Policing in the Netherlands
# The Police in Dutch Society

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The police occupy a central position in society and are constantly adapting to meet the demands made on them by politicians and the public. This makes it almost impossible to produce a brochure that will still be up to date when it is published. Why then should we try to give you an up-to-date picture of policing in the Netherlands?

First, because there is considerable demand for the brochure – this is the third edition. Although the brochure is intended primarily for external use, it is also used by the police themselves, government ministries, the Public Prosecution Service, and educational institutions. For a worldwide readership, we publish the brochure in several languages. Dutch police officers visiting abroad often use the foreign language versions as a calling card – and as a reference guide when answering foreign counterparts’ questions.

Another, more important reason for publishing this brochure is the growing importance of international police cooperation. As the minister responsible for policing in the Netherlands and a member of the EU Justice and Home Affairs Council, I am concerned with this issue every day.

Without international cooperation, we would lack the strength to fight organised crime, we would be unable to recognise new threats, and we would miss the opportunity to learn from each other’s experience.

Research shows that international differences in legislation hamper cooperation. That is why I advocate removing unnecessary differences. In the EU, we are making good progress towards doing so, for instance within the framework of the Prüm Convention. Just as great an obstacle is our inadequate knowledge of each other’s organisational structures, languages and working methods. I hope that this new edition will improve this state of affairs.

I can also live with the possibility that some of this edition’s contents may be superseded by the many changes that await us, because I am confident that the staff of my ministry and the Dutch police services will be able to provide you with the latest information whenever you require it.

Mrs. Dr. G. ter Horst

Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations
1 The Police in Dutch society

The police work in a changing society. They operate at the heart of a multicultural, innovative society undergoing constant change – including in the relations between citizens and public authorities. What is more, they operate differently in cities and the country. So we first need to look at the social system in which the Dutch police operate.

With Rotterdam one of the world’s largest ports, the Netherlands is a modern and technologically advanced part of Europe. It has 443 municipalities, but no real metropolis. Amsterdam has a population of 743,000, Rotterdam 585,000, The Hague 474,000, and Utrecht 288,000 (summer 2008 figures).

The country’s population of some 16 million includes around 3 million people of non-Dutch origin. In the cities, one in every three schoolchildren is expected to come from a minority background by 2020.

The Netherlands is a parliamentary democracy with many representatives, participation models, and organs of the state. The police service is an implementing body, with a monopoly on the use of force. But like other organs of the state, it has to operate within the law. If necessary, police actions can be reviewed by the independent judiciary.
1.1 The police and public safety and security

Ensuring public safety and security is a core task of government. Dealing with lack of safety requires a concerted approach by government, civil society, the business community and individual citizens.

In 2007, the Safety Begins with Prevention programme was launched with the goal of reducing crime by 25% by 2010 compared to 2002. The programme contains measures to achieve this goal. The programme is wide-reaching, and its approach is integrated, with contributions from local and central government and prevention combined with enforcement.

The Safety Begins with Prevention programme contains many measures, concentrating on six themes:
- tackling aggression and violence;
- tackling theft;
- tackling crime against business;
- tackling anti-social behaviour and urban decay;
- the person-specific approach to young persons at risk and repeat offenders;
- combating serious and less visible forms of crime, including cybercrime, financial and economic crime, and organised crime.

Public-private cooperation

The Dutch police service seeks cooperation with all parties that are capable of contributing to making society safer. These parties include other public-sector bodies, business enterprises, and organisations like care institutions, schools, and interest groups. Cooperation based on a binding agreement with parties outside the public sector is known as public-private cooperation – an activity in which the police service is very active.

Public-private cooperation sometimes takes place under the umbrella of the National Crime Prevention Platform. Under the Safe Businesses Warranty scheme, for instance, the police and business enterprises carry out joint activities in nightlife areas, shopping centres, and industrial zones.

Another example of public-private cooperation is the Foundation for Tackling Vehicle Crime, which for over ten years has been successfully combining the strengths of the police, other public-sector organisations, business-sector parties, and consumer representatives. Yet another well-known example is the ‘report crime anonymously’ tipline, in which the police work with the insurance industry and other parties.

1.2 Leading role for municipalities

The extent to which the public suffer from crime and anti-social behaviour depends to some extent on local conditions. This is why it is largely the duty of municipalities, working with local partners, to prepare and implement policy on safety and security. The municipalities are in charge. Local policy on safety and security includes clear objectives and specifies where responsibilities lie. In each municipality, the mayor is responsible for public order and safety.

1.3 Core police tasks

The core tasks of the police are to:
- maintain public order;
- investigate criminal offences;
- provide assistance in emergencies;
- identify safety and security problems and advise public authorities, the Public Prosecution Service, and other partners on how to reduce safety and security problems.

Total strength of the Dutch police

At the end of 2007, the total strength of the Dutch police was 54,700 FTEs, consisting of 35,400 fully qualified police officers, some 6,000 trainees (who count only partially in the total calculation), and 16,600 administrative and technical officers. Women accounted for some 34% of the total strength.
1.4 Safety regions

The Netherlands has 25 safety regions, which coincide geographically with the police regions. In each safety region, the police and fire services, the municipalities, and the accident and disaster medical teams work together to deal with complex and severe crises and disasters. The emergency services are organised at regional level and work closely with the provincial and municipal authorities in the areas of:

- fire fighting;
- disaster response;
- crisis management;
- medical assistance in disasters and accidents;
- maintaining public order and safety.

The police have a number of tasks in the areas of crisis management and disaster response. These tasks include investigating offences and regulating the movement of persons and traffic. The police also prepare and rehearse emergency procedures with the other emergency services.

The regional organisation of public safety and security and regional preparation for disasters and major accidents will be regulated in the Safety Regions Act, expected to enter into force in 2009.

1.5 Safety and Security Monitor

A systematic approach to safety and security relies on accurate information. To obtain an accurate overview, the public are polled. From mid-2008, an annual national survey will be conducted, called the Safety and Security Monitor (Veiligheidsmonitor), to gather detailed information on crime, fear of crime, preventive steps by individual citizens, and the quality of policing.

The survey will be conducted nationally and regionally on behalf of the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, the Ministry of Justice, and Statistics Netherlands (CBS). It will give the regional police forces and municipalities a detailed picture of the situation in their own region, municipality or neighbourhood.

