disadvantage of diverting to neighbouring countries at a differ-

ence in fuel prices can be prevented by tailoring the kilometre levy to this. Also public transport must be able to drive cleanly. Bus companies have already taken initiatives to that effect.

Also in railway traffic transport without emissions is an important ambition, also to keep the head-start with regard to car traffic in the issue of sustainability.

4.4.6.

The CDA wants to work on a further decrease of the number of road casualties. Behind every victim in traffic a family drama is to be found. Traffic still too often demands a high price. Therefore we have strongly invested in safety in the past cabinet period. We have to continue this. The use of alcohol and drugs in traffic will be severely dealt with. The government stimulates traffic education in basic and secondary education and supports the participation of parents in it.

4.4.7.

The mainport function of Schiphol-airport is important for our national (transport)economy. The CDA advocates the growth of air traffic to be effected after consultation with the surroundings and within a preservation system with protection of both the area itself and the environment. The CDA aims at a preservation system that fits in better with the experience of the local people for example by pilots. A national testing framework will be created for regional airports.

4.4.8.

Passenger traffic across water will be stimulated.

4.4.9.

With the utilisation of dynamic traffic management much profit can still be gained in the utilisation of the existing infrastructure. For instance outside the rush-hour driving could be permitted at a greater speed in order to generate spreading.

4.4.10.

The government itself gives the example of the spreading of flexible working hours. The intention being to enable the combination of care and labour better and to decrease the pressure of traffic-jams.

4.4.11.

The CDA sees mobility as a precondition for a healthy social and economic connection. People who are stuck in the traffic-jams, have less time left to combine work and care, or for volunteer work, sports, participation in social organizations and other forms of inter-human contact and development.

The mainport function of the Rotterdam port is very important for our economy. The CDA wants to maintain good connections to the wider area that is being served and make the Second Maasvlakte possible. By reserving more money for management and maintenance of waterways, the transport of goods across water will be stimulated. Also the innovation of inland shipping will be stimulated. Further development of Schiphol airport is possible in combination with legally enforceable measures to see that noise pollution is decreased. A national framework will be created for regional airports.

4.5. entrepreneurship in agriculture and horticulture

Agriculture and horticulture are among the most innovative sectors in the Netherlands. After the US and France our small country is the largest exporter of agricultural and horticulture products in the world, while only 10 percent of our professional population is employed in this sector.

Our agriculture and horticulture stand before great challenges: more competition, declining subsidies and stricter environmental demands. The good news is that the demand for quality products is growing worldwide, as is the demand for food. Also the scarcity in oil is favourable for agriculture, for bio fuels will be more in demand. The CDA wants to help the sectors with innovation, switching over to sustainable production methods and developing a future-aimed national policy.

The decrease of the number of agricultural and horticultural companies is expected to continue in the next few years. This also applies for fisheries. To terminate the company or to find that there is no perspective for the next generation is painful. In a number of cases an old tradition is halted. But we must also realise that in some cases the termination of a company may be a wise decision of the entrepreneur. The CDA wants to preserve agriculture and horticulture for the Netherlands, but sees that changes are required to this aim yet: innovation, diversification and increase in scale. The government must facilitate this process. The key to dealing with changes or adjusting to them lies with creative, coura-

geous and firm people: entrepreneurs. Also in farmers there is therefore a great need for reduction of the administrative pressure of burdens.

4.5.1.

The CDA wants no one to meddle with the agreements about the reforms of the EU-agricultural policy until the agreed date of 2013. The interim introduction of partial co-financing that was desired by the CDA may not lead to unfair competition between the member states. Yet bureaucracy must be further reduced and entrepreneurship must be given more space by a more far-reaching separation of productions and premiums.

4.5.2.

The CDA wants to get rid of the European non-vaccination policy, in which preventive vaccinations against certain animal diseases are prohibited. Moreover, the CDA thinks that healthy and vaccinated hobby animals must not be cleared at an outbreak of an animal disease. Vaccination must not have any negative consequences, such as a disturbed trade. This must be regulated internationally.

4.5.3.

The CDA wants to stimulate entrepreneurship. Developments in the countryside must remain possible: the countryside must not be locked up. The CDA wants to reduce spatial obstacles, an improvement of structure via land planning and exchange of parcels and assistance in investments in business renovation. The enlargement of home parcels is particularly important to be able to keep the cows in the meadow. Giving an impulse from the State of knowledge and

innovation in the agrifood sector there will be more possibilities for adding value to the production and to chain co-operation. Primary agriculture and horticulture in the Netherlands maintain their perspective. Yet a process of innovation, diversification and increase in scale is necessary. The market share of biological agriculture will be supported by stimulating the demand.

4.5.4.

Greenports and their satellites are areas in which knowledge-intensive horticulture and agrarian entrepreneurship will be stimulated. The CDA wants to reserve extra money from the Economic Structure Enhancing Fund for the modernisation of the greenports, for their necessary connections to national infrastructure and for the desired scenic fitting in of the 'glass city'.

