

Annual Report 2020

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Foreword

2020 will go down in history as the year of coronavirus, a year in which the world faced an unparalleled global health crisis. The international nature of the COVID-19 pandemic is indisputable, both in terms of the origin and spread of the virus and in terms of the efforts to combat it. The current crisis has far-reaching financial, economic and geopolitical implications. Only through international cooperation and solidarity can the world overcome this massive public health problems and contend with its substantial economic and political consequences.

This is an enormous task, and the omens are by no means positive in all respects. International cooperation in support of a fair distribution of vaccines is largely lacking, the actions of China and Russia are setting geopolitical relations on edge, and multilateral institutions are finding it very difficult to fulfil their roles. In contrast, the entry into office and actions of President Biden are an important and encouraging development. The new US administration is explicitly seeking out international cooperation and has from the outset pursued an active and responsible approach. The EU thus has every reason to restore relations and work in concert with Washington, even though the geographical and economic interests of the United States and Europe will not always coincide. It is an illusion to believe that things will return to the way they were.

AIV advisory reports

In 2020, the AIV published five advisory reports, one advisory letter and a joint advisory report with the Advisory Committee on Issues of Public International Law (CAVV).

The AIV published the advisory letter [‘The Netherlands and the Global Approach to COVID-19’](#) at the request of the House of Representatives. The COVID-19 pandemic is more than a health crisis. Vulnerable countries are falling even further behind, and global inequality is rising sharply, not least because people in developing countries face a long wait to be vaccinated. These countries urgently require effective assistance in the form of a coherent package of support measures. The consequences of the crisis will continue to be felt elsewhere, in part because mutations of the virus will continue to spread around the world. It is therefore also in the Netherlands’ own interests to take action.

In addition, the AIV published two advisory reports on the EU’s role and position: [‘European Security: Time for New Steps’](#) and [‘European Asylum Policy: Two Major Accords to Break the Impasse’](#). In its report on European security, the AIV once again highlights the importance of EU member states taking responsibility for their own security, and makes several specific recommendations in this regard. The political impasse in European asylum policy also needs to be broken. This will require the adoption of two complementary accords: a widely supported internal accord between the EU member states, based on a recalibration of solidarity and responsibility-sharing, and an external accord, in the form of effective agreements with third countries on the readmission of rejected asylum seekers, based on shared interests.

From time to time, the CAVV and the AIV are requested to prepare joint advisory reports. In 2020, they published the advisory report [‘The Provision and Funding of Non-Lethal Assistance to Non-State Armed Groups Abroad’](#) at the request of the House of Representatives. In this report, the CAVV and the AIV discuss how the provision of ‘non-lethal assistance’ to non-state armed entities relates to key principles of international law. With a view to future assessments of the permissibility of ‘non-lethal assistance’, the report also identifies elements for an assessment framework. Furthermore, the CAVV and the AIV are currently engaged in an advisory process aimed at updating their joint advisory report on autonomous weapon systems.

Digital developments take centre stage in the advisory reports [‘Regulating Online Content: Towards a Recalibration of the Netherlands’ Internet Policy’](#) and [‘Digitalisation and Youth Employment in Africa’](#). In the first report, the AIV calls on the government to get off the fence. Dutch policy in this area has traditionally focused on minimal regulation, and where necessary the Netherlands has aimed for self-regulation by the tech sector. The AIV believes that this policy is no longer sufficient. Public control over regulation, enforcement and supervision, coordinated effectively with the private sector, is both unavoidable and necessary. The Netherlands should actively promote the establishment of international standards, transparency and supervision. With regard to closing the digital divide between Africa and the rest of the world, the AIV believes that additional efforts are required, in particular at European and multilateral level, to bolster initiatives aimed at increasing and improving internet access and promoting employment opportunities for young Africans.

In 2020, the AIV published another advisory report concerning the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom, [‘Security and the Legal Order in the Caribbean: Steps Necessary to Future-Proof the Kingdom of the Netherlands’](#). Previously, in 2018, it had published the advisory report [‘Fundamental Rights in the Kingdom of the Netherlands: Equivalent Protection in All Parts of the Kingdom’](#) on the lack of territorial extension in relation to human rights treaties. In its report on security and the legal order in the Caribbean, the AIV argues that closer cooperation between the Netherlands, Aruba, Curaçao and St Maarten, better use of the possibilities afforded by the Charter for the Kingdom, and a more strategic approach by the Kingdom to the wider region can help reduce security threats.