The Dutch government encourages all kinds of research to make the Netherlands more resistant to crime – research that often leads to innovative solutions. The Safety and Security Monitor was launched in response to suggestions from the public.
1.6 CCTV

In 2006, CCTV surveillance in public places was given a statutory basis in the Municipalities Act, which gives the citizen legal certainty and standardises CCTV use. CCTV cameras may be used only where they are needed in the interests of safety. If less intrusive methods are equally effective, CCTV cameras may not be used. CCTV cameras used in criminal investigations and prosecution fall outside the Municipalities Act – as do those used to protect private property, which are covered by the Personal Data Protection Act (WBP).

Municipalities are responsible for policy on safety and security and for surveillance in public places. Decisions on CCTV use are made by the municipal executive. Under the Municipalities Act, the mayor may decide to locate permanent CCTV cameras in public places and other publicly accessible places designated by the municipal council. The presence of CCTV cameras is permitted for specified periods, and the cameras must be clearly visible. CCTV cameras are used by regional police forces, especially in the large cities.

1.7 Community safety partnerships

Some police regions have community safety partnerships, which bring together municipalities, youth and care institutions, police and justice authorities to work on person-specific interventions and local campaigns to fight crime and antisocial behaviour, including youth crime, repeat offending and domestic violence. This approach coordinates prevention, enforcement and aftercare in the larger cities and their neighbouring municipalities. By 2009, there will be a national network of community safety partnerships.
Enforcing the law, along with preventing and fighting crime, are traditional tasks of the state, and are carried out for the state by the police. Of course, the police receive support from other actors concerned with public safety and security, such as municipalities, highway authorities, housing associations, and individual citizens. A good lock provides better protection against burglary than a police patrol. Other aspects of police work consist of enforcing the legal order by means of the criminal law and performing policing duties for the justice authorities.

2 Organisation of the police
2.1 One organisation, twenty-six forces

The Dutch police service is divided into 25 regional forces and the National Police Services Agency (KLPD), which has various specialist and support departments. A regional police force is responsible for policing within a given territory known as a ‘police region’.

The size and character of regional police forces vary according to factors like population size, crime levels and urbanisation. The largest force, in a mainly urban area with over 900,000 inhabitants, has over 6,000 staff. That amounts to one police officer for every 150 inhabitants.

The smallest force, in a more rural area with a population of 242,000, has 700 staff: one police officer for every 330-400 inhabitants. A regional force is divided into district forces, which are usually subdivided into basic units, sometimes called ‘neighbourhood teams’.

The KLPD has a staff of around 5,000, half of whom combat serious organised crime and terrorism. It also has some 30 liaison officers based abroad, some of whom work with the Royal Military and Border Police.

2.1.1 The police: serving two masters

The Dutch system of policing has its statutory basis in the Police Act 1993, section 2 of which clearly sets out the role of the police: ‘The police have the task, subordinate to the competent authority and in accordance with the applicable rules of law, of ensuring effective law enforcement and rendering assistance to those who need it.

With regard to the maintenance of public order and the rendering of assistance in emergencies, the competent authority is the mayor of the municipality in which the police serve. The Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations is responsible at central government level for the maintenance of public order and safety. When the police enforce the criminal law or carry out duties for the justice authorities, they are
acting under the authority of the public prosecutor. The Minister of Justice is politically accountable for this part of policing.

Authority over the police is therefore determined by the nature of the police work, and those having this authority are determined locally. Tripartite consultations on policing are held regularly by the mayor, the public prosecutor, and the chief of the regional police force.

2.1.2 Management

The management of each of the 25 regional police forces is determined regionally. Regional forces are allowed wide discretion in the exercise of their duties and the definition of their priorities. For example, they can decide for themselves on such matters as funding, staffing, equipment, buildings, organisation, operational management, information systems and computerisation, and the organisation of the regional criminal investigation department. But the forces strive to organise their management as efficiently as possible by means of cooperative arrangements.

At political level, the management of a regional police force rests with the force manager, who is appointed by Royal Decree from among the mayors of the municipalities in the police region, at the recommendation of the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. The force manager is politically responsible for the police force, and as such, liaises with the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. The administrative centre of the regional police force (i.e. the main police headquarters) is usually located in the largest municipality in the police region.

Major policy decisions are taken by the regional police board, which comprises all the mayors in a police region and the chief public prosecutor. Once the main policy items have been framed, the details are worked out by the force manager in consultation with the chief of the regional police force and the chief public prosecutor.

The National Police Services Agency (KLPD) is overseen by the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. On the Minister’s behalf, the KLPD is managed by the Director-General for Public Order and Safety.

2.1.3 Responsibilities of the ministers

At central government level, the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations is responsible for overseeing the 25 regional police forces and is directly responsible for managing the KLPD. In cases where this management involves the enforcement of the criminal law or the performance of police duties for the justice authorities, the Minister takes decisions jointly or in consultation with the Minister of Justice. Examples include the enforcement of traffic legislation and the performance of tasks under immigration legislation.

The Minister of Justice is politically accountable for the enforcement of the criminal law, which encompasses not only the investigation of crime by the police, but also the prosecution, trial and punishment of offenders.

This dual arrangement guarantees political accountability for the two main duties of the police:
- to maintain public order and safety and render assistance to those who need it;
to enforce the criminal law and perform policing duties for the justice authorities (such as implementing traffic and immigration legislation).

Two other aspects of police management conducted at central government level are police funding and the determination of performance standards to be met by the police forces. This includes the maintenance of services such as the mobile units (the riot squad), special investigation units for juvenile and sex offences, and regulations on the use of police firearms. The basic principle applied by the police in carrying out their duties is to use a minimum of force.

To promote some measure of uniformity among the police forces, central government also regulates communications systems, the processing and availability of information obtained from investigations, and matters such as uniforms and police pay. So given the relative autonomy of the police forces, they have very similar uniforms, weapons and corporate identities. What is more, their working methods and systems are well coordinated.

2.1.4 Public Prosecution Service

Like the judges, the public prosecutors are members of the judiciary. The Public Prosecution Service operates nationwide, with branches in all police regions. At its offices at the 19 district courts, public prosecutors assess hundreds of thousands of cases annually.

