



Advisory Council
on International Affairs

Annual Report 2021

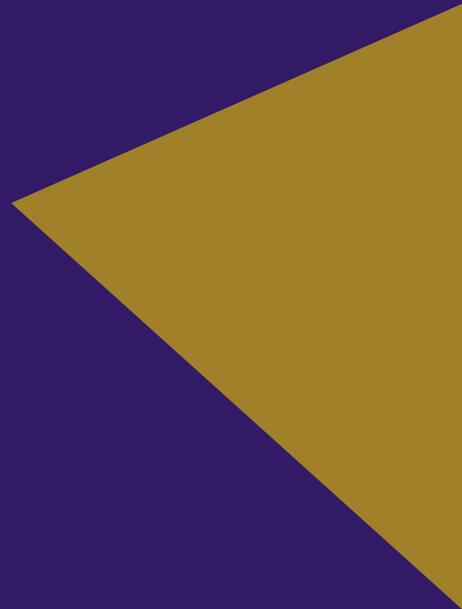
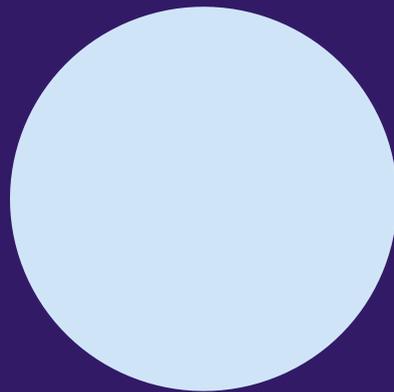


Table of Contents



Foreword	3
Advisory reports published in 2021	5
- The Netherlands in the World: An Agenda for Foreign Policy	7
- Social Protection in Africa	7
- Autonomous Weapon Systems: The Importance of Regulation and Investment	8
New advisory processes	5
- Frameworks for a Dutch Global Health Strategy	9
- European Industrial Policy	9
- Human Rights in a Changing World	9
- The Geopolitical Role of Türkiye	10
Evaluation AIV 2015 - 2020	11
Events in 2021	12
- Transatlantic Relationship Seminar	12
Members of the Advisory Council in 2021	13
Members of the Permanent Committees in 2021	17
Secretariat in 2021	18
Communication	19
Finances in 2021	20



Foreword



The war in Ukraine unleashed by Russian President Vladimir Putin on 24 February 2022 has had dire consequences for the country and its people, as well as for the security of the European continent, the world as a whole and the international legal order. At the time of writing, it is impossible to foresee all the implications. However, it is clear that we are experiencing a turning point in European history.

In 2021, like the previous year, the world had to deal with the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic. In its advisory letter of 2020 entitled 'The Netherlands and the Global Approach to COVID-19' the AIV called for international cooperation and solidarity in order to protect the most vulnerable areas of the world, such as Africa, against the humanitarian, socioeconomic and financial impact of the pandemic. Unfortunately the reality was very different.

The consequences of the shifting balance of power in the world, the increasing instability within Europe and the erosion of the international legal order through the actions of autocratic political leaders all have a major influence on the Netherlands' domestic and foreign policy. That is why, on the eve of the parliamentary elections in the Netherlands in March 2021, the AIV published 'The Netherlands in the World: An Agenda for Foreign Policy over the Next Term of Government' which called on the authors of the coalition agreement to focus more on the world around us, in order both to deal with threats and to make the most of opportunities. Although international policy did not feature at all during the election campaign, the coalition agreement focuses extensively on current international developments and the major global challenges to which the Netherlands will also have to respond.

On 6 June 2021 the AIV published the advisory report '[Social protection in Africa](#)'. In the AIV's opinion, social protection – and particularly income security – is an effective way of combating poverty. Bottom-up financing benefits the economy as a whole, as well as educational attainment and health. Social protection programmes have the greatest chance of success if they are embedded in a multilateral context, take account of local conditions and are implemented by individual governments within a national framework.