First AIV Wellenstein Lecture

On 3 February 2020, First Vice-President of the European Commission Frans Timmermans delivered the first AIV Wellenstein Lecture, entitled [‘The EU in an Uncertain World’](#). Following in the footsteps of former AIV honorary member Dr Edmund Wellenstein, the AIV intends to use this annual lecture to draw attention to topical European and international issues, explore practical solutions and stimulate political and social debate. Mr Timmermans, who was well acquainted with Dr Wellenstein during his lifetime, gave an impassioned and fascinating speech on the future of Europe.

Departure of Professor Mirjam van Reisen and Professor Joris Voorhoeve

In December, the AIV bade farewell to two highly regarded members of the Advisory Council who served the AIV with distinction. As chairs of the Development Cooperation Committee and the Peace and Security Committee, they oversaw the preparation and publication of numerous advisory reports. As vice-chair of the Advisory Council, Professor Voorhoeve also played a key role in positioning the AIV as an independent advisory body.

Professor Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, AIV Chair

Advisory reports published in 2020

- **Advisory letter The Netherlands and the Global Approach to COVID-19**
- **European Security: Time for New Steps**
- **Regulating Online Content: Towards a Recalibration of the Netherlands' Internet Policy**
- **The Provision and Funding of 'Non-Lethal Assistance' to Non-State Armed Groups Abroad**
- **Digitalisation and Youth Employment in Africa**
- **Security and the Legal Order in the Caribbean: Steps Necessary to Future-Proof the Kingdom of the Netherlands**
- **European Asylum Policy: Two Major Accords to Break the Impasse**

The Netherlands and the Global Approach to COVID-19



Source: World Bank / Henitsoa Rafalia

The advisory letter [‘The Netherlands and the Global Approach to COVID-19’](#), which was published on 11 May 2020, was prepared following the government’s undertaking to the House of Representatives on 16 April 2020 to urgently seek advice on an appropriate and effective Dutch contribution to global efforts to mitigate the impact of coronavirus. In this advisory letter, the AIV advises the government to take on a leadership role in the EU, develop a coherent package of support measures and make available additional resources in the amount of EUR 1 billion to relieve the most acute suffering.

The advisory letter attracted a lot of attention in the [media](#), including an interview with Professor Jaap de Hoop Scheffer on national radio (*NPO Radio 1*) on 12 May 2020, [Oud NAVO-baas De Hoop Scheffer: ‘Europa moet niet meegaan in pesterijen VS en China’](#) (Former NATO chief De Hoop Scheffer: ‘Europe should steer clear of provocations between the US and China’).

On 18 May 2020, several members of the AIV presented the [main points](#) of the advisory letter to members of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation.

In its [response](#) to the advisory letter, which was published on 10 July 2020, the government expresses its appreciation for the AIV’s comprehensive analysis and specific recommendations. It shares the AIV’s view on the importance of fair and affordable global access to vaccines, diagnostic tests and treatments. The Netherlands has joined several international initiatives in this area. The government will invest an additional EUR 150 million to step up efforts aimed at prevention, humanitarian aid and socioeconomic resilience in the most vulnerable countries and will ensure that the budget for development cooperation is stabilised in 2020 and 2021 by means of a cash transfer (EUR 464 million) from later years. The Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation [met](#) with the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation to discuss the advisory letter on 15 June 2020 and discussed it again at a [meeting](#) with the minister on 3 September 2020.

European Security: Time for New Steps



Source: *European Parliament*

Europe's security is under pressure from new threats, fundamental geopolitical shifts and changes in transatlantic relations. Europe has become vulnerable, according to the advisory report '[European Security: Time for New Steps](#)', which was published on 30 June 2020. Europe needs to be able to independently deal with security issues that do not give rise to a NATO response or involve direct US interests. The Netherlands would be well advised to align itself as closely as possible with Franco-German initiatives in the field of security and defence. The AIV believes that the Netherlands must prepare a multiannual plan to achieve NATO's 2% goal for national defence budgets by 2024. The Netherlands should support the Franco-German proposal to establish a European Security Council (preferably with France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the President of the European Council and the NATO Secretary-General as members) in order to enhance Europe's capacity for decisive action. The Netherlands should support the transformation of the EU's Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) into a headquarters for strategic and contingency planning and for leading EU missions.

