

Newsletter Peer review Netherlands Sustainable Development Strategy

December 5th, 2006

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

What has happened so far?

* **Steering committee:** The steering committee met for the first time in October. The committee is chaired by RMNO chair In 't Veld and consists of experts from the RMNO and other participating councils (AER, VROMraad, RLG, RAWOO, SER) as well as experts from MNP, EC, OECD and UN. The committee provides for external support, quality checks, suggestions for the plan of implementation and the methodology of the learning process.

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

* **Peer reviewers:** The Peer review will be conducted by sustainable development (strategy) experts from three countries. Germany, Finland and South Africa have been selected. From each country four experts will be invited, who will represent government, NGO's, business and science. Currently RMNO is contacting already identified potential team members.

Coming up

*** Dutch expert meeting**

On December 21st, a small expert meeting will be held to discuss advice for the scope of the review. Government will discuss their own advice separately. Both advices will be presented to the review team, at the start of their work.

*** Scoping meeting**

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

- 1) scoping meeting, two days, early February 2007
- 2) review, several days to one week, end of March 2007,
- 3) presentation of the results, one or two days, probably in June 2007

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