



**ADMINISTRATIVE AGREEMENT ON
FRISIAN LANGUAGE
AND CULTURE
2013-2018**

Preamble

The State of the Netherlands, represented in this matter by the Ministers of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, Foreign Affairs, Security and Justice, Social Affairs and Employment and Education, Culture and Science.

The aforementioned ministers, hereinafter jointly referred to as the central government, each inasmuch as it pertains to his or her responsibility in the matter, on the one hand

and

the province of Fryslân,

Represented in this matter by the Queen's Commissioner, Mr J.A. Jorritsma, hereinafter referred to as the province, on the other,

whereas:

- the responsibility of the central government to look after the Frisian language was officially recognised in 1970 in the Cabinet position on the report of the Frisian Language Politics Commission;
- as a member state of the Council of Europe, the Netherlands has entered into the obligation to protect Frisian by ratifying the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.
- the central government and the province of Fryslân therefore have a joint responsibility for safeguarding the Frisian language and culture;
- in view of this joint responsibility and duty of care, the central government and the province of Fryslân periodically enter into administrative agreements to find ways to implement the responsibility regarding the Frisian language and culture and how to fund it;
- the central government and the province reserve the right to make supplementary agreements during the term of this administrative agreement in the light of national and international developments pertaining to the Frisian language and culture;

have decided to set down the following administrative agreement:

SECTION 1: GENERAL

(Article 7 of the European Charter)

If the quality of the language policy being aimed for at a national, provincial or regional level is good, it is important when drafting policy plans never to lose sight of their impact on the use of the Dutch or Frisian language. This simplifies compliance with the provisions of the European Charter endorsed by the Netherlands. This must also be set down in a formal sense.

- 1.1. The central government and the province shall ensure that all policy memoranda pertaining to fields which can be regarded as part of the area of operation of this administrative agreement, with due observance of the provisions of the European Charter ratified by the Netherlands, shall pay attention to the impact of the draft policy plans on the Frisian language.

Action: Central government/province.

- 1.2. The special status of the Frisian language and culture is set down in specific legislation and convention provisions. The central government acknowledges that this status must be guaranteed by the government level most suited to the purpose. By entering into this administrative agreement, the province of Fryslân is complying with this duty (state/province). The coalition agreement of the Cabinet (Rutte II) contains the intention to work towards provincial mergers over a period of time. This means that the current 12 provinces will make way in the long term for five regions. It is the intention of the Rutte II Cabinet to achieve a merger of the provinces of Noord-Holland, Utrecht and Flevoland during its Cabinet term. In the case of the other provinces this is not scheduled to take place till much later. Initiatives to bring this about will be developed during this Cabinet term. It will be up to the province of Fryslân to determine its own position in this. For the Cabinet, the special position of the province of Fryslân from a cultural point of view, as guaranteed by the Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, among others, will be taken into account in the process and the development of further policy.

Action: Central government/province.

- 1.3. The coalition agreement of the Cabinet (Rutte II) contains the intention to work towards provincial mergers over a period of time. This means that the current 12 provinces will make way in the long term for five regions. The intention is to achieve the merger of the provinces Noord-Holland, Utrecht and Flevoland during this Cabinet term. In the case of the other provinces this is not scheduled to take place till much later. Initiatives to bring this about will be developed during this Cabinet term.

It will therefore be up to the province of Fryslân to determine its own position in this. For the Cabinet the special position of this province from a cultural point of view, as guaranteed by the Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, among others, will be taken into account in the process and the development of further policy.

Action: Central government/province.

1.4. In order to advise the Dutch government and the province of Fryslân on all matters pertaining to the Frisian language, the central government and the Provincial Executive of the province of Fryslân have a joint advisory body. The advisory body can report on the needs and wishes with regard to the Frisian language and culture to all administrative bodies and judicial organisations, inasmuch as these are located in the province of Fryslân or have the province of Fryslân as their area of operation. The advisory body will also provide support in drawing up rules and policy plans pertaining to the Frisian language by administrative bodies established in the province of Fryslân which do not belong to the central government, and to elements of the central government for which the area of operation covers the province of Fryslân or part of it. The current Frisian consultative body will be incorporated into this new body for the Frisian language, which will be funded by the central government and the province jointly. The Use of Frisian Language legislative proposal which has already been sent to the Lower House of Parliament proposes the establishment of the Body for the Frisian Language.

Action: [Central government/province.](#)

SECTION 2: EDUCATION

(Article 8 of the European Charter)

Introduction

Good education is the basis for today's society in the Netherlands. Understanding and speaking their native language is something children learn 'by themselves', but reading and writing it is not. As the competition with other languages is becoming increasingly fierce, in terms of both spoken and written use of the Frisian language, learning to read and write Frisian is essential for its continued existence. In this context, what is referred to as the continuous learning period, from preschool age through to higher education, is very important for Frisian. The education section of the European Charter is based on this concept, as is this administrative agreement.

The following point of departure for policy on Frisian in education is applicable:

the central government determines the general education, cultural and media policy, and with regard to Frisian directly or indirectly ensures compliance with the European Charter;

the province of Fryslân determines the policy with regard to Frisian (within the frameworks of the general education regulations) and will ensure its implementation;

the central government will make resources available to enable the province of Fryslân to implement its policies on the Frisian language; this includes use of the resources of the province itself.

the policy of the province with regard to Frisian and the general education, cultural and media policy of the central government must reinforce one another where possible.