Various [media](#) outlets devoted attention to the advisory report, including an interview with Professor Joris Voorhoeve on commercial radio (*BNR*) on 30 June 2020, [Nederlands veiligheidsbeleid kan cement zijn tussen Berlijn en Parijs](#) (Dutch security policy can unite Berlin and Paris).

In its [response](#) to the advisory report, which was published on 5 October 2020, the government notes that Franco-German initiatives are often the driving force behind progress at EU level. At the same time, it firmly believes that other countries or coalitions of countries, such as the Benelux countries or the northern EU member states, can and should also play a significant role in the field of European security. The government has doubts concerning the usefulness of a European Security Council. It intends to examine in what way the MPCC can increase the EU's capacity. On the subject of arms export controls, it would prefer to facilitate cooperation between Dutch and other European companies on the basis of a general licence rather than by aligning itself with the Franco-German arms export control agreement.

On 30 October 2020, MPs Sadet Karabulut, Sven Koopmans and Sjoerd Sjoerdsma participated in a [webinar](#) on the advisory report.

During the [debate on the foreign affairs budget on 12-13 November 2020](#), the House of Representatives discussed the advisory report and, among other things, called on the government to support the establishment of a European Security Council.

Advisory report

Regulating Online Content: Towards a Recalibration of the Netherlands' Internet Policy



Source: Piktsjers

In its advisory report '[Regulating Online Content: Towards a Recalibration of the Netherlands' Internet Policy](#)', which was published on 24 June 2020, the AIV focuses on how we can safeguard the open and free nature of the internet while simultaneously regulating online content in order to minimise the harm it causes to society. The internet has long been hailed as a forum for the free exchange of information, as a promoter of human rights, emancipation, diversity and democracy, and as a driver of innovation and economic growth. It has brought a fundamentally different dynamic to the dissemination of information. However, it is becoming increasingly clear that the internet also has a dark side. Content can be shared with millions of internet users all over the world within a very short time frame, with potentially adverse effects not only for people's reputations or privacy but also for the principles of democracy and the rule of law, as in the case of recent attempts to influence elections. These values need to be protected in a democratic society governed by the rule of law, and that requires coordination at national and international level. Germany, France and the United Kingdom are ahead of the Netherlands when it comes to adopting measures to tackle harmful online content, and the EU is also developing initiatives in this area. The Netherlands can play a significant role, too, for example by actively seeking to establish standards and a monitoring mechanism at European level.

In the wake of the advisory report, Professor Tineke Cleiren published an opinion piece, '[De halfslachtige pogingen van Facebook, Twitter en YouTube om schadelijke berichtgeving te weren, overtuigen niet](#)' (The half-hearted attempts of Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to suppress harmful content are unconvincing), on 12 October 2020. In addition, on 17 October 2020, she presented the main points of the report on the radio programme [Met het Oog op Morgen](#).

The AIV has not yet received the government's response to this advisory report, although an [online consultation](#) has already been conducted for this purpose.

Advisory report

The Provision and Funding of ‘Non-Lethal Assistance’ to Non-State Armed Groups Abroad

In their joint advisory report [‘The Provision and Funding of Non-Lethal Assistance to Non-State Armed Groups Abroad’](#), which was published on 26 May 2020, the CAVV and the AIV discuss how the provision of ‘non-lethal assistance’ to non-state armed groups relates to key principles of international law.

The report considers the principle of non-intervention and the prohibition on the use of force, as well as the conditions under which ‘non-lethal assistance’ to non-state armed entities can result in responsibility or joint responsibility for violations of international humanitarian law and human rights committed by such entities. With a view to future assessments of the permissibility of ‘non-lethal assistance’, the report also identifies elements for an assessment framework. The appraisal of the international situation that is required for this purpose necessarily includes evaluations of political and strategic factors. In keeping with previous advisory reports on humanitarian intervention and the Responsibility to Protect (R2P), the CAVV and AIV recommend restraint when it comes to creating or contributing to new legal scope for intervention.

In its [response](#) to the advisory report, which was published on 31 August 2020, the government expresses its appreciation for the detailed analysis of the AIV and the CAVV. The government notes that the report contains useful elements for the establishment of an assessment framework for the provision of ‘non-lethal assistance’ to non-state armed groups abroad. In addition, it believes that the report contains helpful insights on the provision of advice on international law to the government, a subject the government would like to continue to discuss with both advisory bodies.