The public prosecutors are supported by administrative and legal specialists. In cases dealt with at the five Courts of Appeal, representatives of the Public Prosecution Service are known as advocates-general. The public prosecutor’s offices are headed by chief public prosecutors and chief advocates-general. At national level, the Public Prosecution Service is managed by the Board of Procurators General in The Hague. The Minister of Justice is responsible both politically and administratively for the Public Prosecution Service. Together with the Board of Procurators General, the Minister determines the priorities for investigation and prosecution.

2.1.4.1 Investigation

The Public Prosecution Service is responsible for investigating criminal offences and prosecuting suspects. It is the only body in the Netherlands that may bring suspects before the criminal courts. To this end, it works with the police and other law enforcement bodies. Investigations are headed by a public prosecutor, representing the Public Prosecution Service, which bears final responsibility for investigations.

But investigations are in fact conducted by the police. Police officers seek evidence, interview witnesses and victims, arrest suspects, and record all the information gathered in an official report. As representatives of the Public Prosecution Service, the public prosecutors are in charge of police investigations. They may take direct control of an investigation, especially in serious criminal cases. In doing so, they ensure that an investigation is carried out carefully and fairly, i.e., in accordance with the rules laid down by law.

2.1.4.2 Prosecution

The Public Prosecution Service is represented in court by the public prosecutor. Other key players in court proceedings are the judge and defence counsel. The public prosecutor charges the defendant on behalf of the community. Nonetheless, under the Dutch legal system, the public prosecutor does not represent the
community. He is impartial and must report all relevant facts and circumstances, including those in the defendant’s favour. The goal of the proceedings is to determine the truth. Another duty of the Public Prosecution Service is to inform victims of the procedure and their rights. The public prosecutor voices public displeasure in his demand for sentence, which should do justice to both perpetrator and victim. The demand for sentence must be proportionate to the offence, and there must be equality before the law. In demanding sentence, the Public Prosecution Service aims to provide compensation where possible for the material damage and the pain and suffering suffered by the victim and to protect society from further offences by the defendant. After the court has given judgment, the Public Prosecution Service oversees its proper enforcement. Fines must be paid, prison sentences served, and alternative sanctions properly carried out.

2.1.4.3 National Police Internal Investigations Department

The National Police Internal Investigations Department is a part of the Public Prosecution Service and, unlike the regional police forces, falls directly under the management and authority of the Board of Procurators General. Ultimate political accountability for the Department lies with the Minister of Justice. The Department investigates cases of illegal activities by persons or organisations that threaten the integrity of public authorities. It investigates not only government officials, but also legal persons and individual citizens. The Department’s investigations are headed by a public prosecutor.

Any decision to deploy the National Police Internal Investigations Department will involve other considerations, such as the involvement of highly placed officials, political or administrative sensitivities, and questions of publicity. The issues that the Department deals with vary from the serious abuse of power to the careless handling of evidence by police officers, and from the bribery of civil servants and politicians to the leaking of secret government information. The Department also investigates confrontations between individual citizens and the police or other government bodies, usually cases where lives have been lost, and accusations of sexual misconduct against officials.

Wherever possible and desirable, the Department works with other investigation services and the government bodies within which their investigations are centred. For certain activities, given the Department’s size, it will inevitably seek assistance from other investigative services. In such cases, the Department will oversee the investigation. On the other hand, the Department also assists other investigative services, providing knowledge, expertise and advice.

If the results of an investigation give sufficient reason, the Department will make a recommendation to the government bodies concerned aimed at preventing serious damage to their integrity. It does so by means of individual reports to the bodies concerned and general strategic analyses of the criminal activities observed. To provide these services and to detect criminal offences as soon as possible, the Department actively gathers knowledge in its area of expertise.
2.1.5 Management for results

At least once every four years, the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and the Minister of Justice draw up a policy plan on policing over the following four years. National priorities are drawn up jointly by all the police forces and translated into national objectives, stipulating the contribution to be made by each police force. Once a year, representatives of the police and the two ministries concerned meet to review the progress made by each force in achieving these objectives. A force that successfully achieves its objectives will receive more funding.

2.1.5.1 Funding

The budgets of the regional police forces, the KLPD, the Police College and some other police organisations are intended for staffing and equipment. Amounts are allocated for four different types of work: intake/service, emergency assistance, enforcement and investigation. Overhead and support costs are divided among the budgets. The budgets are calculated on the basis of each police region’s features, such as its area, economy and social structure, plus the size, composition and density of its population. The regional features can vary by type of work. Ultimately, the types of work carried out are used to calculate the capacity of each force. The forces’ budgets are adjusted annually in line with changes in the index of wages and prices.

The amount allocated to a police force consists of general, special purpose, and other grants. As a rule, general grants are not subject to any specific requirements or conditions. But the Minister of Justice and the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations can attach conditions to general grants. They reach agreements with the force managers about objectives to be achieved and review compliance with these agreements annually.

A regional police force’s spending of its general grant is determined in the tripartite consultations between the force manager, the chief public prosecutor, and the chief of the regional force, who also formulate policy. The tripartite body is accountable for its spending decisions to the regional police board, which determines the amounts to be allocated to each spending item.

The police forces are obliged to use special-purpose grants from the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations for the purpose for which the ministry has allocated them – for instance to finance special investigative teams, such as those established to investigate ecstasy production and smuggling. Special-purpose grants may also be used to promote new ideas or solve nationwide problems.

2.1.5.2 Operational management

The police forces are responsible for their own operational management. They are overseen by the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, who is also directly responsible for the management of the Dutch police service as a whole. At a practical level, this division of responsibility is reflected in the national Police Policy and Management Cycle.

The police forces have to render account for how they spend their grants. The Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations audits the forces’ annual accounts and monitors their budgets. If a force’s budget has been financially unsound for a number of years and hence fails to comply with funding conditions, the force may be placed under supervision. The Ministry and the forces keep each other informed about operational management via the annual accounts and regular consultations.

2.1.5.3 Result-centred agreements

In 2007, under an amendment to the Police Act 1993, the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and the Minister of Justice together determined the national priorities for 2008-2011. The force managers were given the opportunity to make recommendations in consultation with the regional police boards and chief public prosecutors. The national priorities for 2008-2011 were discussed exhaustively and then adopted by the ministers after a final round of consultations.
The national priorities are:

- **Violence.** Forces will further strengthen the investigation of violent offences and contribute to preventing violence. To monitor the results, they will use the percentage of suspects of violent offences for whom the police send an official report to the Public Prosecution Service.