4.5.5.

The Netherlands must accelerate the switching from the use of fossil- to sustainable energy in the next period. Closed greenhouses with heat, CO₂ and water storage in the ground contribute to a sustainable energy policy. The stimulation of Heat-Power Coupling remains of vital importance as an efficient and flexible supplier of energy in the years to come. Agriculture may play the main part in sustainability by the production of bio-ethanol, of colza for bio diesel and bio-oil, of sugar for biomass and by fermentation or burning for both green gas and electricity. The government stimulates a distributed supply and gives excise discount on these sources of energy and fuels. The CDA wants to broaden the energy extraction from manure and fermentation into a larger group of forerunners in

the agrarian sector by giving an investment stimulus for entrepreneurs and an adaptation of the Brussels regulatory measures.

4.5.6.

For the CDA animals are living creatures, for which each person bears responsibility. The government therefore sees that all the parties involved make agreements about welfare demands and a transparent certification. The government supports this via specific checks on compliance with the agreed standards.

4.5.7.

Genetic modification in animals for sports, entertainment and food production is not permissible and in plants under strict conditions.

4.5.8.

The necessary reorganisation of the fisheries sector will be facilitated by the government. The over-capacity must be addressed. Furthermore aquaculture on land or in the water must be stimulated, just like sustainability via technological improvements (e.g. the pulskor method). Reducing the number of European fishery regulations and simplifying them is urgently desirable.

4.5.9.

After a business takeover young farmers and market gardeners can get support in the investments they do in the first three years after the business takeover. This arrangement must be continued for many years. The CDA wants to organise a comparable arrangement for young entrepreneurs in the fisheries sector. By analogy with the investment regulation for young farmers

the CDA wants an investment regulation for new business buildings that are over and above the legal standard (e.g. extra animal-friendly keeper systems).

Open





No country can cope with the challenges of all international developments alone. Therefore an open attitude towards the outside world is important. We wish to make an active contribution to more freedom, security and poverty alleviation in the world.

5. Confidence by international cooperation: European custom-made work, peace and security

In the past few decades the world has become smaller and smaller. Countries are worldwide more and more interconnected with each other. Economically speaking more and more boundaries are disappearing. Trade has increased and therefore also prosperity worldwide. At the same time this has given rise to new challenges. As Europe, for example, we have to enter into competition with countries such as India and China, where the wage costs are only a fraction of ours. More and more companies decide to move their production. The increased prosperity also means an even greater pressure on the environment. Fortunately in numerous countries people are working hard on clean energy, but the emission of CO₂ is still increasing. We shall have to limit our high dependence on fossil fuels further, also to be less dependent on the Middle-East and Russia. This dependence may involve political risks.

The prosperity in the world has increased, it is true. But still tens of millions of people are leaving hearth and home, being on the run for poverty, for civil wars or for plundering authorities. The awareness of the fact that the world community must help in the relief of these people in their own region has grown. Yet this may involve the risk that this individual region cannot cope with the flow of refugees. This may lead to disruption, stir up the resistance against the West and produce a new breeding ground for terrorism.

The security issue has recently become more and more complex: failing states, terrorism and the possession of nuclear knowledge may coincide. The situation may eas-

ily become explosive, certainly if terrorist networks are bent on letting cultural tensions spread to the streets and schools of London, Madrid, New York and Amsterdam. The challenge to connect cultures and religions is becoming more and more urgent by all this.

Economic development, innovation, poverty alleviation, climate control, the search for new sources of energy, the promotion of security and the struggle against terrorism are more and more interrelated. No country can meet the challenges that globalisation involves alone. Certainly not a small country such as the Netherlands.

Therefore the CDA wants convincing foreign politics and a Europe that contributes to innovation, sustainability, security and the combat against terrorism. This is not only good for people far away. A European innovation policy influences job security also in our companies. The international and European politics influences the safety also in our streets. It touches on the gas and electricity bill that our households and enterprises must pay and is also decisive for the extent to which our fleet of cars pollutes the atmosphere. It influences our prosperity and thus our pensions.

This awareness does not go at the expense of the care for the far away neighbours. On the contrary, with our trade policy effort and the development cooperation, the CDA does not want to resign to the fact that the economic inequality in the world is still very large. We wish to work on effective agreements about climate control and stimulate the use of new sources of energy. We

wish to cooperate in the pursuit of human rights becoming the benchmark for all countries and cultures. We wish to promote a respectful, but critical dialogue between religions and convictions. We wish to work on stability in the world by helping to tackle conflicts in time. We wish to coordinate and adapt the security policy to the new situation in the world and, in NATO-connection, focus on peacekeeping missions, the combat against terrorism, conflict prevention and redevelopment.

For maintaining peace and security authoritative international institutions are vital. The decisiveness of such institutions towards failing states, however, is still insufficient. We have to work on this.