Digitalisation and Youth Employment in Africa



Source: CNFA/USAID Africa

The AIV sees a larger role for the Netherlands when it comes to closing the digital divide between Africa and the rest of the world, which the current coronavirus crisis has exacerbated. An entire generation is therefore at risk of even greater disadvantage, as the AIV notes in its advisory report [‘Digitalisation and Youth Employment in Africa’](#), which was published on 11 September 2020. These developments have reduced the prospects of work and income for millions of young Africans. The Dutch government already supports various initiatives promoting more and better internet access in Africa, as well as better employment opportunities for young Africans. Nevertheless, the AIV believes that additional efforts are absolutely essential, particularly at European and multilateral level.

Various media outlets devoted attention to the advisory report, including the *Trouw*, *Bureau Buitenland* (a foreign affairs programme on *NPO Radio 1*) and the *OneWorld* website and magazine. The AIV also produced an [animated summary](#) of the report and organised a webinar in which young Africans discussed the report’s recommendations in the run-up to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Youth at Heart conference.

In its [response](#) to the advisory report, which was published on 11 January 2021, the government elaborates on the areas in which the AIV sees a larger role for the Netherlands, from making digital employment more accessible, secure and trusted, to improving education and enhancing participation by women and girls. The government has taken the AIV’s specific recommendations to heart.

Security and the Legal Order in the Caribbean: Steps Necessary to Future-Proof the Kingdom of the Netherlands



Source: Shutterstock

In its advisory report '[Security and the Legal Order in the Caribbean: Steps Necessary to Future-Proof the Kingdom of the Netherlands](#)', which was published on 8 October 2020, the AIV underlines that the Netherlands, Aruba, Curaçao and St Maarten will need to work together to reduce drug crime that undermines society and combat socioeconomic decline. The AIV recommends much closer cooperation between the four countries, better use of the possibilities afforded by the Charter for the Kingdom, and a more strategic approach by the Kingdom to the wider region. The report also considers the current impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has highlighted the need for structural reforms in the Caribbean countries. The Netherlands already provides assistance, but in the AIV's view it must also assume shared responsibility for implementing a long-term socioeconomic plan for all the Caribbean countries. This is necessary in order to support the most vulnerable population groups, but also to increase the countries' resilience to climate change and help them make the transition to a sustainable and more diversified economy.

The advisory report attracted a lot of attention in the [media](#) (newspaper articles) both in the Netherlands and in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom.

In its [response](#) to the advisory report, which was published on 26 February 2021, the Council of Ministers for the Kingdom expresses its appreciation for the AIV's comprehensive and well-formulated analysis and notes that it largely agrees with the report's recommendations. In particular, it endorses the AIV's view that security developments and urgent threats in Latin America and the Caribbean require an active, committed and joint approach by the Netherlands and the countries of Aruba, Curaçao and St Maarten. This Kingdom-wide approach should focus on guaranteeing human rights, good governance and law enforcement. The Council further shares the AIV's opinion that it is important to pursue closer international cooperation in the fields of defence, law enforcement and ecological security. In addition, it highlights the importance of better information-sharing at regional level in the fight against drugs. Finally, the Council will closely examine the AIV's recommendation to draw up draft legislation for Kingdom-wide rules on transparent government, public finances and the establishment of an institute to promote human rights.

European Asylum Policy: Two Major Accords to Break the Impasse



Source: ANP

Since the refugee crisis of 2015-2016, European asylum policy has been at an impasse. In its advisory report '[European Asylum Policy: Two Major Accords to Break the Impasse](#)', which was published on 1 December 2020, the AIV focuses on how to resolve this situation. In essence, it believes that this will require the adoption of two major accords: an internal accord between the EU member states and an external accord with foreign partner countries. The report describes how these accords could be reached and what elements they should include. It also contains recommendations on how the Netherlands could contribute to the adoption of these accords. The AIV further notes that developing a fair and functioning European asylum policy is an urgent task. Due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a high risk of new refugee flows that the EU is currently not adequately prepared for. In addition, the failure of European asylum policy is a source of tension not only between member states but also among the European public.

The advisory report was presented to Minister for Migration Ankie Broekers-Knol by Council member Monika Sie Dhian Ho on 11 December 2020.