- **Safe districts and neighbourhoods.** Forces will strengthen locality-based policing. This includes the appointment of 500 extra community police officers and the supply of neighbourhood-based data for municipal neighbourhood scans as part of an integrated public safety and security policy.

- **Youth crime and at-risk juveniles.** Forces are to step up their contribution to the person-specific approach to young offenders. They are also devoting extra attention to the early identification and counselling of young people at risk, including those younger than 12 years of age. They keep systematic track of youth gangs.

- **Investigation.** The forces will deploy more officers and use better methods to fight crime.

Agreements have been reached concerning the number of suspects to be sent to the Public Prosecution Service, the formulation of crime pattern analyses for national and regional priorities, and contributions to the implementation of the programmes of action to combat organised crime, cybercrime, financial and economic crime, and the programme to improve investigation and prosecution. This includes employing 500 new forensic assistants.

### 2.2 The police at work

The Dutch police service is a versatile, dynamic organisation.

#### 2.2.1 Police in evolution

Until a few years ago, the police were primarily associated with safety and security. Public safety is now a political issue. There is a growing realisation that everyone is jointly responsible for safety in their personal life and social surroundings. So the role of the police is changing.

That role is also changing as a result of changes in society as a whole. National borders are losing their significance. Globalisation and the internet have increased the mobility of people, goods, money, and information. Society is becoming more individualised. And problems increasingly require a joint approach by several partners. Antisocial neighbours, for instance, are dealt with increasingly by the police and housing associations, and children in problem families by the police and youth services.

Vertical management within a hierarchy is thus partially making way for horizontal management between networks.

The police reflect broad social trends as a direct consequence of their position in society. In 2006, to guide its development, leading police officers and academics drew up a discussion document entitled The Police in Evolution, whose main proposal is that the police, while retaining their regional diversity, should operate as a single
concern. In practice, this means that every citizen, anywhere in the Netherlands, should encounter the same police and expect the same of them. The police serve the community under the motto Waakzaam en dienstbaar (‘Vigilance and service’). They show their vigilance and service by their professional authority. The discussion document refers to this as ‘subordination with authority’.

Locality-based policing is an important part of police work. Where the police operate with partners, they will receive more programme-based direction. What is more, police work will be based on effective information gathering.

The discussion document provides a new police task: identification and advice. This task arises from the police’s role as a front-line organisation: the eyes and ears of society. They also see much of what lies within the domain of their partners. By identification and advice, the police can enable those responsible to identify problems swiftly and tackle them, possibly with other organisations.

2.2.2 Primary policing

The police operate at the heart of the community, as close as possible to the public at large. The great majority of police officers work in basic units (or neighbourhood teams), which carry out police tasks relating to public safety and security.

Since much policing involves crime prevention, officers work closely with all sections of the population. The police are in regular touch with business enterprises, institutions, neighbourhood associations and other stakeholders. The police seek to cement their relationship with the public via community policing and the problem-centred approach.

A basic unit is normally based at one or more police stations. Its duties consist of:

– dealing with calls and visits from the public requesting assistance and reporting offences etc.;
– responding to emergency calls concerning serious traffic accidents, disputes, violent assaults, homicides, etc.;
– day-to-day patrolling in districts and neighbourhoods based on the local safety profile;
– tracking down offenders and transferring them to the justice authorities.

In practice, these activities manifest themselves in police patrols on foot, by car, motorcycle and bicycle, and sometimes on horseback: providing emergency assistance;
– recording offences reported;
– maintaining contact with the public;
– mediating in disputes and providing other forms of assistance;
– carrying out criminal investigations;
– preventing crime;
– enforcing environmental legislation;
– monitoring compliance with legislation such as the Licensing and Catering Act and the Weapons and Ammunition Act.

Policing is almost always done in shifts. Every regional force is accessible for all services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
Road traffic policing is an important element of primary policing and requires considerable resources owing to the increase in the volume of traffic. The police focus mainly, but not exclusively, on five priorities: speeding, driving through red traffic lights, drink-driving, and failure to wear seatbelts (motorists) or helmets (motorcyclists).

Every year, the police forces draw up an annual and a multi-year policy plan for road traffic policing, with special attention to these five priorities. The regional plans also contain a problem analysis and targets based on it. The regional police forces also have traffic teams financed by the Public Prosecution Service. They operate in line with priorities laid down by the Traffic Law Enforcement Bureau.

Various authorities are responsible for enforcing environmental legislation. The police make a contribution and cooperate with other authorities. Environmental policing takes place at three levels: simple offences, which can be dealt with by any police officer; offences of medium seriousness, which can be dealt with independently by regional environmental investigators; more serious environmental offences, which are dealt with by multidisciplinary interregional teams consisting of police officers and officers from other investigative agencies or representatives of government ministries.

In recent years, the regional police forces have greatly improved their implementation of environmental tasks. Since the Environment Frame of Reference was drawn up in 2004, the regional environmental teams have been joined by interregional environmental teams. In 2007, the police drew up the Police Environmental Plan for 2011, The Environment in Development. This document concentrates on improving information management, strengthening cooperation with the inspectorates, and
promoting the expertise of environmental officials in combating the more serious forms of environmental crime.

2.2.3 The maintenance of public order

Serious disruption to public order is dealt with by ‘mobile units’, as the riot squads are called. Every regional police force is required by law to have one or more mobile units on standby. The Netherlands has a total of 45 mobile units, each of which has about 50 members (including middle-ranking and senior officers). Nine units have also been trained to respond to incidents concerning vessels.

The large police forces in the heavily urbanised west of the Netherlands have several – up to eight – mobile units; the regional forces in the more rural parts of the country have one each. Most mobile units have their own arrest teams, reconnaissance teams, and special support teams with divers, fire fighters, cutting equipment and water cannon.

The rapid deployment of riot police is based on a provision of the Police Act. All the police forces are obliged to help each other if necessary. When mobile units are deployed, they operate under the authority of the local mayor. Every police officer can in theory be assigned to a mobile unit. It is a secondary function, since police officers are normally based at a police station. If they are required to serve in a mobile unit, they must first receive supplementary training and learn to use the mobile units’ special equipment and weapons.