2.1 Agreements on Frisian during preschool period

1) *Working language in childcare and playgroups*

Under articles 1.55 and 2.12 of the Childcare and Playgroup Quality Act, in areas in which the Frisian language is in living use alongside the Dutch language, childcare and playgroups have freedom of choice with regard to the working language. This means that, in areas in which Frisian is the working language in childcare and playgroups, this is permitted. Just to clarify: this pertains to childcare and playgroups, and not to the preschool and early school education sector.

The inspection policy of the Regional Health Service in Friesland is geared towards permitting the use of Frisian as working language, or applying a bilingual policy.

2) *Basic competencies/professionalism*

There are basic competencies applicable to the Frisian language and multilingualism, which have been developed into multilingualism modules, and the modules for refresher courses have been developed in detail and signed by the relevant parties in the Frisian education field.

Action: province

The Regional Education Centres (ROCs) will be encouraged, during this administrative agreement, to further integrate the multilingualism module into the curriculum of the courses training people to be educational advisers/education assistants (Educational Advice Work) at Frisian Poort and Friesland College, in order to link up better with subjects such as developmental psychology and language development.

Action: province

3) *Teaching materials*

Frisian language teaching material is to be available for the entire curriculum for preschool education in Fryslân for systematic use by a growing number of institutions, as long as the teaching material is used alongside Dutch and is not funded from the specific payment for the preschool and early school education sector.

Action: province

4) *Multilingual policy*

The playgroup and childcare project, which implements a language policy focused on multilingual development, shall be vigorously continued. At the end of this administrative agreement, there shall be 200 playgroups and centres for childcare in Fryslân which pursue a language policy focused on multilingual development.

Action: province

2.2 Agreements on Frisian in primary education

1) *Core objectives for Frisian in primary education*

All primary schools which offer Frisian language and culture shall ensure that what they offer is in line with the core objectives for Frisian, as these were set down by Order in Council on the grounds of Section 9 of the Primary Education Act.

The core objectives shall remain unchanged until advice on a draft amendment has been requested by the Minister of Education, Culture and Science from the Fryslân Provincial Executive, and this advice has been issued. The Provincial Executive issues its advice within eight weeks.

The Minister of Education, Culture and Science can only go counter to this advice if he/she provides reasons. At the time of the signing of this administrative agreement, a draft proposal is being prepared which fleshes out in greater detail the involvement of the central government and the province of Fryslân in determining the core objectives.

Action: Central government/province.

2) *Exemption*

The Provincial Executive of Fryslân, in cooperation with the education sector, shall develop criteria for granting exemption as referred to in Section 9, fourth paragraph, of the Primary Education Act, and as referred to in Section 11e, first paragraph, of the Secondary Education Act, which are sufficiently supported by the schools. The Provincial Executive shall discuss the criteria formulated in consultation with Minister of Education, Culture and Science.

The Provincial Executive of Fryslân, in cooperation with the education sector, shall also develop criteria for granting partial exemption for the core objectives for Frisian in primary education and the core objectives for the Frisian language and culture in secondary education, which are sufficiently supported by the schools, with a view to the option of partial exemption, which is part of the legislative proposal currently being prepared referred to above. The Provincial Executive shall share information with the Education Inspectorate concerning any exemptions granted.

Action: Central government/province.

3) *Teaching materials*

There is to be a high quality range of Frisian language education material available, both in physical and digital form, for systematic use by a large proportion of the schools. Schools shall remain free to choose an alternative.

Action: province

4) *Budget for Material Preservation of Frisian*

The budget for Material Preservation of Frisian (MIF) shall no longer only be intended for years 3 through 8 of primary school, but shall also be able to be used for pupils in years 1 and 2. In order to be able to continue to guarantee the level of the existing amount per pupil, an increase to the budget will be needed. An additional amount of €90,000 per year shall be set aside for this.

Action: Central government.

5) *Language policy*

The number of schools implementing language policy is to increase by 20 schools per year in the period through to 2018. Currently 50% of the schools in Fryslân implement an active language policy.

Action: province

6) *Trilingual education*

Within the limits of the legislation and regulations, a quarter of the Frisian primary schools are to be trilingual by the end of 2015.

Action: province

7) *Pupil Tracking System Frisian*

There is no Pupil Tracking System Frisian (LVS) or testing for the subject of Frisian that is independent of method. The central government and the province will together look at what is necessary and possible in this context, and will set priorities in their findings.

Action: Central government/province.

2.3 Agreements on Frisian in secondary education

1) *Core objectives for Frisian in secondary education*

All schools for secondary education shall offer Frisian language and culture which is in line with the core objectives/ attainment targets for Frisian, as set down by Order in Council in accordance with Section 11e of the Secondary Education Act. The core objectives shall remain unchanged until advice on a draft amendment has been requested by the Minister of Education, Culture and Science from the Fryslân Provincial Executive, and this advice has been issued. The Provincial Executive shall issue its advice within eight weeks. The Minister of Education, Culture and Science can only go counter to this advice if he/she provides reasons. At the time of the signing this administrative agreement, a draft proposal is being prepared which fleshes out in greater detail the involvement of the central government and the province of Fryslân in determining the core objectives.

