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AN EXAMPLE TO  
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✓ In the selection process more account will be taken of the capacities required for such a posting. A press and cultural affairs course providing information on education and science, the arts, social welfare, the press and information services is already part of foreign service training. The trainees also visit various institutions and take part in panel discussions with experts.

Special programmes of visits are arranged for press and cultural attachés prior to their posting abroad. This promotes contact with the various specialised departments of other ministries and with the national educational, scientific, cultural and social welfare institutions that will be of relevance to their work. A conference of press and cultural attachés is held every two years in order to bring them up to date with recent developments in the Netherlands and to inform them of the type of information the ministries wish to receive. Such conferences were held in August 1989 and in June 1991, and a regional conference for attachés in Central and East European countries is to be held in Prague in 1992.

Furthermore, press and cultural attachés will be encouraged to pay additional visits to relevant institutions and organisations in the Netherlands which will be organised by the Ministry. Greater interaction is needed between the attachés and the ministries and other institutions whose spheres of activity coincide with their duties. This can be achieved by a more intensive exchange of information on policy matters, so that the attachés, whose duties at present are largely confined to the implementation of policy, can display more initiative and act in a more advisory capacity. For this purpose, they could be attached for a time to the appropriate ministries before being posted abroad.

As indicated in the Foreign Ministry's document on careers policy, it will be determined on what conditions the Ministries of Welfare, Health and Cultural Affairs and of Education and Science can be involved in the selection and placement of press and cultural attachés, and whether officials can be interchanged between the three ministries.

### 3.2.3 Cultural events

Prestigious large-scale events like the Frankfurt Book Fair and those held in the annual European Cultural Capitals will continue to occupy a prominent place in international cultural life. To highlight the distinctive features of Dutch culture, it is important for the Netherlands to take part in such activities. In view of the comparatively limited resources available, however, careful selection and clearly established priorities are essential. A Dutch presentation is sometimes possible only through the allocation of extra funds, as sponsoring offers no more than limited scope. So it is necessary to assess the effects of large-scale events, which in many cases cover more than one cultural sector. It may be more effective to confine such manifestations to one particular sector, such as the Dutch film festivals or travelling sculpture exhibitions. Cultural presentations on a wider scale have more impact in other countries if they are organised in an international context. Wherever possible, the Netherlands will join forces with Belgium for such presentations.

In organising cultural presentations abroad, the Netherlands investigates the possibility of combining cultural, educational and scientific activities with trade promotion. This is also the case with bilateral manifestations such as the William and Mary commemoration (1988-1989), the bicentenary celebrations in Australia (1988-1989) and the Abel Tasman celebrations in New Zealand (1992). The Coordinating Committee will devote more attention to this point.