Building up authority and power of the UN is in itself already a difficult assignment, but it is chanceless without a coordinated and harmonised European effort. The CDA wants a UN of four pillars: security, development, humanitarian affairs and environment. The recently founded UN-human rights council must become an effective organization. Also a better enforcement of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in UN-connection is needed to reduce the ever present nuclear threat. The Charter of the Earth shows the way to sustainable development in a wide sense. Building up authority and power of the UN is difficult in itself already, but it is chanceless without a coordinated and harmonised European effort. In an open market and a monetary union Europe cannot stay behind. A more powerful Europe can add something to the international politics around peace and security starting from its own experiences,

traditions and opinions. One joint energy policy from the EU towards Russia and the Middle-East is essential. At the same time, within the Union we have to work on our own sources of energy, so that energy can remain affordable and available. Also an effective approach of crime and terrorism is only possible if the European countries cooperate intensively around security and judicial authorities. With Russia a broader partnership that aims at peace and stability in the world is needed, too.

On other issues Europe will have to step back: fewer detailed rules and a continuous alertness on the question of whether issues had not better be dealt with by member states or social organizations themselves (subsidiarity).

The Council of Europe provides a platform for working, also outside the European Union, on the broadening of the constitutional state, human rights and democracy. Duplication with activities of the European Union must be prevented here, however.

5.1. European customized work

Thanks to European co-operation Europe has changed within half a century from a war-stricken continent into a region in which countries with huge cultural differences cooperate closely, both politically and economically.

Through the European Union the Netherlands has become much more prosperous and has obtained an equal position besides the large countries. The European cooperation may certainly not only be

viewed from the point of view of financial contributions. This might stand in the way of a harmonious European approach of the challenges of this time.

Europe is more than only economic and monetary co-operation. The inhabitants of the European member states also share a joint history, besides values that are anchored in respect for human rights, for democracy, for the constitutional state and for each other's cultures. At the same time some customized work is required. Europe must not unnecessarily interfere with education, with health care, with the social security, with our fiscal system and our pensions. It is not necessary and it is undesirable. The awareness that a 'higher' layer of management does not unnecessarily draw matters toward itself and does not make itself unnecessarily broad and important is exactly a thing that belongs to the European political culture.

5.1.1.

Alliance and solidarity in the European Union have appeared to be important guarantees for peace, freedom and prosperity. Now, too, there is a need for effective policy in a number of fields that no country can cope with alone, for example:

- stable energy provision, without unilateral dependence on oil and gas producing countries. Europe must not allow itself to be divided by suppliers of oil and gas but must operate as an alliance. It must invest in new forms of sustainable extraction of energy, and tackling the emissions of greenhouse gases in Europe and worldwide further by an effective sequel to the Kyoto Protocol;

- effective acting against terrorism, human trafficking, propagation of nuclear material and other forms of cross-border crime;
- creating an effective European refugee policy;
- developing a joint European policy with regard to immigration.

5.1.2.

Using advice of the Council of State, the Upper Chamber and Parliament must be able to indicate which European legislation they think desirable or not, and in which manner it will be worked out in the Netherlands, at an early stage.

5.1.3.

The CDA will make an effort for a democratic and effective decision-taking process in the European Union. A new balance is needed between European and national legislation: a good demarcation of tasks is better than a power of veto that constantly paralyses the decision-taking process with 25 or more member states. Important parts of the energy policy, durability policy and of the combat of organised crime and terrorism will comprise part of the range of duties of the EU, about which decisions can be taken by qualified majority. The co-ordination of the economic policy between the member states, which is required to see that the euro remains a strong and stable currency, must be enhanced. The treaty will have to arrange this, together with a more effective protection of the basic rights of the citizens and a few urgent improvements in the field of judicial authorities, police and migration. European harmonisation of the asylum policy is necessary. Besides, conditions must

be created for an effective foreign affairs and security policy.

5.1.4.

A good demarcation will avoid the EU from becoming a government layer with a decision-taking process that is too non-transparent and powerless. This also requires adaptation of the institutions.

Therefore it is necessary that:

- in legislation the European Parliament receives the right of consultation when the Council decides by qualified majority;
- there is a right of approval for the European Parliament in the appointment of every individual commissioner;
- to enhance an efficient European foreign and security policy, the power of veto for the member states on these fields will be abolished where possible;
- national parliaments get more influence on the decision-taking process in the Council and make better use of the information that they receive about this at an early stage;
- the meetings of the Council of Ministers about legislation are public and can also be followed by the European citizens via the media and the internet;
- no longer the EU adheres to one commissioner per member state. A circulation system is created for the European Commission that is based on a balanced representation of the member states.

5.1.5.

The extension that the European Union has gone through in the past few years has been important. It is now essential first to work on the entire integration of the new countries and to see that the organisation

of the EU is tailored to the extension. At the same time we must consider in which manner the European Union can cooperate with the neighbouring countries and how democratization processes can be promoted in other European countries.

5.1.6.