Another aspect of maintaining public order is policing football crowds. The guiding principle here is the system-wide approach, which means that all the partners concerned contribute to the solution on the basis of their own duties and responsibilities. The partners include the football clubs and the Royal Dutch Football Association (KNVB), the police, the municipalities and the Public Prosecution Service, and, at national level, the relevant government ministries. Supporters’ organisations too have endorsed the policy framework and are working with the authorities. The framework describes the duties and responsibilities and the individual and collective policies of the partners.
The police play a major role in combating football hooliganism. They provide advice on security measures to be taken at football matches to the mayors, who are responsible for public order. Their advice may relate, for example, to the requirements that the club has to meet and the deployment of police officers. To combat football hooliganism effectively, the police need sound intelligence. Since recent research has shown that football hooligans commit public order offences at other times and places too, the police focus on finding the identity of the culprits. The benefits of this approach are already being felt.

The police have a special organisation to combat football hooliganism: the Central Information Point for Football Hooliganism (CIV). The CIV collects, analyses and disseminates information on football hooliganism and manages the Football Monitoring System (VVS), under which the Public Prosecution Service provides information about individuals to the Royal Dutch Football Association, which can then impose a banning order on them. The CIV liaises with counterpart organisations abroad and exchanges information with them.

Finally, the CIV coordinates the work of police spotters, who travel abroad with the Dutch national team’s supporters to assist the local police. European countries have reached agreements with each other for a similar approach.

2.2.4 Regional police teams

Each regional force has specialised teams that deal with specific issues. Some of them operate interregionally.

2.2.4.1 Arrest teams

There are six arrest teams, each of which serves a number of regions and is financed by them. The function of such teams is to arrest armed and dangerous suspects and to assist criminal investigation teams in special cases. Members of the arrest teams receive highly specialised training, and have special equipment. They also help guard and protect witnesses, suspects and prisoners during transport; and they help guard and protect property.

2.2.4.2 Observation teams

Most regions have their own observation team, which assists in criminal investigations. Observation teams also operate at national level.

2.2.4.3 Large-Scale Operations Teams

To deal with criminal offences that are serious owing to their nature or frequency, most regions have a Large-Scale Operations Team (TGO), which consists of officers selected from the regional police force on a case-by-case basis. The advantage of working on a case-by-case basis is that it requires less police capacity than permanent teams of specialist investigators.
2.2.4.4 **Sex offences**

Another police task is tackling sex crime. Such offences include sexual assault, rape, and the production and distribution of certain types of pornography, including child pornography. Each regional force has its own in-house experts in sex offences. Sometimes, they are organised centrally. In 2003, a national project managed to improve the response of the police and the Public Prosecution Service. Each force now has specialist investigators, and each public prosecutor’s office has a prosecutor with special responsibility for sex offences.

Great care has to be taken when dealing with the victims of sex crimes. Victims may therefore choose whether to be dealt with by a male or female police officer. Reports are as a rule dealt with by two police officers and recorded on tape.

2.2.5 **Criminal investigations**

Criminal offences are investigated by police investigators. Many police stations or basic units have their own criminal investigation section. All the regional police forces have a criminal investigation department. They also each have a crime scene investigation department, which examines evidence like DNA traces and fingerprints left by burglars. Crime scene investigators also take photographs of suspects and crime scenes.

2.2.6 **National Crime Squad**

As well as regional and interregional investigation teams, the Netherlands also has the National Crime Squad for combating very serious, organised and international crime and terrorism.

2.2.7 **Intelligence services**

Two categories of intelligence service provide information for use in criminal investigations. First, the records services, which collect and process ‘hard’ information: factual information that may relate to a person’s police record. Hard information may also include photographs of offenders and crime scenes as well as fingerprints and collections of trace evidence.

Second, the police has the criminal intelligence units, which deals with less factual, ‘soft’ information. This often amounts to suspicions that may be of use to the police in preventing or solving crimes. This type of intelligence comes from observation, conversations, interviews with suspects, etc. Since the intelligence concerned is often of a private nature, its use is subject to very strict rules.

In addition to the regional criminal intelligence units, there is the National Criminal Intelligence Unit, part of the International Police Intelligence Department (IPOL), which is part of the National Police Services Agency.
2.2.8 Aliens Police (VP)

The Aliens Police fall under the regional police forces. They monitor the legality of residence by aliens. They aim to make an active and effective contribution to combating illegal immigration in order to increase safety and security in the Netherlands. Their emphasis lies in preventing wrongs such as abuse and exploitation and preventing breaches of public order and other forms of lawbreaking.

2.2.8.1 Cooperation with the Repatriation and Departure Service (DT&V)

The Aliens Police can transfer aliens to the DT&V for departure from the Netherlands. This applies to aliens who are stopped for questioning as a result of monitoring or arrested in a criminal investigation. Prior to transfer, the Aliens Police attempts to establish the identity and nationality of the alien. For each alien, it draws up a transfer file. When DT&V was established, it took over the Aliens Police’s tasks relating to the departure of aliens, giving the Aliens Police more time for its core tasks such as enforcement and investigation. The Aliens Police assists DT&V by detaching experienced officers to it.

2.2.9 Information management in the regional police forces

The provision of accurate information is essential for cooperation between the regional police forces. It is both a requirement and an instrument for implementing and monitoring day-to-day tasks.

2.2.9.1 Information exchange

The police forces carry out a number of types of work: intake, emergency assistance, enforcement, and investigation. In doing so, they exchange information with each other and with their partners in the Netherlands and abroad. Such information is exchanged within the statutory parameters, such as legislation on data protection and EU and international agreements.

During the intake process, the police respond to requests from individuals and businesses, and exchange information with them through a variety of communication channels. Emergency assistance is the physical police response to incidents. In this connection, they exchange information about the deployment of other police forces, the fire service and the ambulance service. The enforcement process includes granting licences, monitoring compliance with regulations, investigating offences, providing information and applying sanctions.
Information is exchanged with many partners, such as municipalities concerning the granting of licences and the authority responsible for the administrative processing of traffic offences. The success of criminal investigations depends on the intensive exchange of computer-based information between police forces, special investigative units and partners in the criminal justice system, including those abroad. Important players in this field are the International Police Intelligence Department (IPOL), Interpol and Europol.

When detained persons are processed, the police exchanges information with the court police and with the authority responsible for transporting detainees. The victim support process comes into play if a person has suffered injury or requires emotional support as the result of a criminal offence. Information is exchanged with the Public Prosecution Service. The victim is referred to the Victim Support Office or a similar organisation.