Action: Central government/province.

2) *Exemption*

The Provincial Executive of Fryslân, in cooperation with the education sector, shall develop criteria for granting exemption as referred to in Section 11e, first paragraph, of the Secondary Education Act, which are sufficiently supported by the schools. The Provincial Executive shall discuss the criteria formulated in consultation with Minister of Education, Culture and Science.

The Provincial Executive of Fryslân, in cooperation with the education sector, shall also develop criteria for granting partial exemption for the core objectives for Frisian in secondary education, which are sufficiently supported by the schools, with a view to the option of partial exemption, which is part of the legislative proposal currently being prepared referred to above. The Provincial Executive shall share information with the Education Inspectorate concerning any exemptions granted.

Action: Central government/province.

3) *Teaching materials*

There is to be a high quality range of Frisian language education material available, both in physical and digital form, for systematic use by a large proportion of the schools for secondary education. Schools shall remain free to choose an alternative.

Action: province

4) *Budget for Material Preservation of Frisian in secondary education*

There is no Material Preservation of Frisian in secondary education as there is in primary education. The Ministry for Education, Culture and Science will make available a Material Preservation of Frisian in Secondary Education budget of €65,000 per year for the subject of Frisian in secondary education schools in the province of Fryslân. This amount is based on a fixed amount per pupil, multiplied by the total number of pupils in the first year of secondary school in the province of Fryslân.

Action: Central government.

5) *Multilingual secondary education*

The multilingual secondary education project shall be vigorously continued, and the number of locations in the province of Fryslân offering a multilingual stream in secondary education, at which Dutch, Frisian and English function as instruction languages, shall have grown to at least 10 by the end of this administrative agreement.

Action: province

2.4 Agreements on Frisian in schools which fall under the WEC.

1) *Overview of language policy options*

An overview is being drawn up of the language policy options at Frisian schools which fall under the Expertise Centres Act (WEC).

Action: province

2) *Development of language policy*

There is a project in the pipeline to further investigate or firm up language policy in these schools.

Action: province

2.5 Agreements on Frisian in schools for vocational education

1) *Command of Frisian at work*

Greater clarity is required from the Frisian business community and other institutions in Fryslân for which the vocational education institutions (MBO) are training students about the desired command of the Frisian language by their personnel.

Action: province

2) *Language policy ROCs and AOC*

Promoting the development of language policy in a vocationally oriented context on the basis of the wishes of the regional business community in the Frisian ROCs and the Agricultural Education Centres (AOC).

Action: province

3) *Frisian language competencies*

The inclusion of Frisian language skills/ multilingualism modules in the curriculum of vocational courses will be encouraged, within the frameworks of Section 7.2.4 of the Adult and Vocational Education Act (WEB).

Action: province

4) *Cooperation between secondary education and vocational education institutions*

The existing provincial agreement for Frisian teaching hours for secondary education will also be made accessible to the AOC and ROCs which wish to include Frisian in their curriculum. Cooperation between schools for secondary education and vocational education institutions with regard to teaching the Frisian language will be encouraged.

Action: province

5) *Work placement projects*

Realisation of work placement projects in which the Frisian language plays a role in communication between staff members and with the customers. This could be developed from the Frisian teaching programme.

Action: province

6) *Workgroups at MBO (vocational education) institutions*

Encouraging workgroups in the education sectors which make up the Frisian competencies and giving them a place in the curriculum of the sectors.

Action: province

2.6 Agreements on Frisian in Higher Education

1) *Teacher training courses for primary education*

NHL Hogeschool and Stenden Hogeschool shall offer Frisian language and culture in their curriculum with the aim that as many students as possible should attain competency in Frisian language and culture. The province shall maintain this part of the curriculum of both universities of applied science. The consultations with both teacher training colleges regarding the initial course and refresher courses in the area of Frisian and multilingualism shall be systematically continued.

Action: province

2) *Frisian as instruction language*

The teacher training courses for primary education of NHL Hogeschool and Stenden Hogeschool shall pay attention to Frisian as a subject and as language of instruction, also as part of the De Trijetalige Skoalle project. It shall also remain possible at Stenden and NHL teacher training colleges to choose a trilingual stream (Frisian/Dutch/English), so that students will be optimally equipped to teach at trilingual primary schools.

Action: province

3) *Teacher training course Frisian NHL*

The province shall maintain the grade 1 and grade 2 teacher training course in Frisian at NHL.

Action: province

4) *Refresher courses offered in Frisian*

The Education Inspectorate has noted that 40% of the teachers in primary education and secondary education are not qualified or competent to teach the subject of Frisian language and culture. For this reason, efforts are being made to significantly increase the number of teachers in primary education who are competent to teach Frisian language and culture, and to increase the number of teachers of Frisian in secondary education with a suitable qualification, so that the total number of teachers who are not qualified or competent to teach Frisian is reduced by no less than half.