Europe takes its values and rules seriously. There will be more evaluation moments in an entry process. The Copenhagen criteria must be applied strictly. Bad records in the evaluations can develop into the suspension or termination of the negotiations and into offering a different form of cooperation. An entry date will not be named until the moment when all the criteria have been met.

5.1.7.

In addition to, or in advance of, the candidate-membership of the EU, countries can dispose of new status forms (such as the partnership) as an intermediate step, for example, if a country cannot (yet) meet the criteria for (candidate) membership. In this manner a more intensive cooperation relation can be developed with the EU. The prospect of membership then remains. The countries on the West Balkans: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, will be now be offered the partnership as an intermediate step. The current candidate-member states can become members of the EU, provided that they meet the Copenhagen criteria. If they cannot meet them, these countries can be offered the partnership.

5.1.8.

Eighty percent of the European estimate

is spent by national authorities. Therefore the national finance ministers must take responsibility for the European expenditure that is effected in their own member state. They issue nationally approved statements. National audit offices check the expenditure together with the European Audit Office.

Furthermore, it is important that:

- member states that do not adhere to the rules of the Growth and Stability pact will actually get substantial fines;
- the European Parliament gets full budgetary competence within the ceiling of expenditure that has been accepted by the member states.

5.1.9.

The Netherlands must not carry out the European rules more strictly than necessary, so that extra administrative burdens are prevented. Only an equal level-playing field will keep the Netherlands attractive as a place of business for enterprises.

5.1.10.

In the framework of effectiveness and from the point of view of cost saving the European parliament must only meet in Brussels.

5.1.11.

Cross-border cooperation is strongly advanced. The European regions get special attention in national and European policy. In policy fields that are important for the citizens existing obstacles will be removed. In the European regions pilot projects will be made possible to this aim, in which the regional and local authorities get more scope for policy-making.

5.2. international institutions

To be able to act decisively, a structural reform of the United Nations (UN) is necessary. The worldwide protection of human dignity is a fundamental assignment and this requires strong, democratically embedded international institutions.

5.2.1.

To enhance the legitimization, the basis and the authority of international institutions, an intensive cooperation with the institutions of the civil society is important. Of course only insofar as they themselves also respect the rights of people and contribute to good administration.

5.2.2.

Human trafficking and sexual exploitation are serious violations of human rights. Tracing organisations must cooperate better, both nationally and internationally, to make the combat more effective.

5.2.3.

Effectiveness is of the greatest importance in the further reform of the UN. The CDA chooses for the reform plans that have been proposed by the Netherlands and are already supported by twelve other member states, in order to achieve a UN of four pillars. Security, development, humanitarian affairs and environment. Moreover, it must be arranged that one UN counter is set up per country. All UN-environment activities must be coordinated by one UN-organization after the reform, for example the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The CDA thinks that the UN must make an effort for preservation of biodiver-

sity and vulnerable ecosystems, such as the tropical rainforest. The recently established UN human rights council must become an effective organization, of which countries where human rights are demonstrably violated cannot become members. The Netherlands must continue to pursue the reactivation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, with a supranational role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and to a new commitment to decrease nuclear weapons.

5.2.4.

Because of conflicts and disasters of an ecological, economic and humanitarian nature millions of people flee to safer places. International agreements are needed to offer them a perspective of an independent existence afterwards. To avoid people from staying in camps for years on end, the road must be paved for their return. If this is impossible, a possibility must be created for them to build up an independent existence in the region where they have been received. In the last resort migration must become an option. Where the relief and protection of people on the run in their own country (the so-called Internally Displaced People) is concerned, it is necessary that the UNHCR explicitly gets the mandate. Resettlement is one of the options. Also to make this possible the Netherlands is increasing its quota for invited refugees.

5.2.5.

The CDA takes inter-religious and intercultural tensions extremely seriously. This is also why an institutionalised dialogue between Europe and the representatives

of the Christian, Jewish and other world religions and the Council of Europe and the EU is of great importance. Here the Organisation of the Islamic Conference may be an important partner. Priority must be given to support for democratization processes, the improvement of the position of women and to the position of religious minorities.

5.3. Peace and security

Countries that violate human rights, develop world-threatening weapon programs, or support extremism, are asking for a convincing answer, also in the interest of our security. For, if radical powers win regional conflicts, this will result in an operating base for terrorism and for setting cultures against each other. The principle of Responsibility to Protect serves as a point of departure for operations to control crises and for peacekeeping missions.

5.3.1.

Member state responsibility for the promotion of the international legal system. The CDA wants to maintain the ambition level of three peacekeeping operations per year, as well as seriously fill in the part of defence in the framework of national security. The budget for this must be adequate. Further savings on defence are therefore not an option.

5.3.2.

In the pursuit of peace, security and just global relations Europe can only have an impact if it is harmonious and ambitious itself. It will have to invest in convincing common foreign politics.

5.3.3.