2.2.9.2 Communications between the fire, ambulance and police services

The Netherlands is divided into 25 safety regions, within which the fire, ambulance, and police services coordinate their operations. Each region has a single integrated control room, where operators from all three services work together. All these control rooms, which receive 0900-8844 and 1-1-2 calls, are equipped with the Integrated Emergency Control Centre (GMS) system. GMS ensures that every emergency is reported, if necessary simultaneously, to every emergency line in the network. It also indicates automatically how many staff should report to an incident and what else requires consideration.

The authorities and emergency services are considering establishing a National Emergency Control Centre System (NMS), which will have to be future-proof and better equipped than the current incident reporting system. The Netherlands has a single nationwide digital mobile communications network – C2000 – for all emergency services: the fire service, the ambulance service, the police (including the KLPD) and the Royal Military and Border Police. The new network is modern, fast and reliable, and based on the Tetra standard. The excellent speech quality, guaranteed nationwide cover and extensive call capacity benefit communications between the various emergency services. C2000 also makes it possible to call for emergency assistance quickly. An emergency button on the walkie-talkie has improved safety for the emergency services.

The Dutch Police Cooperation Facility (vtsPN) manages and maintains the systems. Read more about the vtsPN in Chapter 3.

2.2.10 Town wardens and special investigating officers

Some 3,000 town wardens assist the Dutch police in enhancing safety and amenity. They carry out their duties on the basis of municipal safety and security programmes, whether for specific neighbourhoods or otherwise. Town wardens often work under the operational control of police officers. Their duties are confined to observation and supervision, and they do not have powers of investigation.
Special investigating officers (BOAs) work for municipalities, under the direct supervision of the Dutch police, to enforce the law in the public domain. The Netherlands has some 1,500 special investigating officers. They include bridge operators, waterway inspectors, tunnel wardens, traffic wardens, environmental investigation officers, employees of the Labour Inspectorate, market superintendants, school attendance officers, fire chiefs, customs officers, social security fraud officers, forest wardens, gamekeepers, nature conservancy officers and animal welfare inspectors. Both town wardens and the special investigative officers are in direct contact with the control room via their walkie-talkies, which they can use to call for police assistance if necessary.

The presence of uniformed town wardens and special investigating officers makes people feel safer and helps prevent anti-social behaviour. The town wardens and BOAs are a supplement to police on the street. They take over tasks from the police, so that the police can concentrate on their core tasks.

2.2.11 Voluntary police officers

The Netherlands has around 2,000 voluntary police officers, who make a major contribution to policing, especially during busy periods. They undergo the same training as regular police officers and are deployed mainly for tasks that would otherwise be carried out by a patrol officer (i.e. the lowest rank of police officer). If they satisfy the relevant criteria and permission is given by the force manager, voluntary police officers may also be deployed for other work. They are generally deployed for police work proper as opposed to clerical work. They have investigative powers and are entitled to use limited force.
The manner in which voluntary police officers are deployed varies from region to region. The force manager determines when they will be deployed, in accordance with national guidelines. Voluntary police officers receive a small payment, and their legal status is regulated separately. The need for them varies from region to region. There is a trend to recruit more of them. This is not always easy, because even for an interesting occupation like policing, volunteers cannot always be found. There is also a trend in more and more forces towards deploying volunteers with no police powers.

### 2.2.12 Crisis management, the National Crisis Centre and the police

When emergencies and major accidents occur, the police are responsible for enforcement, investigation, directing traffic, and keeping onlookers at bay.

#### 2.2.12.1 Crisis management

A crisis or imminent crisis requires rapid decision-making and close cooperation between the officials and services involved in crisis management. The multidisciplinary nature of crisis management demands total clarity concerning management and coordination. This is why procedure in a crisis follows a fixed and rehearsed organisational structure. The mayor is individually responsible for all decisions relating to disaster response. The mayor renders account for the use of his emergency powers to the municipal council.

#### 2.2.12.2 The role of the National Crisis Centre

The National Crisis Centre (NCC) is responsible, on behalf of the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, for organising interministerial coordination. In crises where several ministries share responsibility, the NCC is the meeting point for interministerial decision-making, for which the NCC provides facilities and support. It is also responsible for providing information to the provinces, municipalities and ministries concerned, for instance via national situation reports. The NCC is staffed seven days a week, 24 hours a day, and monitors national and international media and other sources of information about potential threats to the public.

The NCC also serves as a ministerial crisis centre for the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. It provides coordination in policy areas associated with its own ministry. The most common issues are public order, safety and security, and public administration.
International disaster response and crisis management
Disasters and crises do not stop at national borders. In emergencies, the NCC serves as a national contact point for the European Commission’s crisis centre (the Monitoring and Information Centre, MIC) and for NATO’s civil crisis centre (the Euro Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre, EADRCC). In this context, the Netherlands has reached agreements with neighbouring countries Germany and Belgium.

2.2.12.3 Police and crisis management
The police also have a role in crisis and disaster situations. They maintain public order, control traffic, and keep bystanders at bay. They also have additional tasks, such as (international) investigation and arranging evacuations.
2.3 The National Police Services Agency

The National Police Services Agency (KLPD) is a multi-purpose specialist police force with tasks that transcend the borders of the police regions or are of national or international importance.

It tackles serious organised crime, provides air support, combats violent crime and terrorism, supervises the major Dutch transport routes, and analyses, processes and makes available useful information. The KLPD is also responsible for the safety of members of the Royal House and the training of police horses and dogs.

The KLPD has some 5,000 staff at home and abroad, who contribute to public safety with their own national and international expertise. The KLPD has eleven implementing departments. For operational management, it has five agency-wide services and two staff support units. The KLPD has some 140 locations in the Netherlands and a smaller number abroad. It has an investigating team in the Netherlands Antilles and liaison officers all over the world. The KLPD headquarters are in Driebergen.

2.3.1 Partners in safety and security for the public and the police

The key strengths of the KLPD are expertise, specialisation, and a national and international operational reach. The KLPD initiates independent investigative and enforcement operations, such as the investigative and crime prevention operations of the National Crime Squad and the monitoring of compliance with aviation legislation undertaken by the Aviation Police.

