



Swedish-Dutch Conference on Gender Equality and Labour Participation

21 November 2008
Tweede Kamer, The Hague



Mariette Hamer
Member of Parliament

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to the Gender Equality Conference, organised by the Swedish Embassy and the Commission of Emancipation of the House of Representatives. Much has changed in recent decades. Our mothers used to stay at home while our fathers went off to work. Today, women often choose to work part-time. And if you ask our sons and daughters what they want to be when they grow up, the answer is no longer just one occupation: they want to become a vet and a mother, or a policeman and a father. Men and women taking care of their children together: isn't that progress! Still: equality remains an issue. At home, at work, and in politics. My colleagues of the House of Representatives and I are hoping that this conference will provide a positive contribution to the emancipation debate.



Foto: Pawel Flato

Hans Magnusson
Ambassador of Sweden

It is my pleasure to invite you to a Swedish-Dutch Conference on Gender Equality and Labour Participation. The conference will gather experts from Sweden and the Netherlands to discuss and exchange views on issues that are fundamental to some of the choices that we make in life – opportunities for men and women to combine work and family life. This involves attitudes towards work and parenthood, the organisation of child care and preschool activities, laws to prevent discrimination on the labour market, the macro-economic perspective and the role of governments in ensuring that men and women have equal power and rights to shape society and their own lives. Three mini sessions will offer an opportunity to learn more about specific cases and instruments. New research will be presented that explains the differences between the two countries. There will also be opportunities to network and discuss issues over an informal lunch. I hope that you will find the programme and our speakers interesting and thought-provoking, and that I will have the opportunity to see you at our conference on 21 November 2008.

Welcome!

Programme

08.00-08.45 Registration and Coffee

09.00 Opening Ceremony

09.15-10.00 Session One: Sweden and the Netherlands – a Comparison

Introduction – Cecilia Reimers, Swedish Institute

The Historical, Sociological and Cultural Perspective – Gertrud Åström

Motherhood in the Netherlands and Sweden – Ina Brouwer

10.15-12.00 Session Two: Choices in Life – Reconciling Work and Family

Child Care and Parental Insurance in Sweden – Ann-Zofie Duvander

Women's Economic Independence – Gertrud Åström

Women and Work: Changes and Choices – Pia Dijkstra

Men and Parenthood – Dennis Kullman

Female Labour Market Participation in the Netherlands – Joop Schippers

Discussion

12.00-12.45 Networking lunch

Conference Speakers



Ronald Plasterk
Minister of Education,
Culture and Science



Eva Uddén Sonnegård
State Secretary at the Ministry
of Employment

Foto: Pawel Flato



Marieke Bax
Marieke Bax is a former
Director of TopBrainstorm
where she was responsible
for the development of the
Charter Talent to the Top.
Currently she is member of
the Committee Monitoring
compliance with the Charter.



Anne-Marie Bergström
Equal Opportunities
Ombudsman in Sweden



Ina Brouwer
Ina Brouwer is a former
Member of Parliament and
Director of emancipation policy
at the Ministry of Social Affairs
and Employment. She is cur-
rently the President of social
entrepreneurs in childcare in
the Netherlands.



Eva Bugge
Ambassador of Norway.



Anne-Charlott Callerstig
Anne-Charlott Callerstig is
a researcher at Linköping
University. Her research inter-
est concerns implementation
of gender equality policies,
diversity management and or-
ganizational change processes.



Pia Dijkstra
Pia Dijkstra is a radio- and
television presenter, and the
chair(wo)man of Taskforce
DeeltijdPlus.



Ann-Zofie Duvander
Ann-Zofie Duvander,
Associate Professor, is a
lecturer in Demography at
Stockholm University and
a Senior Researcher at the
Swedish Social Insurance
Agency.



Laurien Koster
Laurien Koster is the
President of the Dutch Equal
Treatment Commission. She is
a lawyer and former President
of Rechtbank Alkmaar.



Dennis Kullman
Dennis Kullman is an equal
opportunity expert at the
Swedish Rescue Services
Agency.



Joop Schippers
Joop Schippers is Professor of
Labour and Gender Economics
at Utrecht University, Director
of the Department of Labour
and Policy Issues of OSA,
Institute for Labour Studies.



Gertrud Åström
Gertrud Åström is a Swedish
lecturer, executive director,
entrepreneur and an expert on
gender equality issues.



Conference Moderator

Harry Starren
CEO of de Baak Management
Centrum VNO-NCW

12.45-14.00 Session Three: Equality in Practice (parallel mini-sessions)

Case Study One: Charter and Quotas – Instruments to Promote Women – Marieke Bax, Ambassador Eva Bugge

Case Study Two: Diversity as a Business Case – the Employers' Perspective – (Moderator to be confirmed)

Case Study Three: Recent Action Research on Gender Equality within the Swedish Rescue Services –

Dennis Kullman and Anne-Charlott Callerstig

14.00-14.30 Session Four: Discrimination and the Labour Market

Anne-Marie Bergström, Equal Opportunities Ombudsman

Laurien Koster, Dutch Equal Treatment Commission

14.30-15.00 Coffee

15.00-16.00 Session Five: The Role of Governments

Women and Talent - Ronald Plasterk

Employment Policy and Gender Equality - Eva Uddén Sonnegård

Panel debate with speakers of this and previous sessions

16.00 **Concluding remarks**

17.00 **Reception**



Location: Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal, The Hague

Address: Binnenhof 1A

Registration and coffee: 08.00-08.45

For more information: ambassaden.haag-conference@foreign.ministry.se

www.swedishconference.nl

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