In the field of security, NATO is the most suitable forum to preserve and develop the transatlantic power. The Atlantic Alliance is not only vital for the defence of the territory of the alliance, but given the indivisibility of the global security, NATO has to evolve into a global security provider.

5.3.4.

The international community must respond timely to threatening humanitarian crises, so that the available means can rapidly be deployed to contribute to conflict prevention. Should in the last resort interventions with military means be required to protect citizens, this goes hand in hand integrally with the responsibility to contribute to reconstruction. It is important to develop the coherent policy between conflict prevention, conflict control and reconstruction further, both in the EU and in the Netherlands.

5.3.5.

In the decision-taking process about peacekeeping missions the Testing framework serves as a guide. The consent of Parliament and the Upper Chamber is required.

5.3.6.

The CDA has appreciation for the utilisation of our men and women in uniform in often difficult, risky circumstances; dispatched soldiers and their home front merit moral and practical support. The defence personnel can count on good training opportunities, on good material and on an appropriate reward, on guidance and aftercare. Veterans merit permanent recognition and appreciation.

5.3.7.

The cooperation between the countries of the EU in the field of defence must improve. The costs of military missions under the responsibility of the EU must be borne by all the member states in proportion. A better division of tasks and work between the armed forces can enhance the effectiveness.

5.3.8.

Peacekeeping operations as such are not financed from funds for development cooperation, but remain at the expenses of Defence. Activities, during a peacekeeping mission, to win the confidence of the population, and that contribute to reconstruction, can be financed from the budget for development cooperation. The money must, however, not leak away to goals that have nothing or little to do with development cooperation.

5.3.9.

In reconstruction we shall closely cooperate with social organizations in the Netherlands and in the country involved, based on their knowledge, and to handle the restrictions of the fragile state structures. In the efforts towards reconstruction Dutch soldiers, Dutch companies and social organizations work together as from the earliest possible stage.

5.3.10.

Countries that are recovering, e.g. from civil wars, require a realistic and future-aimed policy for the development cooperation. Realistic in a sense that the tenderness and vulnerability of the recovery will be taken into account. Future-aimed, in a

sense that demonstrable progress is made in building up a stable state that is based on justice. In many cases this approach requires a combination of civil and military effort. Also a strengthened European and multilateral coordination is badly needed here.

5.4. international cooperation

The Netherlands must hold on to a percentage of 0.8 percent of the GNP for international cooperation. This contribution is absolutely necessary to bring the Millennium Development Goals nearer. Development cooperation must connect to the poverty strategies of the receiving countries themselves. Development aid must be tailored to the characteristics, strengths and weaknesses of countries and regions. The problem-solving capacity of local social institutions, identity-bound organizations and of enterprises must be utilised optimally. It is important that organizations of development cooperation have insight into the interaction between economy, culture, religion and sustainable development.

The CDA is conscious of the fact that the real prosperity of poor countries and regions is yet especially a case of getting embedded in the cross-border economy and of engaging in social relations across borders: trade unions, ideological organizations, etc. Therefore contacts from the trade and industry and from non-governmental institutions are of great importance. Priorities will of course differ per country, but here, too, the economic growth sectors of the future, such as sus-

tainability and energy, offer possibilities (biomass, solar energy, hydrogen).

Participation in the world economy usually speeds up the growth in underdeveloped countries and is therefore urgently desired. But then there is all the more reason to really give poor countries a chance and not to put up any trade obstructions against them. There is also all the more reason to do business in a socially justified manner. Companies that exploit children for example, must not have the best papers on the market, because they are cheapest. Incidentally, it is important to encourage companies to invest in poor countries and regions in a justified manner.

5.4.1.

Money for development cooperation must end up with the people, institutions and countries that do not run away from their own responsibilities. The criteria of good administration are therefore of overriding importance in allocating means.

5.4.2.

The developing countries must utilise budget that has become available by remissions of debt for the poverty alleviation and sustainable development. The counter value funds in local currency can be utilised for social programmes.

5.4.3.

The Netherlands must make a maximum effort to reach the Millennium Development Goals. Special attention must be paid to the improvement of the administration and the democratic decision-taking processes and for respecting

human rights. Special attention for women and children is important, just like capacity building at all levels to see that people in developing countries can cope with their problems themselves. Even more than has been the case up till now, the Ministry of Development Cooperation will make an effort against human trafficking, exploitation, child labour and slavery. The ministry will support organizations that combat slavery with financial means.

5.4.4.

Within the EU the Netherlands must continue to take a stand for a clear allocation of tasks in the field of development cooperation. A policy framework that has been formulated together serves as a basis for the allocation of tasks. This document is therefore guiding for the acting of the EU in its relations with the multilateral organizations. Also all other EU-member states must keep their promise and see that they are paying at least 0.7 percent of the GNP to development cooperation by 2015.

5.4.5

Europe must make a stand for the position of poor countries within international organizations such as the WTO. The developing countries must be stimulated and facilitated to participate much stronger in the world trade system.

5.4.6.