Stenden Hogeschool and NHL Hogeschool shall provide a range of refresher courses for teachers in primary education who do not yet have competency in Frisian language and culture. The teacher training course in Frisian at NHL Hogeschool shall offer teachers the opportunity to bring their competency to the desired level in terms of subject content, didactics and methodology. The teachers' grant makes it possible for primary and secondary education teachers to obtain funding for a Bachelors or Masters course, so that teachers of Frisian can attain their qualification/competency.

The results of the investments under the quality agreement for refresher courses in Frisian for teachers in primary and secondary education shall be evaluated in this period. Continued efforts from 2013 on will be necessary with regard to the range of refresher courses in Frisian for teachers in primary and secondary education, through continuation of the quality agreement in this area.

Action: Central government/province.

5) *Frisian as legal and administrative language*

The province of Fryslân will assess whether, and if so in which way, attention can be given in the first year law course in Leeuwarden to Frisian as legal and administrative language.

Action: province

6) *Chair in Frisian language and literature*

The University of Groningen (RuG) has drawn up a plan for a new university Bachelor's-Master's (BaMa) course in Frisian Language and Culture: 'Minorities & Multilingualism: into the Frisian laboratory'. The realisation of the plan will be supported financially for the next 6 years by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science with an amount of €120,000 per year. The amounts will be paid out subject to the condition that the Minister of Education, Culture and Science is presented with a formal, definitive proposal for the new course by RuG and the province, which includes a market research study, which is currently missing from the current proposal. The RuG is aware of the statutory conditions pertaining to accreditation and effectiveness of the course. The province will also make a financial contribution to realisation of the plan.

Action: Central government/province.

7) *Master's in multilingualism*

A Masters in multilingualism will be created as part of the University Campus Fryslân (UCF). This BaMa course, "Minorities & Multilingualism: into the Frisian laboratory" will tie in with the Masters in multilingualism at the UCF.

Action: province

2.7 Agreements on Frisian in educational support

1) *Language policy*

At the end of this administrative agreement, the number of schools for primary education with an integral language policy, in the form of a language policy plan or as part of the school plan (with the exception of the schools which have full exemption from Frisian), should have increased by one quarter.

Action: province

2) *Sintrum Foar Frysktalige Berne-opfang*

There is a Sintrum foar Frysktalige Berne-opfang (SFBO), which offers educational support and advice for Frisian/bilingual childcare for the preschool and early school education sector.

Action: province

3) *Network*

The network of bilingual and Frisian language playgroups, centres for childcare and trilingual primary schools and secondary schools will receive optimum facilitation.

Action: province

4) *Taalsintrum Frysk*

There is a Taalsintrum Frysk (TF), which provides educational support and advice for Frisian/multilingual primary and secondary education. The support focuses on enabling schools to work in the correct, differentiated manner with the range of teaching materials on offer referred to above.

Action: province

5) *Encouraging a demand-driven approach*

Ascertaining which concrete steps can be taken to gradually switch to a more demand-driven approach; school boards must be encouraged to actually convert their language policy into concrete demands to the education support service (in the case of the Taalsintrum Frysk of Cedin).

Action: province

6) *Network of trilingual schools*

The Trijetalige Skoalle project is to be continued.

Action: province

7) *Frisian day/half day*

The number of primary schools with a Frisian day/half day is to be expanded.

Action: province

8) *Language coordinators*

The section in the language coordinator course pertaining to Frisian/multilingualism is to be continued. There is a province-wide network of language coordinators in primary education.

Action: province

g) *Educational material*

There is a broad, high-quality and differentiated range of Frisian language educational materials on offer for primary education and the first phase of secondary education, in which context ICT applications have an important position.

Action: province

2.8 Agreements on Frisian in supervision and advice

1) *Core objectives for Frisian*

Primary schools and schools for secondary education shall focus on achieving the core objectives for the subject Frisian. The province shall encourage various approaches, especially as adoption of the core objectives for Frisian is a future goal of the province. The Education Inspectorate shall monitor realisation of the core objectives for Frisian.

Action: Central government.

2) *Periodic supervision*

Periodic supervision of the quality of the subject of Frisian in education, and attaching consequences to the results of this supervision.

Action: Central government.

SECTION 3: JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES, ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICE DEPARTMENTS

(Articles 9 & 10 of the European Charter)

Introduction

The use of the Frisian language in public administration has been anchored in legislation since 1995 in the General Administrative Law Act (section 2:2). Moreover, the Use of Frisian (Legal Matters) Act, which came into force in 1997, expanded the options for using Frisian in the court room.

A legislative proposal on rules governing the use of the Frisian language in public administration and in legal matters was submitted to the Lower House of Parliament on 25 July 2012. The purpose of the act is, in any event, to reverse as much as possible the current limitations on the use of Frisian in public administration and in legal matters, thereby strengthening the position of Frisian in both sectors.

3.1 Agreements on the use of Frisian by judicial authorities

1) *Monitoring*

The use of Frisian in court cases in the province of Fryslân is being monitored.

Action: Central government.

2) *Review of judicial map*

The proposed review of the judicial map is resulting in increases of scale in legal matters. The central government shall ensure that the existing legal position of Frisian-speaking litigants shall be guaranteed and not reduced in the review of the judicial map.

Action: Central government.