The media attention for this advisory report included an interview with Professor Luuk van Middelaar and Monika Sie Dhian Ho in the news magazine *Elsevier Weekblad* on 11 December 2020: [Europese Unie heeft niets geleerd van 2015: nieuwe migratiecrisis dreigt](#) (EU has learnt nothing from 2015: a new migration crisis looms).

In its [response](#) to the advisory report, which was published on 15 February 2021, the government notes that it agrees with the AIV's basic premise that any solution to the current impasse will require concurrent efforts in both the internal and external dimensions of European asylum policy. In particular, it endorses the need for concrete agreements on the external dimension as a condition for restoring confidence in cooperation at EU level. The government observes that Dutch policy diverges from the AIV's recommendations on certain issues but does not expand on this point. Given its current caretaker status, finally, the government notes that any policy adjustments prompted by the advisory report will be left to the next government.

Government response to advisory report on Sustainable Development Goals and Human Rights

On 28 December 2020, the AIV received the government's [response](#) to its advisory report '[Sustainable Development Goals and Human Rights: An Indivisible Bond](#)', which was published on 2 July 2019. In its response, the government agrees with the AIV's basic premise that development is a key condition for the achievement of human rights and that human rights are a necessary condition for development. According to the government, that is why the UN member states specifically chose to make human rights the guiding framework for the SDGs. Like the AIV, the government regards the SDGs as a useful global framework for a coherent (integrated) approach to sustainable development and human rights. However, it believes that there is room for increased coherence between these policy areas when it comes to implementation, especially at multilateral level. In its response to the AIV's recommendations, the government expands on this point and also provides examples of existing and more recent (i.e. since the publication of the advisory report) efforts to integrate human rights in policy and implementation.

New advisory processes

In 2020, the AIV began two new advisory processes.

Update of advisory report on Autonomous Weapon Systems

In October 2015, the AIV and the CAVV presented the government with their joint advisory report '[Autonomous Weapon Systems: The Need for Meaningful Human Control](#)'. On 30 June 2020, the government sent the AIV a new [request for advice](#) on this topic, in accordance with the AIV's earlier recommendation to review the relevance of the advisory report after five years. Rapid developments in the fields of robotics and artificial intelligence and the ongoing international debate on the legal, ethical and policy-related aspects of autonomous weapon systems underline the need for an update. As well as asking the AIV and the CAVV to evaluate these developments and further specify – or where necessary amend – their earlier insights, the government poses additional questions concerning potential arms control initiatives, the definition and interpretation of the concept of 'meaningful human control', the further elaboration of the guiding principles for the development and use of autonomous weapons, and the risks associated with non-state actors.

Social Protection in Africa

On 14 October 2020, the government sent the AIV a [request for advice](#) on the importance of social protection initiatives for the poorest and most vulnerable groups, particularly in Africa, and whether it is advisable for the Netherlands to become involved in these initiatives through development cooperation. The Development Cooperation Committee, which has been charged with preparing this advisory report, will consult the relevant academic literature and conduct interviews with academics, policymakers from Africa, representatives of multilateral organisations and NGOs, and directly relevant individuals at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It will also consult the INCLUDE platform, a Dutch-African initiative that promotes evidence-based policymaking on inclusive development in Africa. The AIV aims to publish this advisory report in the first half of 2021.

Meetings with parliament in 2020

Following the publication of an advisory report, the AIV is usually invited to present its findings to permanent committees of the House of Representatives.

Technical briefing in the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

On behalf of the AIV, Professor Jaap de Hoop Scheffer (Chair), Professor Luuk van Middelaar, Professor Mirjam van Reisen, Monika Sie Dhian Ho and Dr Marenne Jansen presented the main points of the advisory letter [‘The Netherlands and the Global Approach to COVID-19’](#) to the members of the Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation on 18 May 2020.

Meeting with the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs

On 27 October 2020, Professor Larissa van den Herik (CAVV Chair), Dr Rosanne van Alebeek (CAVV), Dr Catherine Brölman (CAVV), Lieutenant General (ret.) Jan Broeks (AIV) and Professor Ernst Hirsch Ballin (AIV) discussed the advisory report [‘The Provision and Funding of Non-Lethal Assistance to Non-State Armed Groups Abroad’](#) with members of the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Events in 2020

Following the publication of an advisory report, the AIV organises events for experts and members of the public to contribute to political and public debate on the issue in question. In 2020, the AIV hosted the first Wellenstein Lecture.