Together with the Advisory Committee on Issues of Public International Law (CAVV) the AIV published the advisory report entitled '[Autonomous Weapon Systems: The Importance of Regulation and Investment](#)' on 8 December 2021. In this report, the AIV appeals urgently to the Dutch government to focus more explicitly on developments in the field of autonomous weapon systems: on the one hand to work at multilateral level to promote the development of international law and on the other hand, given the speed of technological and geopolitical developments, to invest in semi-autonomous weapons, provided they are regulated.

On 1 January 2022 Dr Dorette Corbey joined the Advisory Council and also took on the role of vice-chair of the Development Cooperation Committee. Hans van Baalen joined the Advisory Council on 1 April 2021 with the aim of sharing his considerable knowledge and experience with the AIV. Unfortunately this was not to be: Mr Van Baalen sadly passed away on 29 April 2021. And on 19 September 2021 we received the sad news of the death of our esteemed, knowledgeable and charming executive secretary of the European Integration Committee, Kees Smit Sibinga.

On 1 December 2021 Henne Schuwer joined the Advisory Council and also took on the role of chair of the Peace and Security Committee.

At the end of this year the AIV bade farewell to Professor Jaap de Hoop Scheffer who had served, with great dedication, as Chair of the AIV from 2014 to 2021. In Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, the AIV was blessed with a highly knowledgeable and capable chair who fiercely defended the independence of the Advisory Council and was the face of the AIV during his term. Under his leadership a series of memorable advisory reports were published and the AIV underwent a transformation.

We also bade farewell to Professor Ernst Hirsch Ballin, who was also a member of the AIV from 2014 to 2021. During that period he chaired the Human Rights Committee. Ernst Hirsch Ballin applied his broad expertise and extensive knowledge of the various issues to the advisory reports on human rights and in other areas covered by the Advisory Council, with a particular focus on quality, and he was not averse to exploring new pathways and breaking with convention. The AIV owes Professors De Hoop Scheffer and Hirsch Ballin a huge debt of gratitude.

Professor Bert Koenders took over as the new Chair of the AIV on 1 January 2022.

Emeritus Professor Tineke Cleiren
AIV Vice-Chair



Advisory reports published in 2021



- Memorandum: 'The Netherlands in the World: An Agenda for Foreign Policy'
- Social Protection in Africa
- Autonomous Weapon Systems: The Importance of Regulation and Investment

Memorandum: 'The Netherlands in the World: An Agenda for Foreign Policy'

On 12 March 2022 the AIV sent all political parties who were participating in the parliamentary elections the publication entitled 'The Netherlands in the World: An Agenda for Foreign Policy'. With a view to the upcoming formation of the new coalition government, the AIV believed it was important to argue that foreign policy should be placed high on the political agenda and that the consequences of the dramatic current international developments should be properly taken into account.

The major upheavals and challenges facing the Netherlands are coming from outside its national borders, or are affecting the world as a whole. They will determine the parameters of the overall direction and substance of future government policy, and will have a major impact on the Netherlands and its people. That was why the AIV presented this foreign policy agenda for the coming parliamentary term, which is based on recent AIV advisory reports, including a number of concrete policy recommendations relating to the following themes:

- The position of the European Union;
- Security and stability;
- The protection of fundamental rights and values;
- Interdependence and international cooperation;
- Shared responsibility for the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom in international relations.





Source: Oluwafemi Dawodu, Shutterstock

Social Protection in Africa

The advisory report entitled '[Social Protection in Africa](#)', which had been drafted at the request of the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, was published on 6 June 2021.

The AIV was asked to assess the initiatives towards, and the prospects of, social protection for the poorest and most vulnerable groups in Africa, and to consider whether it would be advisable for the Netherlands to get involved in these initiatives through development cooperation. In the opinion of the AIV a Dutch contribution to social protection programmes will be most successful when it is part of a multilateral effort and takes account of local conditions. There is no point in the Netherlands participating in social protection initiatives if locally there is a lack of political will, stability or trust between citizens and their government. The AIV also recommends that the Netherlands press internationally for combating tax avoidance.

