

24/20

Multilateral cultural relations are coordinated by the Ministry departments responsible for the overall Dutch contribution to the activities of the various multilateral organisations. In consultation with the Ambassador for International Cultural Cooperation and the Ministry's Cultural Cooperation and Foreign Information Department, the specialist ministries contribute to the formulation of policy through the relevant policy departments of the Ministry. One of the principal tasks of the Ministry is to prevent segmentation and discrepancies in the formulation of policy.

10. Summary

The government proposes to pursue its approach to the implementation of international cultural policy along two principal lines.

First, as emphasised above, it will encourage individuals and institutions to act independently in seeking contacts abroad. The government's task is to create conditions conducive to the establishment of such contacts («government at a distance»), and in so doing it will anticipate social developments wherever possible.

The second line of approach relates to the most appropriate structural framework for international cultural cooperation. The present trend is for bilateral cooperation activities to be incorporated in a multilateral framework. The watchword here will be flexibility.

Given the large number of parties involved in the formulation and implementation of international cultural policy, it is imperative that it be properly coordinated. The new terms of reference of the Coordinating Committee on International Cultural Relations make it possible for this to be consistently effected.

For budgetary reasons choices will be inevitable. The total amount available is clearly insufficient to cover the increasing number of ideas and applications.

Present policy is aimed at achieving the optimal results through closer coordination and the efficient use of funds. Full account will be taken of the fact that the results of international cultural cooperation will continue to determine the image of the Netherlands abroad.