Companies and social organizations must make it clear to consumers whether companies are enterprising in a socially responsible way and whether in the trade and production there has been cases of child labour, exploitation, etc. The OESO-criteria

that have been formulated to this aim are important here.

5.4.7.

Corporate Social Responsibility must be enforced as a condition within Public Private Cooperation (PPC). If the PPC-instrument meets the set goals (sustainable and balanced economic development), more budget must be made available.

5.4.8.

Additional money of the development budget will go to programmes in which the trade and industry add something extra to the development of the poor countries. Microcredits are of great importance for stimulating and supporting entrepreneurship in developing countries. Persons who take private initiatives can apply for financial assistance at one counter. Especially for companies it must be made fiscally attractive to invest in microfinancing (projects). The various relief channels complement each other.

5.4.9.

0.1 percent of the GNP (as part of the money for development cooperation) has been reserved for programmes focused on environment, water and preservation and recovery of ecosystems. The seventh Millennium Development goal says that in 2015 the number of people who do not have access to safe drinking water must have been halved. Dutch expertise in the approach of the (threatening) water crisis and of clean energy gets extra emphasis.

5.4.10.

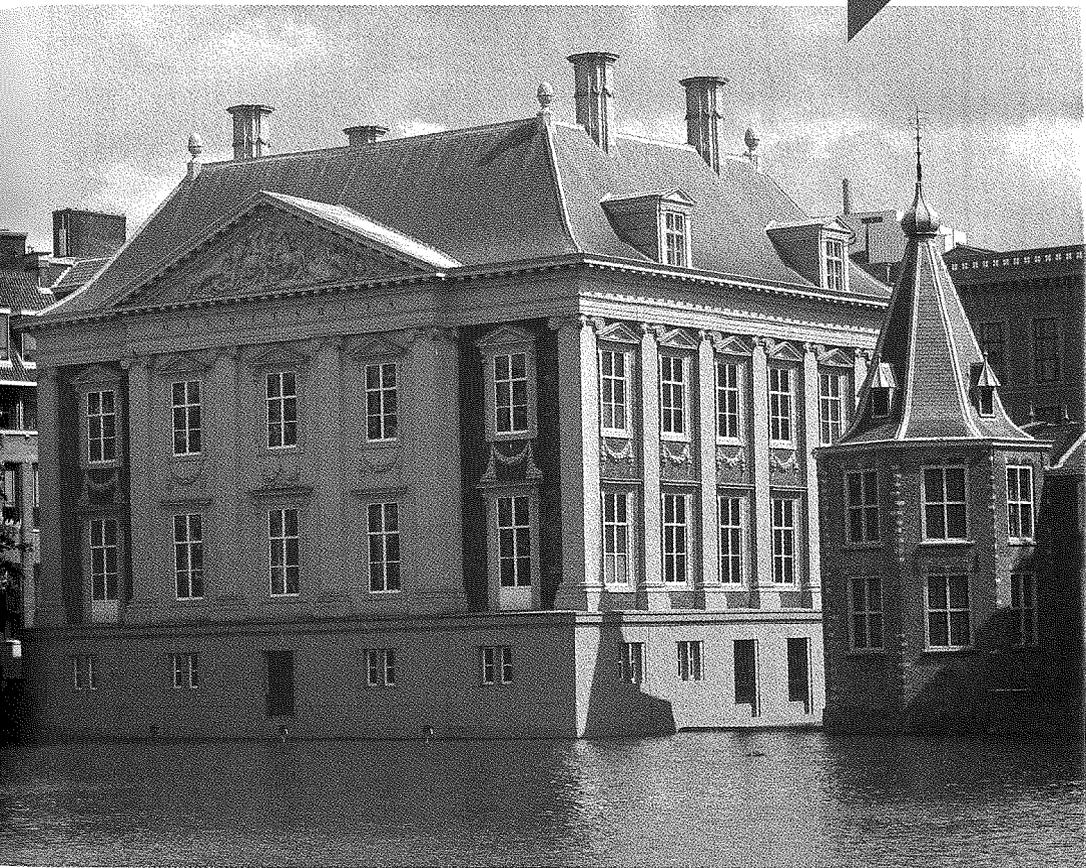
The agriculture sector and the development

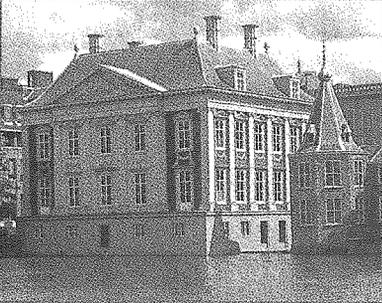
of the countryside in developing countries are important priorities. Support for small farmers, focused on local production and the development of the exports sector with specific attention for the quality of the products, is important here.

5.4.11.

Within the means for development cooperation more money must be made available for the education of students from developing countries who wish to be educated in the Netherlands or in their own country.

Democracy





Citizens benefit most from a government that is decisive and customer-oriented. Therefore we only make promises that we can fulfil and aim at improving the present political culture.