AIV Wellenstein Lecture: The EU in an Uncertain World (3 February 2020)

On 3 February 2020, First Vice-President of the European Commission Frans Timmermans gave the first AIV Wellenstein Lecture at De Glazen Zaal in The Hague. The lecture is named after [Dr Edmund P. Wellenstein](#) (1919-2016), one of the founding fathers of European integration. In keeping with Dr Wellenstein's spirit and approach, the AIV intends to use this annual lecture to draw attention to contemporary European and international issues and stimulate political and social debate. In his lecture, Mr Timmermans discussed the resurgence of anti-Semitism, the importance of bringing Brexit to a successful conclusion, the steps that need to be taken in the framework of the Green Deal to achieve a better, healthier and fairer society, Europe's inherent strengths, and the importance of debate and discussion on the subject of democracy.



Source: AIV

The event was attended by over 180 people, including members of Dr Wellenstein's family, members and former members of the AIV and its permanent committees, ambassadors, members of the Senate, officials from the Ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs, and Infrastructure and Water Management, and representatives from knowledge institutions, academia, journalists, NGOs and the business community.

Webinar on Digitalisation and Youth Employment in Africa (15 October 2020)

In cooperation with RNW Media and the Entrepreneurial Development Bank (FMO), the AIV organised an English-language [webinar](#) on digitalisation and youth employment in Africa. The webinar, which was held in the run-up to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Youth at Heart conference, which took place two weeks later on 2 November 2020, was attended live by approximately 90 participants, including from Africa, and was subsequently viewed 174 times on YouTube. At the start of the webinar, the main points of the advisory report were presented by means of a short

animation, and this was followed by a panel discussion featuring young people from Nigeria, Burundi and f 'the Democratic Republic of the Congo'.



Webinar on European Security (30 October 2020)

In cooperation with the *Nieuwspoord media and debate centre*, the AIV organised a [webinar](#) in connection with the publication of its advisory report 'European Security: Time for New Steps'. Following their introductory remarks, Professor Joris Voorhoeve (AIV) and Professor Luuk van Middelaar (AIV) participated in a discussion with MPs Sadet Karabulut (SP), Sven Koopmans (VVD) and Sjoerd Sjoerdsma (D66). The moderator was Joop Veen.

Members of the Advisory Council in 2020

The Council comprises nine members, including the Chair and the Vice-Chair, who are drawn from the worlds of academia, public administration and knowledge institutions. They each have specific expertise in the area of human rights, peace and security, development cooperation or European integration. The Council meets once a month to discuss ongoing advisory processes and adopt completed reports. The following overview summarises each Council member's involvement in the publication of advisory reports and participation in other activities.

Professor Jaap de Hoop Scheffer (Chair)



Involvement in publication of:

- Blog post [‘Reflecties bij een pandemie’](#) (Reflections on a Pandemic) (in Dutch), 16 April 2020
- Advisory letter [‘The Netherlands and the Global Approach to COVID-19’](#)

Participated in:

- [AIV Wellenstein Lecture](#), 3 February 2020
- Press conference (online) for advisory letter [‘The Netherlands and the Global Approach to COVID-19’](#), 11 May 2020
- Technical briefing in the House of Representatives concerning advisory letter [‘The Netherlands and the Global Approach to COVID-19’](#), 18 May 2020
- Webinar on advisory report [‘European Security: Time for New Steps’](#), 30 October 2020

Professor Joris Voorhoeve (Vice-Chair)



Involvement in publication of:

- Advisory report [‘European Security: Time for New Steps’](#)
- Advisory report [‘Security and the Legal Order in the Caribbean: Steps Necessary to Future-Proof the Kingdom of the Netherlands’](#)

Participated in:

- Webinar on advisory report [‘European Security: Time for New Steps’](#), 30 October 2020

Lieutenant General (ret.) Jan Broeks



Involved in publication of:

- Advisory report [‘The Provision and Funding of Non-Lethal Assistance to Non-State Armed Groups Abroad’](#)
- Advisory report [‘Security and the Legal Order in the Caribbean: Steps Necessary to Future-Proof the Kingdom of the Netherlands’](#)

Participated in:

- Meeting with the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs regarding advisory report [‘The Provision and Funding of Non-Lethal Assistance to Non-State Armed Groups Abroad’](#), 27 October 2020