3.2 Agreements on the use of Frisian by administrative authorities

1) *Administrative redivisions*

In the case of plans for municipal redivisions, the province and the central government shall work to notify the municipalities in question of the need to adopt an adequate municipal language policy. In the case of administrative redivisions, the central government and the province of Fryslân will make agreements, in consultation with the parties involved, regarding protection of the position of the Frisian language in the municipality to be newly formed. In the case of municipal redivisions, these agreements will be made with the municipalities in question and the Provincial Executive of Fryslân.

Action: Central government/province.

2) *Language policy*

The province shall encourage administrative bodies which are not part of the central government and are not established in the province of Fryslân (the field of operation of which extends to the province of Fryslân or part of it) and judicial bodies which have the province of Fryslân as their territory to implement a language policy.

Action: province

In the Use of Frisian Language legislative proposal, which at the time of the signing of this administrative agreement is before the Lower House of Parliament, it states that the administrative bodies established in the province of Fryslân which do not form part of the central government must draw up rules on the use of the Frisian language in written documents and in verbal use. It also proposes that these administrative bodies draw up a policy plan on the use of the Frisian language. This is a legal obligation.

Action: The central government and province

3) Nomination of candidate templates

The central government will make Frisian language templates available for the nomination of candidates in elections.

Action: Central government.

4) Frisian translations

When European conventions which are translated into Frisian are amended, the Frisian versions shall also be amended.

Action: Central government/province.

5) Use of Frisian by the police and the emergency switchboard

Use of Frisian by the police:

The central government shall facilitate that civilians can use the Frisian language as much as possible in their contact with the police.

Action: Central government.

6) Use of Frisian by the emergency switchboard:

The central government and the Safety Region (Fryslân) shall facilitate that civilians can use the Frisian language as much as possible in their contact with the regional Fire Brigade, ambulance service or police.

Action: the central government and Safety Region

¹ Parliamentary Documents II 2011-2012, 33335 no. 2

SECTION 4: The media

(Article 11 of the European Charter)

Introduction

In this administrative agreement, the term media is deemed to mean: printed media, radio and television (“traditional media”) and new media (the internet, digital cable, video on demand, narrowcasting, social media). The central government and the province are working to ensure that Frisian will also be given a suitable position in the new media. Developments in this area are moving very quickly. In these developments, use of the Frisian language is being given the attention needed to strengthen the position of Frisian in the media. The province of Fryslân has the ambition to make the position of Frisian in all forms of new media (the internet and electronic mail) at least equal to that of Frisian in traditional media (radio and television, in particular) in Fryslân.

At the time this administrative agreement was entered into, Omrop Fryslân is broadcasting radio 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It broadcasts informative and cultural programmes during the daytime, and music programmes during the evening and at night. Regional television broadcasts just over 11 hour of original material per weekday. There are 27 hours of Frisian programming broadcast via NOS on the national channels each year: 21 hours of broadcasting time for Frisian language documentaries (FryslânDoc) and six hours of broadcasting time each year for schools television and secondary education. NOS offers Frisian language school television programmes for primary education (10 hours per year) via the internet. These programmes are provided by the national television department of Omrop Fryslân and are also broadcast via the regional channel.

4.1 Media agreements

1) *Promotion of Frisian language and culture*

The central government and the province shall pursue a policy of maintaining and actively promoting Frisian language and culture, including with the use of media.

Action: Central government/province.

2) *Standard funding*

In accordance with the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe, the central government shall make sufficient resources available for full and multifaceted Frisian programming on radio, television and the internet. At the time this administrative agreement was entered into, realisation of this Frisian language programming was the responsibility of Omrop Fryslân.

The coalition agreement of the Rutte II Cabinet states intentions concerning the broadcasting structure, as well as its funding. The central government and the province are together examining how these intentions can be implemented in the case of the Frisian regional broadcaster, and how the various aspects will be implemented, taking into account the convention agreements pertaining to the use of the Frisian language in the media. On the basis of this, the central government and the province will make more detailed agreements on funding of the programming of the regional broadcaster in Fryslân.

Action: Central government/province.

² The Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities of the Council of Europe, article 4, and the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages, article 11.1.a iii.

3) *Funding on a project basis*

In addition to the standard financing of the basic regional broadcasting provision, the central government and the province can make resources available to Frisian regional broadcasting on a project basis for programme projects which are in line with the policy of strengthening Frisian as a minority language.

Action: The central government/ province

4) *Commission for Safeguarding Frisian in the Media*

The Commission for Safeguarding Frisian in the Media has issued advice on the position of Frisian in the media and on safeguarding the convention agreements on Frisian language in the media.

In accordance with the convention agreements on Frisian language in the media, the Frisian regional broadcaster has a special position in terms of safeguarding the Frisian language as the second state language in the Netherlands. This pertains particularly to the special role of the regional broadcaster in the province of Fryslân in terms of the preservation, promotion and living use of Frisian.

The central government shall be responsible for ensuring that, when developing in detail the intentions of the Rutte II Cabinet with regard to the broadcasting structure and the further development of the media policy, the report and advice of the Commission for Safeguarding Frisian in the Media will be taken into account.

Action: Central government.

