

Work programme 2016

Less

regulatory

burden

More opportunities

for new initiative



Introduction

Over the past few years, the Rutte II Cabinet has launched new policies, an important part of which aims to enable the recovery of the Dutch economy and to make Dutch society more resistant to external shocks. For instance, the financial sector has been radically restructured, the responsibility for areas of health care and the social system has been devolved to local authorities and the environmental law has created a new legal basis for the spatial planning of our country.

As we found in the second regulatory burden audit (April 2015), the attention given to the recovery of the Dutch economy has been at the expense of that given to reducing the regulatory burden. The checks and balances within and between ministries were found to contain flaws, resulting in there being a substantial number of cases where the quality of regulatory dossiers is below par. In these cases, decisions on proposed legislation and regulations were made without the consequences for regulatory burden being properly or fully considered. It is therefore uncertain which regulatory burden citizens in their capacity as entrepreneur, patient, home-owner or job seeker are likely

to face. In 2016 we would like to consider in particular how the perceived regulatory burden caused by the changes in the system can be limited. We shall also be monitoring how our opinions from the second audit are followed.

A lot of Dutch legislation and regulations have a European background. As a member of 'RegWatchEurope' Actal will continue to advise on the European Commission's 'Better Regulation' programme. We shall also contribute to the Dutch Presidency of the European Union.

Similarly to previous years, the Work programme will be structured along four themes:

1. The roles, duties and responsibilities of the government and our society;
2. Decentralisations within the government;
3. Accountability, registration and monitoring;
4. Room for development, innovation and growth.

For each of these themes, this Work programme contains examples of projects that we shall be implementing in 2016. In addition, our approach for 2016 will mainly focus on whether

legislation and regulations are not unnecessarily burdensome and whether they leave enough room for new initiatives from companies, citizens and professionals.

The Hague, 27 August 2015

Jan ten Hoopen

Chairman of the Board

Eric Helder

Board member

Lili Doude van Troostwijk

Board member



Work programme overview

Spearheads	Target groups	Topics
Spearhead 1 Roles, duties and responsibilities of government and society	Businesses and citizens	Advising on the legislation and regulations of Environmental Law.
	Businesses	Performing sector scans for two sectors that are yet to be determined.
	Businesses and citizens	Requesting attention for regulatory burden in policy audits in the field of noise and noise pollution, and the affordability of housing.
Spearhead 2 Decentralisation within the government	Businesses, citizens and professional practitioners	Monitoring the decentralisation of the participation policy, youth care and long-term care, paying attention to the client as well as the professional.
	Businesses, citizens and professional practitioners	At the request of local authorities, issuing opinions about limiting the regulatory burden at a local level.
Spearhead 3 Accountability, registration and monitoring	Businesses, citizens and professional practitioners	Reviewing less burdensome alternatives to increase transparency for consumers and patients.
	Businesses and citizens	Advising on regulatory burden for volunteers in charity shops, food banks and/or homeless or addict care.
	Businesses, citizens and professional practitioners	Advising about reducing regulatory burden in debt restructuring.
	Businesses, citizens and professional practitioners	Conducting research into approximately 15 signals.
Spearhead 4 Room for development, innovation and growth	Businesses	Issuing opinions about removing legal obstacles to product renewal and innovation.
	Businesses and professional practitioners	Advising on the removal of obstructions from regulations for innovation in the semi-public sector.

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Work programme overview (continued)

Spearheads	Target groups	Topics
Regulatory burden and regulatory burden audit	Businesses, citizens, professional practitioners	Monitoring which measures the Cabinet takes as a result of the findings in the second regulatory burden audit.
	Businesses, citizens and professional practitioners	Making recommendations to further strengthen how regulatory burden is tackled over the coming years.
	Businesses, citizens and professional practitioners	Organising 3 'best practice' sessions.
International	Businesses, citizens and professional practitioners.	Advising on possibilities of a successful European approach to regulatory burden.
	Businesses, citizens and professional practitioners.	Bringing to the attention of the government and the States General those components of the European Commission's Work programme that may have important consequences for the regulatory burden in the Netherlands.
Local	Businesses, citizens and professional practitioners	Informing local authorities about the possibility of requesting an opinion.
	Businesses, citizens and professional practitioners	Advising local authorities about making regulations less burdensome.
	Businesses, citizens and professional practitioners	Participating in the VNG Committee for local government law and in particular advising about model regulations.

Colofon

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VormVijf, The Hague

Photography

Inge van Mill, The Hague

Translation

Vertaalbureau.nl

Actal

Wijnhaven 26

The Hague

P.O. Box 16228

2500 BE The Hague

T +31 (0) 70 310 86 66

F +31 (0) 70 310 86 79

E info@actal.nl

I www.actal.nl

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