Currently involved in:

- Advisory process [‘Update of advisory report on Autonomous Weapon Systems’](#)

Professor Tineke Cleiren



Involved in publication of:

- Advisory report [‘Regulating Online Content: Towards a Recalibration of the Netherlands’ Internet Policy’](#)
- Opinion piece in connection with advisory report ‘Regulating Online Content’, [‘De halfslachtige pogingen van Facebook, Twitter en YouTube om schadelijke berichtgeving te weren, overtuigen niet’](#) (The half-hearted attempts of Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to suppress harmful content are unconvincing), 12 October 2020
- [AIV Factsheet on Regulating Online Content](#) for a meeting with the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on the Interior and Kingdom Relations on disinformation and digital infiltration, 26 October 2020

Professor Ernst Hirsch Ballin



Involved in publication of:

- Advisory report [‘The Provision and Funding of Non-Lethal Assistance to Non-State Armed Groups Abroad’](#)
- Advisory report [‘Security and the Legal Order in the Caribbean: Steps Necessary to Future-Proof the Kingdom of the Netherlands’](#)
- Blog post [‘Geen Afscheid van de mensenrechten’](#) (No Farewell to Human Rights) (in Dutch), 2 December 2020

Participated in:

- Meeting with the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs regarding advisory report [‘The Provision and Funding of Non-Lethal Assistance to Non-State Armed Groups Abroad’](#), 27 October 2020

Professor Luuk van Middelaar



Involved in publication of:

- Advisory letter [‘The Netherlands and the Global Approach to COVID-19’](#)
- Advisory report [‘European Security: Time for New Steps’](#)
- Advisory report [‘European Asylum Policy: Two Major Accords to Break the Impasse’](#)

Participated in:

- Technical briefing in the House of Representatives concerning advisory letter [‘The Netherlands and the Global Approach to COVID-19’](#), 18 May 2020
- Webinar on advisory report [‘European Security: Time for New Steps’](#), 30 October 2020

Professor Mirjam van Reisen



Involved in publication of:

- Advisory letter [‘The Netherlands and the Global Approach to COVID-19’](#)
- Blog post [‘Afrika in ademnood’](#) (Africa is Suffocating) (in Dutch), 4 June 2020
- Advisory report [‘Digitalisation and Youth Employment in Africa’](#)

Participated in:

- Technical briefing in the House of Representatives concerning advisory letter [‘The Netherlands and the Global Approach to COVID-19’](#), 18 May 2020
- Webinar on advisory report [‘Digitalisation and Youth Employment in Africa’](#), 15 October 2020

Currently involved in:

- Advisory process [‘Social Protection in Africa’](#)

Koos Richelle



Involvement in publication of:

- Advisory letter [‘The Netherlands and the Global Approach to COVID-19’](#)
- Advisory report [‘Digitalisation and Youth Employment in Africa’](#)

Participated in:

- Webinar on advisory report [‘Digitalisation and Youth Employment in Africa’](#), 15 October 2020

Currently involved in:

- Advisory process [‘Social Protection in Africa’](#)

Monika Sie Dhian Ho



Involvement in publication of:

- Advisory letter [‘The Netherlands and the Global Approach to COVID-19’](#)
- Advisory report [‘European Asylum Policy: Two Major Accords to Break the Impasse’](#)

Participated in:

- Presentation of advisory report [‘European Asylum Policy: Two Major Accords to Break the Impasse’](#) to Minister for Migration Ankie Broekers-Knol, 11 December 2020
- Technical briefing in the House of Representatives concerning advisory letter [‘The Netherlands and the Global Approach to COVID-19’](#), 18 May 2020

Members of the permanent committees in 2020

The AIV comprises four permanent committees: the European Integration Committee, the Human Rights Committee, the Development Cooperation Committee and the Peace and Security Committee. Members of the Advisory Council serve as the chairs and vice-chairs of the permanent committees, which prepare the advisory reports.