5) *Promotion fund*

Programmes of the Frisian regional broadcaster will be eligible, until 1 January 2017, for support from central funds in the area of broadcasting productions, such as the Fund for the Promotion of Dutch Cultural Broadcasting Productions. This has been laid down in the articles of the Promotion Fund and elsewhere. In the letter dated 6 December, the Cabinet announced that the budget of the Media Fund would be set to zero as of 1 January 2017. The fund will be wound up on that date. The cuts to the budget will have consequences for the programming of the national and regional public broadcasters. The NPO has announced that it will continue to make the type of programmes funded by the fund. It is important that the NPO ensures a good embedding of the tasks and functions carried out by the Media Fund in promoting and financing specifically public cultural media productions at the national and regional public broadcasters.

Action: Central government.

6) *Subsidy for television drama productions*

Frisian language television drama productions will be eligible until 1 January 2017 for subsidies from the Fund for the Promotion of Dutch Cultural Broadcasting Productions.

Action: Central government.

7) *Frisian language and culture expertise*

Expertise in relation to Frisian language and culture has been guaranteed in the composition of the boards of bodies set up pursuant to the Media Act and the boards of funds relating to broadcasting productions. External expertise in the field of the Frisian language can be engaged in such cases as arise.

Action: Central government.

SECTION 5: CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

(Article 12 of the European Charter)

Art and Culture are alive and blossoming in the province of Fryslân. To a large extent, the Frisian language is the working language for cultural activities. The Frisian cultural infrastructure includes a number of basic facilities, namely: theatre company Tryater, Tresoar, Keunstwurk, de Afûk and the Fryske Akademy. Alongside these basic facilities, there are more than 300 amateur drama associations (including 46 associations for young persons' drama), 29 Iepenloftspullen, 289 music associations and 530 choirs. Music schools and creativity centres also play an important role in keeping Frisian language and culture alive, and strengthening it. Furthermore, there are various publishing houses which publish Frisian language books. This broad infrastructure is facilitated by knowledge institutions supported by the province. The involvement of the central government in supporting Frisian language cultural activities and facilities is set down in article 12 of the European Charter (12.1, 12.2 and 12.3). Changes to the funding of the cultural institutions in question will be discussed at the earliest possible stage bilaterally between the central government and the province of Fryslân.

5.1 Agreements concerning “Tryater”

1) *Preservation of Tryater*

There is a professional theatre company, Tryater, which makes use of the Frisian language, preservation of which is made possible by the Minister of Education, Culture and Science. This involves Frisian language theatre for adults and young people. Theatre Company Tryater forms part of the national basic infrastructure. Tryater shall be assessed with due observance of the points of departure of the Government Memorandum on Culture Policy. Assessment by the government shall be carried out by the Council for Culture.

Action: Central government.

2) *Finance*

Financial support for Tryater shall be provided in accordance with the standards applicable for it, on the understanding that the following exception is made to this: with regard to the geographical spread of performances, performances need only be given in the province of Fryslân. Performances outside the province shall be given on an incidental basis.

Action: Central government.

3) *Geographical spread of performances*

The province of Fryslân shall ensure that the conditions are provided which make possible an actual geographical spread of performances by subsidising performances which would otherwise not be possible due to the low capacity of theatre or the location in which the performance is to be given.

Action: province

4) *Evaluation of Tryater*

In the event that evaluation of Tryater results in an end to or reduction of the provision of opportunities to maintain the company, or after the activities are ended by the company, the Minister of Education, Culture and Science and the Provincial Executive Fryslân shall consult with one another regarding the situation at that point.

Action: Central government/province.

5.2 Agreements concerning the “Fryske Akademy”

1) *Continuation of the Fryske Akademy*

There is an institution for the pursuit of scholarship in the area of Frisian language and culture, the Stichting Fryske Akademy in Leeuwarden, continuation of which is made possible by the Minister of Education, Culture and Science and the province of Fryslân.

Action: Central government/province.

2) *Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences*

The Fryske Akademy is affiliated to the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) and forms part of the institutions and research organisation of the KNAW. The nature of the connection between the Fryske Akademy and the KNAW is determined by them themselves in mutual consultation. The independence and unity of the Fryske Akademy shall be maintained in this. The Fryske Akademy shall retain the status of foundation and can make use of the facilities of the KNAW.

Action: Central government.

3) *Finance*

The financial resources of the Minister of Education, Culture and Science for the Fryske Akademy, including the resources for premises, were transferred to the KNAW in 1990 (as a result of the para-university operation) and in 1994 (as a result of the revision of the premises system). The following applies in this respect:

- 1) The state resources transferred to the KNAW are earmarked and are intended for the pursuit of scholarship in the context of Frisian scholarship subjects by the Fryske Akademy and for premises for the institution;
- 2) The KNAW shall evaluate the quality of the pursuit of scholarship by the Fryske Akademy; this also includes the effectiveness of the programme, including those relating to activities in this field of scholarship elsewhere.

Action: Central government.

4) *Evaluation*

If, in its opinion as referred to in 3b, the KNAW believes that a substantial change is needed to its provision of resources to the Fryske Akademy, it must notify the Minister of Education, Culture and Science to this effect immediately. Before taking a decision in this matter, the Minister of Education, Culture and Science and the Provincial Executive of Fryslân shall consult with one another in an attempt to achieve the objectives in another manner.