On the day of publication the AIV hosted a government-wide 'knowledge session' on the advisory report, in collaboration with the Academy for International Relations. During the session, Kitty van der Heijden, Director-General for International Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was among those who responded to the advisory report.

Following the publication of the advisory report, Mondiaal FNV hosted a meeting on the role of trade unions in social protection. At the event, Dr Dorette Corbey (AIV member), Professor Marleen Dekker (member of the Development Cooperation Committee) and Dr Marenne Jansen (executive secretary of the Development Cooperation Committee) explained the advisory report in more detail.

In the [government's response to the advisory report](#) (20 September 2021) the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation observed that the AIV had produced a clear advisory report that provided a basis for stepping up Dutch efforts in the field of social protection and direct support for vulnerable groups in the poorer countries of Africa. In the Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation budget for 2022 the government set aside funds for establishing a cash transfer programme.



Autonomous Weapon Systems: The Importance of Regulation and Investment

In this era of geostrategic and technological challenges the use of autonomous (or semi-autonomous) weapons is increasing, yet no clear regulations are in place. In the [advisory report 'Autonomous Weapon Systems: The Importance of Regulation and Investment'](#), the AIV and the CAVV make an urgent plea to the Dutch government to focus more explicitly on developments in the field of autonomous weapon systems. The advisory report is an update to [an earlier report by the AIV and the CAVV](#) dating from 2015. The new report discusses the latest technological developments, the geopolitical context, and legal and ethical considerations relating to the use of autonomous weapon systems.

In the advisory report the AIV and the CAVV developed two themes to emphasise the need for both regulation and investment. On the one hand the report highlights the problematic and risky aspects of the development and use of autonomous weapons and the need for adequate regulation. On the other hand the AIV and the CAVV conclude that, due to technological and geopolitical developments, the Netherlands should invest more in the development and responsible use of new technologies by the armed forces, in cooperation with NATO countries.

The advisory report attracted considerable media attention.

On 13 December 2021 the advisory report featured in a meeting between the Minister of Defence and the Permanent Parliamentary Committees on Defence and Foreign Affairs on the motion submitted by MP Salima Belhaj on autonomous weapon systems.

No government response to the advisory report has yet been received.

New advisory processes



Frameworks for a Dutch Global Health Strategy

On 25 February 2021 the Dutch House of Representatives [asked the AIV to produce an advisory report](#) regarding frameworks for a Dutch Global Health Strategy that 'can lay the foundation for the development of coherent policy on global health issues, which the Netherlands can use to implement its strategic agenda and participate as lead country in international forums addressing global health issues and developing multilateral strategies.'

With a view to fulfilling the request for advice the AIV is focusing on gathering information and insights which could form the building blocks of Dutch policy in the field of global health issues. The AIV has set itself the goal of drafting an informative and agenda-setting advisory report that outlines the frameworks for the Netherlands' contribution to a global health strategy. The AIV aims to publish this advisory report in the first half of 2022.

European Industrial Policy

Rapid and structural changes in the global balance of political and economic power have prompted a debate in Europe on the need to modernise European industrial policy. Achieving greater strategic autonomy is a goal that is garnering widespread support in Europe, and one that the Dutch government endorses too, despite stressing the importance of preserving an open economy. The future of European industrial policy is crucial for the Netherlands, not least because of the Dutch economy's dependence on international markets, and the Netherlands' strong industrial sector.

The government has asked the AIV to advise on how the Netherlands can best position itself in the EU debate on industrial policy. In its [request for advice](#) the government also asks what the Netherlands' stance on this topic should be towards international partners outside the EU. Lastly, the government asks the AIV to advise on whether the Netherlands needs to adjust its position on European industrial policy. The AIV expects to publish this advisory report in the spring of 2022.



Human Rights in a Changing World

The multilateral system, which underpins international cooperation on human rights, is under pressure. Autocratic states are eroding the system from within, reducing public support for multilateral cooperation and acting transactionally, placing their own interests above shared values and interests. Space for civil society is being constricted, and a lack of consensus is hindering Europe's ability to take a firm, united stand.