The KLPD assists its partners in the criminal justice system with various – mostly specialist – security activities, such as drawing up threat analyses and exchanging intelligence with police services abroad through the liaison officers. It also assists the regional forces by providing staff, resources and expertise for primary policing. The KLPD works closely with all its partners in order to foster best practices.

The KLPD benefits the Dutch public directly by monitoring safety on the motorways, by taking and transferring mobile 1-1-2 alarm calls, and by running the National Cybercrime Reporting Website.

2.3.2 Strategic vision

Under their motto ‘Vigilance and Service’, the police uphold the values of the rule of law. That is their mission. The KLPD’s strategic vision shows how it interprets that mission.

The Dutch police are traditionally tied to geographical areas and organised locally. Yet society is becoming increasingly affected by the movement of people, goods, money and information at national and international level – the levels at which the KLPD is responsible for enforcement and investigation.

The KLPD also serves as the front office for the Dutch police in international police cooperation. It represents the Dutch police in contacts with foreign investigative services and coordinates the deployment of Dutch police officers in international operations.
The KLPD deploys its expertise to assist police activities both nationally and internationally. It constantly seeks ways of deploying people and resources as efficiently as possible to gain maximum benefit from advantages of scale.

### 2.3.3 Five operational areas

The KLPD assists its partners, especially other police and investigative services at home and abroad, in five operational areas, which determine how it fulfils its mission.

#### 2.3.3.1 Combating serious organised crime and terrorism

About half of the KLPD staff are investigators whose day-to-day job is to combat serious organised crime, extremely violent offences and terrorism. They investigate at home and abroad, develop expertise, exchange intelligence with foreign partners, analyse supraregional organised crime, assess the national threat posed by serious organised crime, and infiltrate criminal organisations.

KLPD staff are active in the actual investigations of the National Crime Squad and provide investigative assistance via intelligence services such as the Operations Support and Coordination Department and the International Police Intelligence Department (IPOL). They conduct all their investigations under the authority of the National Public Prosecutor’s Office.

#### 2.3.3.2 National and international hub for information and intelligence

Crime does not stop at borders. Day-to-day local policing nearly always has an international dimension. An evermore important component of crime prevention and law enforcement is information management. IPOL’s information and intelligence products help the Dutch police and other investigative and security services in their fight against crime.

#### 2.3.3.3 Monitoring and investigating traffic flows

The KLPD contributes to a safer society by monitoring traffic flows and the points where they intersect. It has professional specialist services for each major mode of transport: the Traffic Police, the Water Police, the Railway Police and the Aviation Police. The KLPD prioritises cohesion between monitoring and investigation within the various traffic flows. Its staff’s expertise in transport, legislation and research enable them to analyse traffic incidents such as major, complex accidents.

#### 2.3.3.4 Operational support

The KLPD assists its partners regionally, nationally and internationally. It does so by providing information, tactical and technical expertise, and people and equipment. It can provide explosives sniffer dogs for preventive searches, a helicopter with a live video connection, police horses for crowd control, or communication and command facilities. It can conduct covert operations, draw up national investigative reports, analyse supraregional criminal organisations, or intercept communications.
2.3.3.5 Surveillance and protection

For the protection of persons, some of whom are under threat, the KLPD employs bodyguards. They protect members and guests of the Royal House, politicians and other persons designated by the government, so that they can live, work and relax safely.

Standard security measures apply, irrespective of the threat, to members of the Royal House, the prime minister, royal visitors, and foreign heads of state and government. Security is in the hands of the Royalty and Diplomatic Protection Department (DKDB). The DKDB also protects persons at risk or under threat, such as national politicians, members of the High Councils of State, high-ranking foreign guests, and staff of diplomatic missions in the Netherlands.

The security protection of members of the Royal House is regulated by the Police Act.

2.3.4 Management and administration

The KLPD is an agency of the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. As a part of the Ministry, it falls directly under the control of the Minister, who is also in charge of its management. The KLPD has a tripartite leadership, consisting of the authorised force manager (the Director-General for Public Safety and Security at the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations), the chief public prosecutor of the National Public Prosecutors’ Office, and the KLPD’s police chief.

2.3.5 The services of the KLPD

2.3.5.1 National Crime Squad

The National Crime Squad (DNR) combats serious, organised crime with a national or international dimension. Its goal is to reduce cooperative ties between criminals and prevent interaction between the legitimate and criminal worlds. It has expertise in the smuggling of cocaine, heroin, people, firearms and explosives. It specialisms also include synthetic drugs (like ecstasy), money laundering, war crimes, high-tech crime, terrorism and violent political activism.

With a staff of almost 1,000, the National Crime Squad is the KLPD’s biggest service.

2.3.5.1.1 Overall strategy

Serious organised crime is characterised by complex and rapidly changing criminal networks operating internationally. If a Dutch criminal investigation service wants to fight these criminal structures effectively, it has to aim to do more than solve one case at a time. Prevention goes further than investigation.

The main goal is to deprive criminal organisations of their power, assets and means of communication. The National Crime Squad bases its operations on an overall strategy that calculates success by more than the result of one investigation. The overall strategy begins with accurate intelligence. Every day, the National Crime Squad monitors new and ongoing investigations. The latest intelligence enables it to make the right strategic choices.
By tackling serious organised crime, the National Crime Squad and its partners are helping make society safer. Its methods include enforcement, investigation, inspection, and administrative measures. It is an important partner for foreign investigative services.

The National Crime Squad exchanges information and deals with complex requests for legal assistance from other countries. It also coordinates participation on behalf of the Netherlands in long cross-border investigations. These investigations are conducted, under the authority of the National Public Prosecutors’ Office, by investigative teams established at various locations in the country.

2.3.5.2 International Police Intelligence Department (IPOL)

The International Police Intelligence Department (IPOL) is the intelligence service of the Dutch police service and its partners. It receives, processes and analyses information, adds knowledge, and makes it available again.

IPOL occupies a central position and plays a strategic role in crime control and public order and safety. With its intelligence products, IPOL assists the Dutch police and other investigative and security services in combating crime. IPOL provides products for coordinating information, such as situation reports with current threat analyses, knowledge products, and analyses of supraregional ties between criminal organisations.