Action: Central government/province.

5) *Provision of resources to Fryske Akademy*

Should the province of Fryslân consider lowering the provision of resources to the Fryske Akademy, it must notify the Minister of Education, Culture and Science, to this effect immediately. Before taking a decision in the matter, the Provincial Executive of Fryslân and the Minister of Education, Culture and Science shall consult with one another with a view to achieving the objectives in another manner.

Action: Central government/province.

6) *Alliance agreement between the Fryske Akademy and the KNAW*

The code of conduct set down in the Alliance agreement between the Fryske Akademy and the KNAW of 12 February 1990 shall form part of this administrative agreement, inasmuch as it is in accordance with the above.

5.3 Agreements concerning Tresoar, FLMD, It Fryske Boek and the Dutch Foundation for Literature

1) *Tresoar*

There is a Frisian Literature Museum and Documentation Centre. The Frysk Letterkundich Museum en Dokumintaasjesintrum (FLMD) became part of Tresoar in 2012. The FLMD foundation is a participant in the Letterhoeke joint arrangement, and has representation on the general board of Tresoar.

Action: Central government/province.

2) *Stichting it Fryske Boek*

The province shall promote the production, distribution and reading of Frisian language books. The Stichting It Fryske Boek (IFB) was responsible for carrying out this task, by means of a subsidy. In the context of an improved and more in-depth promotion of literature, the intention is that the tasks of It Fryske Boek be transferred to Tresoar.

Action: province

3) *Digitisation*

Digitisation is an instrument for making literature more accessible and increasing its distribution. One of the goals of the activities of Tresoar is to make digitally available and accessible a major part of the Frisian literary corpus.

Action: Central government/province.

4) *The Dutch Foundation for Literature*

The Dutch Foundation for Literature also pays attention to Frisian language literature in its activities. The bursaries for authors and translators of the Dutch Foundation for Literature are also accessible to Frisian writers in this context. The specific market and turnover conditions in which these writers are operating is also taken into account.

Action: Central government.

5.4 Agreements concerning Keunstwurk and Afûk

1) *Stichting Keunstwurk*

There is a knowledge centre for Frisian art and culture which focuses on amateur art activities, culture education and professional arts, and is involved in visual art, design, theatre, dance, music and multidisciplinary projects. At the time this administrative agreement was entered into, this was Stichting Keunstwurk in Leeuwarden.

Action: province

2) *Afûk*

There is a language promotion institution that focuses on the transfer, development and promotion of the Frisian language with regard to all social and other fields of this administrative agreement. At the time this administrative agreement was entered into, this was Afûk in Leeuwarden.

Action: province

SECTION 6: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE

(Article 13 of the European Charter)

The European Charter contains a section on economic and social life, a number of articles of which the Netherlands has ratified, namely 13.1, a, b, c and D and 13.2, b and c. In line with this, a number of objectives have been formulated in this administrative agreement in the economic and social fields. It should be borne in mind in this context that, with regard to language use, language behaviour and language codes, there is little legislation and are few regulations in this field.

This does not affect the fact that use of the Frisian language in the economic and social sector can be promoted in a facilitatory sense. It is also important in this context that any legal impediments to Frisian are removed if possible, in order to promote use of Frisian in economic and social life.

6.1 Agreements on Frisian in economic and social life.

1) *Work programme*

The work programme for the Frisian Language Body shall be determined in consultation with the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. Ascertaining the legislative obstacles with regard to use of the Frisian language in these sectors will play an important role in this.

Action: Central government/province.

2) *Frisian Support Centre*

As soon as the Frisian Language Body has been set up, the tasks of the existing Frisian Support Centre will be expanded to include an advisory role with regard to the provisions in the Use of Frisian Language Act, in which context attention will also be paid to other social domains, as identified in the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages.

Action: province

3) *Language policy in welfare and care sector*

At the end of 2015, an integral language policy shall be implemented in the welfare and care sector in the province of Fryslân.

Action: province

4) *Frysk yn 'e Soarch*

The "Frysk yn 'e Soarch" project will be continued.

Action: province

5) *Frisian in business*

In consultation with umbrella organisations and representatives of the business community, working to improve the position of Frisian in this sector.

Action: province

SECTION 7: CROSS-BORDER EXCHANGES

(Article 14 of the European Charter)

Frisians enjoy a special position in Fryslân as a cultural and linguistic minority. The parties therefore feel that it is important that the special position of Fryslân in the Netherlands is also known abroad, in accordance with articles 14a and 14b of the European Charter. Moreover, it is important to be able to compare the situation for linguistic minorities elsewhere in Europe with that in Fryslân. However, within the context of the European Union, it is more important still for Fryslân to create its own distinct profile. Regions in the European Union with a regional or minority language are given the opportunity to establish contacts with one another. From a linguistic perspective, the relationships with the Frisian language areas in Germany have traditionally been important for Fryslân, but the relationships with other minority languages in Europe are no less important.