In its [request for advice](#) the government asks the AIV to answer the following questions. How can the growing, adverse influence of autocratic states on the human rights system be countered? How can we ensure the continuing relevance of the international human rights system? How can we ensure that civil and political rights continue to receive sufficient attention in the multilateral human rights system?

Can a modernised human rights narrative be developed that responds to autocratic tendencies to cast doubt on the basic principles of human rights and focus mainly on socioeconomic rights? The AIV aims to publish the advisory report by mid-2022.

The Geopolitical Role of Türkiye

The government has asked the AIV to draw up an advisory report on the geopolitical role of Türkiye and the consequences of that role, both at bilateral level and within NATO and the EU. In response to the **request for advice** the AIV established a joint Committee on the Geopolitics of Türkiye to prepare the advisory report.

Türkiye plays a significant role in geopolitical relations, primarily in its immediate region but far beyond it as well. The country is a member of NATO and a long-standing EU candidate country. The central questions in this advisory process are as follows: What are the main political and economic developments that play a role in the country's geopolitical stance, and what changes will this stance undergo in the medium term? How will this affect relations with Türkiye, both at bilateral level and through the EU and NATO, and which policy conclusions may be drawn in this regard? The AIV has been asked to issue an advisory report to the government in 2022.



Evaluation AIV 2015 - 2020



The AIV commissioned consulting firm Berenschot to carry out a performance evaluation study for the AIV during the period from 2015 to 2020. The title of the study is ‘Towards Increased Strategic Added Value’. Berenschot concluded that the AIV is widely recognised as an authoritative body. That authority is based on its thorough advisory reports and its multidisciplinary composition, as well as on the knowledge and experience of the members of the AIV and the permanent committees. Berenschot believes there are opportunities to increase the strategic added value and impact of the AIV and has made a number of relevant recommendations, namely that a strategic decision should be taken about the AIV’s mission and strategy, that efforts should be made to increase the reach of its advisory reports, that it should continue to invest in greater diversity in terms of the composition of the Council and permanent committees, and that it should strengthen the secretariat.

The conclusions and recommendations of the Berenschot evaluation offer a sound basis for the AIV to continue enhancing its strategic added value in the years ahead.

The AIV aims to become more proactive, inclusive and communicative by deepening and broadening its network, strengthening its organisation and continuing to develop its communication capacity.





Transatlantic Relationship Seminar

The AIV's 2021 seminar took place on 25 February 2021. The theme of the event was the Future of the Transatlantic Relationship, set against the backdrop of the American presidential elections of November 2020 and the inauguration of President Joe Biden. The day started with an introduction by Ivo Daalder, president of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. This was followed by a response by Luuk van Middelaar, AIV member and Professor of the Foundations and Practice of the European Union and Its Institutions at Leiden University. After that the audience of more than 80 participants were invited to ask questions.



Members of the Advisory Council in 2021

The Council has nine members, including the Chair and 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)



- ▶ Involved in publication of:
 - Advisory report
The Netherlands in the World: An Agenda for Foreign Policy
 - Position paper
Crisis Readiness – the International Dimension

Mw. prof.mr. C.P.M. (Tineke) Cleiren (Vice-Chair)



- ▶ Involved in publication of:
 - Advisory report
The Netherlands in the World: An Agenda for Foreign Policy
 - Currently involved in:
[Advisory process on human rights in a changing world](#)

Lieutenant General (ret.) Jan Broeks



- ▶ Involved in publication of:
 - Advisory report
The Netherlands in the World: An Agenda for Foreign Policy
[Autonomous Weapon Systems](#)
 - Currently involved in:
[Advisory process on the geopolitical role of Türkiye](#)



Dr Dorette Corbey



- ▶ Involved in publication of:
 - Advisory report
The Netherlands in the World: An Agenda for Foreign Policy
[Social Protection in Africa](#)
 - Participated in webinar
Social Protection in Africa
 - Currently involved in:
[Advisory process on frameworks for a Dutch Global Health Strategy](#)