6. The Netherlands, confidence in an involved country: a valuable democracy and a serving government

Politics is alive in the Netherlands. Many people follow the political developments and discuss them at home, at work and with friends. Traditionally, the CDA wants to stand for open and fair politics. We only wish to make promises that we can fulfil. This enables the politicians to do what has been promised. We expect this from the government too.

The CDA takes the responsibility for the policy of the past period and also wants to make clear choices for the future. The CDA is an advocate of the current way in which we have organized the democracy: the representative democracy, in a context of a society in which also social organizations bear responsibilities and contribute actively to the public debate. Not only because it is impossible from a practical point of view to involve every voter in every resolution, but also because a people gets a political face via a parliament, enters into conversation with itself as it were about its values, its future and the role of politics. In a representative democracy decisions are taken after a public debate, and this public nature generates discipline: only those who take the public interest as a point of departure are credible, and only points of view that have been properly motivated and can count on broad support will convince. The process has been set up in such a way that engaging in politics implies more than adding up individual interests.

Yet it is extremely important that people feel that they are represented in parliament, in the Provincial Council and in municipal councils and that the politicians work with well-thought-out perceptions of

the future of our country. The vitality of the democracy depends on this and eventually not on radical system changes or democratic innovations.

Of all the authorities the municipality stands nearest to the people. But municipalities, too, can end up too far away from citizens. Therefore municipal re-divisions can no longer be imposed from the top, but are only possible if municipalities themselves consider them necessary. We must also distance ourselves from the idea that in the Netherlands there is only one type of municipality; from Amsterdam to Ameland. Differentiation must be made possible. Ranges of duties of municipalities must be able to differ. The CDA also asks more space for municipal autonomy: it must be clear what the municipalities (without interference of the State) can arrange themselves. Municipalities may regulate more, without interference of the State. The Law Work and Social Security and the Law Social Assistance are good examples.

By the manner in which the government has organized itself, it often stands in the way of changes and initiatives. Various administrative layers are sometimes too much occupied with themselves and each other. And the independent administrative bodies, policy departments in ministries and supervisors often duplicate work. The result of all this is that every year enterprises and social institutions are faced with various inspections and controllers, who even contradict each other sometimes. The Netherlands is tired of the organised distrust of the government. We therefore want to make a greater effort out of confi-

dence in the self-organising capacity of society and work towards a government that offers space to people, neighbourhoods, enterprises, schools and providers of care and that acts in a serving manner.

6.1. Politics and democracy

6.1.1.

The CDA wants to keep democracy alive by open and fair politics. Promises made from your own perspective and perception that can be fulfilled and keeping your promises.

6.1.2.

In Parliament we must allow space for the many different opinions that live among the Dutch public. Therefore the division of seats in Parliament remains in proportion to the percentage of votes that the parties obtain in national elections. But voters can also give a (second) vote in their regional constituency. For instance, they can determine who will go to Parliament from their region (for one of the national lists). These Members of Parliament will extensively be accountable in their region and quickly pick up signals from the population. This strengthens the mutual involvement. The CDA thinks that people must recognise themselves in their representatives. Being strongly rooted regionally helps in this respect.

6.1.3.

The CDA is against the referendum. Referenda create a lack of clarity about continued routes. In case of referenda very important decisions are taken, while no-one can be called hold accountable afterwards.

6.1.4.

Representatives of the people and political parties are a link between society and government. To this aim representatives of the people (Parliament, Provincial Council or Municipal Council) must become less dependent on the public administration for its information. Part of the budget for study and research that is now going to all sorts of institutions of and around the government will shift to the representation of the people and political institutions. The allowances and facilities offered for representatives must be sufficient in order not to discourage citizens from assuming the job of being a representative themselves.

6.1.5.

Anyone who wants to fully participate politically in the Netherlands will have to make a choice for the Dutch citizenship. The voting right for the Provincial Council and Parliament remains reserved to Dutch citizens.

6.1.6.

The CDA attaches value to the appointment of the Commissioner of the Queen (CdQ) and the mayor by the Crown with a single recommendation by Provincial Council or the Municipal Council. In this manner justice is done to both the independent position of the CdQ and of the mayor, as well as to the fact that the Provincial Council, or the Municipal Council, is the main organ of the province, or the municipality.

6.2. decentralized authorities and organization of the government

6.2.1.

Municipal redivisions are only acceptable if the municipalities themselves consider them necessary.

6.2.2.

The CDA wants to get rid of the idea that there should be one type of municipality or province only in the Netherlands; from Amsterdam to Ameland. Differentiation in ranges of duties between municipalities, between small towns and large cities, and between provinces must be made possible. The CDA wants to enhance the municipal autonomy: it must be clear what the municipalities can arrange themselves (without interference of the State). At least half the number of targeted payments is converted into a generic contribution to municipalities. This will enhance their autonomy. In this framework the CDA wants to find out whether and in which manner the municipal 'tax area' can be restored and possibly strengthened, without this leading to a rise of the collective pressure of burdens. Also the provincial tax revenues will be under discussion in this investigation. Permanent attention, however, is needed for the jumble of administrative bodies with which municipalities have to deal with in the execution of their own responsibilities.