European Integration Committee (CEI)

Carsten Brzeski
René Cuperus
Dr Hylke Dijkstra
Dr Hanneke van Eijken
Joanne Kellermann
Ed Kronenburg
Marnix Krop
Joshua Livestro
Professor Ton Nijhuis
Professor Mathieu Segers
Ben Voorhorst
Professor Catherine de Vries

Human Rights Committee (CMR)

Dr Maarten Biermans
Professor Antoine Buyse
Maria Anne van Dijk
Professor Yvonne Donders
Professor Janneke Gerards
Arjan Hamburger
Ton Heerts
Dr Narin Idriz
Professor Nicola Jägers
Professor Egbert Myjer
Dr Bart Schermer
Dr Naema Tahir

Development Cooperation Committee (COS)

Professor Bas Arts
Linda Broekhuizen
Professor Jenny Dankelman
Professor Rolph van der Hoeven
Professor Ronald de Jong
Dr Kellie Liket
Pim Mol
Dr Antony Ong'ayo
Marieke Schouten
André Veneman
Léon Wijnands

Peace and Security Committee (CVV)

Willemijn Aerds

Professor Edwin Bakker

Arend Jan Bokestijn

Lo Casteleijn

Professor Jolle Demmers

Dr Nienke de Deugd

Pieter Feith

Professor Beatrice de Graaf

Jochem de Groot

Lieutenant General (ret.) Dirk Starink

Joris Teer (from 1 September 2020)

Dick Zandee

Secretariat in 2020

The secretariat provides substantive, editorial and organisational support to the AIV and the permanent committees. The bulk of its work relates to the preparation, drafting and publication of reports.

Executive secretaries

Marja Kwast-van Duursen, AIV executive secretary
Marije Balt, executive secretary for joint committees (from 24 August 2020)
Robert Dekker, CMR executive secretary (until 1 June 2020)
Dr Marenne Jansen, COS executive secretary
Jan Willem Glashouwer, CVV executive secretary
Kees Smit Sibinga, CEI executive secretary (from 1 September 2020)
André Westerink, CEI executive secretary (until 16 August 2020)

Communication

Frits Kemperman, spokesperson/communication adviser (part-time, until 1 July 2020)
Herman van Gelderen, spokesperson/communication adviser (part-time, from 1 August 2020)
Mary Schilder, web editor (part-time, until 1 September 2020)

Management assistants

Irene van der Winkel
Fabiola San Martín López

Trainee

Nadia van de Weem (from 1 January tot 1 July 2020)

Communication

In 2020, the AIV extended its new house style, introduced in 2019, to the design of its advisory reports. Last year, the AIV published one advisory letter and five advisory reports based on an entirely new format. The new reports are more compact and contain images, photographs and infographics. The PDF versions of the reports are interactive.

The AIV Wellenstein Lecture on 3 February 2020 could still be held as an in-person event at De Glazen Zaal in The Hague. Due in part to COVID-19 measures, the AIV organised webinars to accompany the publication of two advisory reports: 'Digitalisation and Youth Employment in Africa' and 'European Security: Time for New Steps'.

In 2020, the AIV also took steps to further optimise its websites, in particular as regards the accessibility of information on its Dutch and English-language websites. In accordance with the statutory obligation of government agencies to meet certain technical and editorial accessibility requirements, the AIV modified its websites and publications. Following an independent audit, WCAG.nl assigned the AIV's websites level B accessibility status. The AIV has published the accessibility declarations for its websites in the official register of accessibility declarations.

In order to raise the profile of the members of the Advisory Council, the AIV launched a series of personal [blog posts](#) by Council members in 2020.

The number of visitors, visits and page views on the AIV's websites increased relative to 2019.

	2019	2020
Visitors	20,582	28,040
Visits	27,879	41,896
Page views	56,936	125,510

In 2020, the AIV once again used Twitter and LinkedIn to share information on the publication and media coverage of advisory reports, parliamentary debates relating to advisory reports, appointments and public events organised by the AIV. The number of people following the AIV on Twitter grew from 30 in October 2019 to 601 in January 2021. On LinkedIn, the number of followers rose from 190 in October 2019 to 457 in January 2021.

Finances in 2020

The AIV has an annual budget of EUR 525,000. The personnel costs associated with maintaining the AIV's staff are not included in this budget but are borne by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence.

The annual budget pays for the fees and travel expenses of the Council members and the attendance allowances and travel expenses of the members of the permanent committees. It also covers the costs of meetings, the lay-out, printing and shipping of advisory reports, and the hosting of the AIV Wellenstein Lecture and webinars.

The AIV has outsourced the management of its website. The total expenditure of the AIV in 2020 was approximately EUR 422,000. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the AIV organised few live meetings and events, resulting in the under-utilisation of its annual budget for 2020.