7.1 Agreements on cross-border exchanges

1) *Network for the Promotion of Linguistic Diversity*

The province is a member of the European *Network for the Promotion of Linguistic Diversity* (NPLD) and makes use of this network to optimally organise international contacts with areas with a minority regional language in countries such as Italy, England and Spain in the context of various substantive themes.

Action: province

2) *Mercator European Knowledge Centre for Multilingualism and Language Learning*

The province helps to maintain the Mercator European Knowledge Centre for Multilingualism and Language Learning and endeavours to expand the knowledge which Mercator has gained in the area of multilingual education to other fields covered by the European Charter, such as cultural activities and economic and social life. The NPLD network can also be used for this.

Action: province

3) *International projects*

Participation as partner/lead partner in more international projects, in cooperation with partners from European minority language areas, making news in this context of the NPLD network.

Action: province

4) *Exchange projects for young people*

There are sufficient resources available to realise and promote international (multilateral) exchange projects for young people from minority language areas.

Action: province

5) *Exchanges in the areas of culture and education*

There are sufficient resources available to realise and promote exchanges in areas such as culture and education between the province of Fryslân and the Frisian language areas in Germany (the region of Ostfriesland in the federal state of Nedersaksen, particularly in the municipality of Saterland, and Kreis Nordfriesland)

Action: province

6) *Expansion of cross-border activities*

Cross-border activities should not be limited to the Frisian language areas in Germany, but expanded to other minority language areas in Europe.

Action: province

7) *European Territorial Cooperation*

(ETC) Investigate how the instrument of the European Territorial Cooperation Objective can be used for cross-border activities.

Action: Central government/province.

8) *Conventions of the Council of Europe*

When cultural conventions between the Netherlands and other member states of the Council of Europe are entered into and developed in detail, special attention shall be paid to the Frisian language and culture and the minority language(s) in the state in question.

Action: Central government.

SECTION 8: FINAL PROVISIONS

8.1) *Periodic consultations*

Consultations shall be held by the parties regarding the realisation of the activities in the context of this administrative agreement periodically, but at least once per year, under the leadership of the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

8.2) *TIMETABLE*

The period 2013 – 2015 will be used to determine how the provisions of the European Charter can be further put into operation, the period 2016 – 2018 will be used to develop this operationalisation in greater detail, as appropriate, by means of supplementary legislation.

8.3) *Coordination*

The consultations referred to above will also be used to coordinate policy between the province of Fryslân, that of the central government and the individual central government bodies, mindful also of the phasing referred to in articles 8.2 and 8.3.

8.4) *Provision of information*

To ensure effective provision of information about the realisation of this administrative agreement, the Lower House of Parliament and the Provincial Council of Fryslân are to be provided with a report halfway through the term of the Frisian Language and Culture Administrative Agreement (2015) by means.

8.5) *Preparatory consultations*

The consultations referred to in article 8.1 are to be preceded by preparatory consultations, under the responsibility of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Kingdom Relationships, in which the individual ministries and the province of Fryslân will be represented. These preparatory consultations will take place at least once a year. The following tasks are to be performed:

- a. preparatory consultations for the administrative consultations referred to in article 8.1;
- b. preparation of the report to the Lower House of Parliament and to the Provincial Council of Fryslân, as referred to in article 8.4;
- c. monitoring of the implementation of the obligations arising from the European Charter.

8.6) *Full or partial amendment*

In the event that the parties feel that the agreement must be wholly or partially amended, this will be made known during the consultations referred to in article 7.1. More detailed agreements will be made in this respect during these consultations.

8.7) *Termination of agreements*

The administrative agreement can be terminated, on condition that the proposal is notified to the other parties in writing one year in advance. During the periodic consultation referred to in article 8.1, the parties consult with one another regarding the situation arising at that point.

8.8) *Frisian Consultative Body*

The Consultative Body on the Frisian Language established pursuant to article 7, fourth paragraph of the European Charter shall issue advice to the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations regarding the realisation of this administrative agreement and the implementation agreements relating to the European Charter. At the time of the signing of the Administrative Agreement on Frisian Language and Culture, there is a Use of Frisian Language Legislative Proposal before the Lower House of Parliament. This legislative proposal proposes the establishment of a Body for the



Frisian Language to replace the Frisian Consultative Body. The work of the body will include taking over the advisory role of the Frisian Consultative Body to the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

8.9) Translation of Administrative Agreement

The text of the administrative agreement shall be published in the Dutch and Frisian languages in the Government Gazette, and an English translation of it shall be sent to the Council of Europe.

8.10) Entry into Force

The administrative agreement shall take effect from the moment it is signed, and shall be valid for a period of 5 years commencing on the date it took effect.

8.11) Title

This administrative agreement will be referred to as: Administrative Agreement on Frisian Language and Culture 2013-2018.

Thus agreed in duplicate and signed,

in Leeuwarden on 22 April 2013,

in Leeuwarden on 22 April 2013,

The State of the Netherlands,

The Province of Fryslân,

R.H.A. Plasterk
The Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations,

J.A. de Vries
The Deputy Commissioner for the Queen for the Province of Fryslân

Also on behalf of the Minister of Security and Justice,
the Minister of Foreign Affairs,
the Minister of Social Affairs and Employment,
the Minister of Education, Culture and Science and the
State Secretary for Education, Culture and Science.