6.2.3.

To be able to act efficiently and effectively, the responsibilities of the three governmental layers municipality, province and State will be sharply demarcated.

Preferably there would be one governmental layer, but at most two governmental layers are responsible for the approach of a certain problem, so that civilians have to do with two governmental layers at most. Should more than one governmental layer be involved in a problem, then the demarcation of responsibilities must at any rate be clear and workable, and the cooperation of the various authorities is based on 'partnership'. The CDA is against the formation of a Randstad province. Tasks must be clearly allocated in combination with a transfer of competences and means and perseverance power for the responsible administrative layer. When working towards a transparent allocation of tasks there is not any space for a formalised fourth administrative layer. In case of decentralisation of national tasks to other authorities, these authorities must also dispose of sufficient means and competences to live up to their responsibility.

6.2.4.

The national government is becoming smaller and more decisive. The political steering will be more solution-driven.

- An integrated and more restricted supervision per social domain (for example the trade and industry) will be created.
- If possible public supervision will be replaced by private supervision (self-regulation). In health care and education being accountable to the government and inspections will be shifted to being accountable to society.
- The national government will be organized as an integrated and coherent organization, so that it can anticipate new social themes and political priori-

ties more flexibly. Directorates-General, policy departments, budgeting staffs and personnel of various departments can be joined together.

- Ministers can be responsible for themes that touch on several ministries, such as young people, security, sustainability and innovation. Perseverance power that breaks through the limits of ministries is one of them. Given the previously pleaded differentiation of competences over administrative layers, this can also mean that a minister becomes responsible, for example, for the problems of the mobility and infrastructure of the Randstad.
- Fewer management layers within the ministries are necessary.
- Where this is useful, for example with a view to later (decentralized) execution, the national government involves other administrative layers in the preparation of national laws and regulations based on European regulatory measures at an earlier stage.
- Further rationalization of agencies and Independent Administrative bodies (IABs), unless there is question of an obvious added value.

6.2.5.

In the next cabinet period there will be a substantial reduction of the personnel of the public administration, especially by filling only 25 percent of the vacancies that arise via natural leaves in the next cabinet period. This concerns the total number of personnel: a redeployment of personnel across departments, managements and ministries are possible of course.

6.2.6.

The government must continuously be conscious of the (administrative) expenses that result from policy and regulatory measures. The CDA aims at less pressure by regulations and to this aim lifts superfluous rules and simplifies complex or contradictory rules.

6.2.7.

Governmental subsidies will be investigated systematically. Especially amounts with which ministries steer and execute policy will be tested on their benefit and necessity. Subsidy arrangements always have a final date (horizon stipulation).

6.2.8.

In laws and regulations the government starts from confidence in stead of distrust. Point of departure will be that the citizen, the entrepreneur, the social institution is doing well. The government will not take action until it should appear that rules have been trespassed. Therefore, and to decrease the bureaucracy, permits will be converted into general rules, if possible. Should permits yet be required – for example because checking in advance is strictly necessary – a bundling will be effected. This provides a gain of time and fewer and less laborious procedures. Where possible (depending on the external effects involved and clarity of rights and duties of a person who receives a permit) it will be introduced that when the decision term has been exceeded a permit is granted ('silencio positivo'). A qualitatively good public sector takes a reliable attitude and has an example function in the execution of its policy and legislation.

6.2.9.

It must become possible to reward more specifically in public administration and in the police. This concerns for example rewarding people who over-perform. This is also needed to prevent pressure points in the (regional) labour market. The maximum reward will be standardized.

6.2.10.

In social sectors, such as education and care, executive employees must stand more at the centre again. For they directly serve the student and the patient, respectively. The CDA therefore wants to restrict management and bureaucracy in these sectors.

6.3. Kingdom relations

For the benefit of the citizens on the Dutch Antilles and Aruba improvement of the social-economic structure and of education gets the highest priority. In this manner – as regards the nuisance around underprivileged youth in Dutch cities – not only the symptoms, but also the causes are counteracted. The position of the Dutch language in education on the Dutch Antilles and Aruba is promoted, particularly in primary education.

The administrative rearrangement of the Antilles will be completed on the basis of the approval of November 2005, the benchmarks being: only one administrative layer per island and sufficient guarantees – in cooperation with the Netherlands – of education, administration of justice and law enforcement. Clearance of the government finances must go hand in hand with admin-

istrative guarantees for a solid financial policy in the future. The three smallest islands get a type of government to size in a direct association with the Netherlands.

For the Dutch Antilles and Aruba the European Union must make the same guarantees and economic facilities available as for the French Antilles and the Spanish and Portuguese overseas areas.

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