Professor Ernst Hirsch Ballin



- ▶ Involved in publication of:
 - Advisory report
The Netherlands in the World: An Agenda for Foreign Policy
 - Currently involved in:
[Advisory process on human rights in a changing world](#)

Professor Luuk van Middelaar



- ▶ Involved in publication of:
 - Advisory report
The Netherlands in the World: An Agenda for Foreign Policy
 - Currently involved in:
 - Advisory process on European industrial policy
 - Advisory process on the geopolitical role of Türkiye

Koos Richelle



- ▶ Involved in publication of:
 - Advisory report
The Netherlands in the World: An Agenda for Foreign Policy
 - Blog
Ontwikkelingssamenwerking: over Pretenties, Prioriteiten en Poen (Development Cooperation: Pretensions, Priorities and Cash)
 - Participated in webinar
Social Protection in Africa
 - Betrokken bij adviestraject
Advisory process on frameworks for a Dutch Global Health Strategy

Henne Schuwer (from December 2021)



- ▶ Involved in publication of:
 - Advisory report
Autonomous Weapon Systems
 - Currently involved in:
 - Advisory process on the geopolitical role of Türkiye

Monika Sie Dhian Ho



- ▶ Involved in publication of:
 - Advisory report
The Netherlands in the World: An Agenda for Foreign Policy
 - Currently involved in:
[Advisory process on European industrial policy](#)



Members of the permanent committees in 2021



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 (until 16 October 2021)
Marnix Krop
Joshua Livestro,
Professor Ton Nijhuis
Dr Mathieu Segers
Ben Voorhorst,
Professor Catherine de Vries

▶ Human Rights Committee (CMR)

Dr Maarten Biermans
Professor Antoine Buyse
Marie-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
Naema Tahir

▶ Development Cooperation Committee (COS)

Professor Bas Arts
Linda Broekhuizen
Professor Jenny Dankelman
Professor Marleen Dekker
Professor Ronald de Jong
Dr Sara Kinsbergen
Dr Kellie Liket
Pim Mol
Antony Ongáyo
Marieke Schouten
Elisabeth van der Steenhoven
(from 1 October 2021)
Léon Wijnands

▶ Peace and Security Committee (CVW)

Willemijn Aerds (until 31 July 2021)
Professor Edwin Bakker
Arend-Jan Boekestijn
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
Dick Zandee



Secretariat in 2021



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

Dr Karin Wester,

Deputy AIV executive secretary/CMR executive secretary

Marije Balt,

Joint committees executive secretary

Hans van der Jagt,

CVV executive secretary (from 1 February 2021)

Marenne Jansen,

COS executive secretary

Kees Smit Sibinga (in memoriam),

CEI executive secretary

Dr Saskia Hollander,

CEI executive secretary (from 1 July 2021)

▶ Communication

Wouter Bax,

spokesperson/communications adviser (part-time, from 1 June 2021)

▶ Management assistants

Irene van der Winkel (until 28 February 2021)

Fabiola San Martín López (until 17 October 2021)

Annet Potting (from 1 May 2021)

▶ Trainees

Lisa van Ewijk (from 1 January until 30 June 2021)



Communication



In 2021 the AIV laid the basis for a communications strategy aimed at helping its advisory reports filter through to public debate and policy. This strategy covers the entire spectrum of external communication, from supervising the publication of new advisory reports to writing blogs, using social media and arranging public appearances by members of the AIV. In 2022 this strategy will be developed in more detail and tested in practice.

The AIV Wellenstein Lecture could not take place in 2021 due to the measures imposed to limit the spread of COVID-19. In 2021 the number of visits to the AIV website was roughly the same as in the previous year. The number of Twitter followers rose from 601 to 848 in 2021. On LinkedIn the number of the AIV's followers increased from 457 to 1,124.



Finances in 2021



The AIV has an annual budget of €525,000. Personnel costs 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, the hosting of webinars and the cost of the performance evaluation. The AIV's total expenditure in 2021 was €480,000.



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