

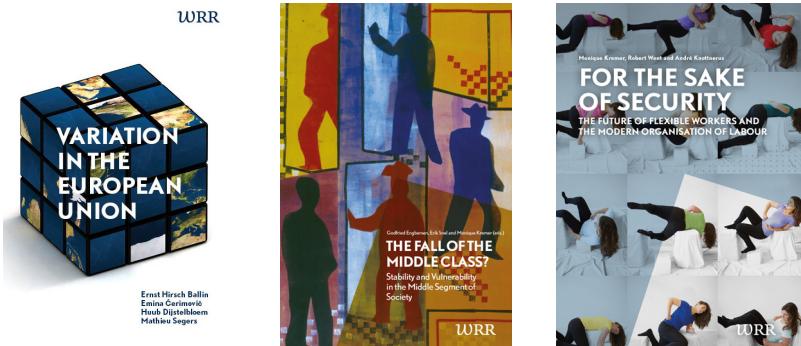
## About the WRR

### About the Netherlands Scientific Council for Government Policy

The Netherlands Scientific Council for Government Policy (WRR) is an independent advisory body for government policy. The task of the WRR is to advise the Dutch government and Parliament on longer term strategic issues that are likely to have important political and societal consequences. The Council provides future-oriented science-based advice, which opens up new perspectives and directions, changes problem definitions, sets new policy goals, investigates new resources for problem-solving, and/or supports social cooperation and cohesion. Topics on which the WRR is currently working include Artificial Intelligence, Digital Disruption, migration, the future of work, sustainable health care and Europe's institutional future.

### Projects and publications

The projects and publications of the WRR are not tied to any one policy sector. Rather, its reports go beyond individual sectors and are concerned with the overall direction of government policy for the longer term. The work of the Council thus helps to sharpen the focus on the long-term aspects of government policy and complements day-to-day policy-making, which is often focused on issues that dominate the current policy agenda. All publications are available online at [english.wrr.nl](http://english.wrr.nl).



### History

The history of the WRR dates back to discussions in the 1950s and 60s on what science and policy have to offer each other. The WRR was established on a provisional basis by Royal Decree in 1972, and received more permanent status when in 1976 both Chambers of the Dutch Parliament passed its Act of Establishment. The Council has published reports in many different policy fields and has built up a portfolio with publications on economic development, education, culture, research and innovation, the labour market, the future of Europe, law and administration, migration, ethnic minorities and religious diversity, food, and the governance of sustainability and climate policy.

### Organisation

The WRR comprises a Council and an academic staff, which work together closely in project teams, supported by a secretariat and a communications team.

The Council consists of seven members and a chair. Council members are appointed by the Cabinet (formally the King). They are appointed for a period of five years, and are eligible for appointment to a second term. All members hold academic chairs at universities; currently in fields as diverse as economics, sociology, law, public administration and public governance, political science, health and systems engineering. With this wide range of expertise, they collectively reflect the different dimensions of society and policy (current members: [english.wrr.nl/about-us/council-and-advisory-members](http://english.wrr.nl/about-us/council-and-advisory-members))

The Council is supported by a staff of around 35 with a multidisciplinary academic background. A core staff of around 15 is complemented by a team of flexible staff. Some staff members hold professorships or other positions at universities. The Secretary of the Council also serves as the director of the various staff functions, thus creating a bridge across all parts of the organisation.

The Council is organisationally part of the Ministry of the Prime Minister (Ministry of General Affairs). However, the Act of Establishment makes a number of important stipulations concerning the nature of the relationship between the WRR and the government and confirms the independent position of the WRR. The Council determines its own work programme, as well as the content of its reports and other publications, without having to seek permission from the government or other stakeholders. The government regularly asks the Council to advise on specific topics. The government is obliged to respond publicly to reports by the Council, in the form of a Memorandum to Parliament, within a fixed period of three months.

## Programme

The Council compiles its Programme after extensive consultation with representatives of the various policy domains, politics, society, trade and industry to determine which topics warrant the attention of the WRR in the period ahead. The final Programme is established by the Council, after consultation with the Prime Minister. Topics must be of relevance for government policy in the longer term, fall within the sphere of government policy now or in the future, and cut across multiple policy sectors.

The WRR publishes advisory reports, studies, articles and essays, and organises briefings for the Cabinet and the two Chambers of Parliament, as well as expert meetings, conferences and meetings for a wider public, such as the annual WRR Lecture. The reports of the Council are addressed to the Cabinet as a whole and to Parliament. However, the WRR's reports and other publications and activities also serve to stimulate and inform a wider parliamentary and societal debate on policy options.

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## Contact us



**Corien Prins**

Council Chair

[prins@wrr.nl](mailto:prins@wrr.nl)



**Frans Brom**

Director

[brom@wrr.nl](mailto:brom@wrr.nl)



**Anne-Greet Keizer**

Research fellow/  
International liaison

[keizer@wrr.nl](mailto:keizer@wrr.nl)

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### Visiting address

Buitenhof 34  
2513 AH The Hague  
The Netherlands

### Postal address

PO Box 20004  
2500 EA The Hague  
The Netherlands

Phone: +31 (0)70 356 4600  
Email: [info@wrr.nl](mailto:info@wrr.nl)  
Website: [english.wrr.nl](http://english.wrr.nl)



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