

substantial amount of money which can be put to better use in providing support for cultural activities

The situation is explained in the policy document on Dutch cultural institutes abroad of 19 September 1989. The position of the majority of institutes abroad remains unchanged. In December 1990 the Netherlands Institute in Rome was transferred by the Ministry of Welfare, Health and Cultural Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Science to the University of Groningen; and Erasmus House in Jakarta and the Institut Néerlandais in Paris have been placed under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Up to now the funds allocated to these institutes have been barely sufficient to cover the costs of an adequate cultural programme. If no other means can be found to remedy this situation, consideration must be given to allocating funds from the budgets for international cultural cooperation, which will entail scaling down some other activities.

8.2 An institute for international cultural relations

Subsequent to the report of the Advisory Council on Government Policy, the government agreed to consider the feasibility of establishing a separate governmental institute to plan and coordinate the implementation of specific cultural activities. This undertaking was again referred to by the Minister for Welfare, Health and Cultural Affairs in May 1991, when Parliament debated the issue of Dutch participation in the Frankfurt Book Fair and voted in favour of such a step (Proceedings of the Lower House of the States General 1990-1991, 22096, No 2). In accordance with the wishes of Parliament, a study of the possibility and desirability of setting up such an institute is to be commissioned by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Welfare, Health and Cultural Affairs. The final decision must take account of the funds available for international cultural relations.

9. Coordination

As a number of ministries are concerned with the implementation of international cultural policy, they must work together for the realisation of a consistent, well-coordinated programme of activities. Under the chairmanship of the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, the Coordinating Committee on International Cultural Relations draws up general policy guidelines. On 1 March 1991 new terms of reference were laid down for the Committee (see Appendix II). They are roughly as follows:

- coordination of the formulation and implementation of policy by the ministries concerned with international cultural relations,
- assessment of specific activities on the basis of the agreed policy guidelines;
- coordination of cultural events, including their harmonisation with trade promotion projects;
- assessment of the policy plans and annual reports of cultural institutes abroad;
- harmonisation of bilateral and multilateral cultural policy.

The Committee is expected to devote more attention to anticipating policy trends. The regular inter-departmental cultural consultations are also coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which evaluates existing relations in the light of the anticipated future forms of cooperation.

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