Information arising from investigations is increasingly becoming available via the Regional and National Information Hubs, which liaise with IPOL’s National Information Hub (NIK). The NIK coordinates information at local, regional and national level for investigation and enforcement purposes as well as for the Surveillance and Protection System. In addition, the NIK receives information from Dutch liaison officers abroad, the Royal Military and Border Police, and the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND). Information is coordinated by some 90 KLPD staff full time.

At strategic level, IPOL provides detailed and overall information to the regional police forces, the special investigative services, the Royal Military and Border Police and the Public Prosecution Service. For instance, it draws up the National Threat Assessment for Serious or Organised Crime (NDB), which provides the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations with information to help it determine priorities in deploying police capacity.
IPOL is also well known owing to HAVANK (the computerised fingerprint system), the reporting of its investigations in the national media, and the Dutch Financial Intelligence Unit.

IPOL serves as the Dutch police’s front office in contacts with foreign police forces to tackle serious international organised crime. It coordinates the exchange of information and expertise between Dutch and foreign police forces, and it creates international networks. Like Schengen, Europol and Interpol, Dutch liaison officers abroad play an important part in exchanging information.

IPOL works closely with liaison officers from the Royal Military and Border Police and receives valuable information from foreign liaison officers in the Netherlands.

IPOL assists knowledge exchange between Dutch and foreign police forces, developing and providing programmes in association with the ministries. It also coordinates police deployment for peace missions.

IPOL works to influence decision-making and policy with regard to police services at European level. It concentrates on police professionalism, taking account of the standpoints of the Dutch police, the ministries and the Public Prosecution Service. Other important IPOL partners are the embassies, the Royal Military and Border Police and special investigative officers. It aims to link neighbourhoods to the world and vice versa.

IPOL was created by a merger of two departments: the National Criminal Intelligence Department (DNRI) and the International Police Services Department (DINPOL), both of which analysed and exchanged information nationally and internationally. The merger arose from the many activities that the two departments had in common. They were merged in April 2008, and the merger will formally take effect in 2009.

2.3.5.3  Specialist Criminal Investigation Applications Department

The Specialist Criminal Investigation Applications Department (DSRT) offers the Dutch police high-quality technical, tactical and legal support in combating serious and organised crime and terrorism. Its activities include protecting witnesses, conducting covert operations, examining photographic, video, and sound recording evidence, surveillance, intercepting communications, working undercover, and providing advice in extortion cases, kidnappings and hostage taking.

The DSRT shares its expertise with investigative and intelligence services. If it lacks the right people or resources, it will find them outside the service at home or abroad. The DSRT also provides advice in the area of security surveillance on buildings. It has a large network of contacts and is aware of the legal, political and administrative limits to its activities.

The DSRT adapts ultramodern technology for the police by combining it with verifiable innovative investigative methods.

2.3.5.4  Special Intervention Service

The Special Intervention Service (DSI) is charged with combating all forms of extreme violence and terrorism. It also carries out tasks specifically commissioned by the Minister of Justice.

The DSI is the umbrella organisation of the System of Special Units, which also comprises the Marine Intervention Unit, the arrest and support units of the regional police forces, and the Royal Military and Border Police.

If one or more special units are deployed to deal with terrorism or extreme violence, they do so under the auspices of the DSI and are led by the head of the DSI. The DSI specialises in carrying out small-scale, high-risk operations with the smart use of technology and intelligence instead of force. Since deploying the DSI has major consequences, it works under the authority of the Minister of Justice. It is permanently on call.
2.3.5.5 Traffic Police

The Traffic Police (DVP) contribute to road safety on parts of the motorways. They provide emergency assistance following accidents, deal with dangerous driving, and tackle crime. Their approach is problem-centred. DVP deploys its expertise mainly on main roads with frequent traffic jams or accidents, and it aims to accelerate the flow of economically important traffic.

The Traffic Police work in seven geographical units.

In addition, the Traffic Police have three functional units: the specialist training, motorcycle, and transport and environmental checks units. Twenty-four hours a day, Traffic Police officers patrol the country’s motorways, including their slip roads, lay-bys and service stations. The Traffic Police work closely with the regional police forces.

Road safety does not stop at the national borders; nor does the work of the Traffic Police. Information exchange with other EU member states is therefore very important. The Traffic Police takes part in European working groups on alcohol and drugs, seat belts, and operational and innovative activities. This enables it to transfer its expertise to other countries. It is also involved in European traffic control work, central to which is the promotion of road safety.

Via contacts in other authorities and agencies concerned with road traffic, the Traffic Police have access to the latest information on traffic jams, road works, legislation, and the investigation of persons, vehicles and cargos.
2.3.5.6 **Water Police**

The Water Police are responsible for investigation, monitoring and enforcement on the arterial waterways and large expanses of water in the Netherlands. On these waters, the Water Police monitor both commercial and recreational shipping. They are also responsible for policing within Dutch territorial waters off the North Sea coast.

The Water Police provide primary care in incidents involving commercial and recreational vessels, and they monitor compliance with legislation. They inspect vessels’ cargoes, safety on board and the crew’s certification, and they check their compliance with crew rules, including those concerning rest periods. The Water Police include specialists who monitor the transport of hazardous substances and waste products. They deal with serious shipping accidents and investigate them. They also investigate incidents such as the theft of cargo from commercial vessels.

In other Dutch waters, such as recreational lakes, the regional police forces are responsible for monitoring recreational shipping. The Water Police provide incidental assistance at the request of the regional police forces. The Water Police work with the Seaport Police and the Inspectorate for Transport, Public Works and Water Management. They also work with counterpart services from EU partner countries in the Aquapol joint venture.

2.3.5.7 **Railway Police**

The Railway Police are responsible for monitoring and enforcement in the transport by rail of goods and passengers throughout the Netherlands. They are charged with primary policing in all trains and on station platforms. Together with the regional police forces, the Railway Police are also responsible for primary policing at five large railway stations: Amsterdam Central, The Hague Central, Rotterdam Central, Utrecht Central and Schiphol Airport.

The Railway Police work with other European railway police services on joint inspections and the supervision of football supporters. The European railway police services share their knowledge and experience in Railpol. The Dutch Railway Police are active in COLPOFER, the European organisation for railway police and security services.
2.3.5.8 **Aviation Police**

The KLPD’s Aviation Police provide monitoring and surveillance by air, which is indispensable to policing. For example, they produce real-time video footage of fleeing cars, oil slicks in the port of Rotterdam, and football supporters around Amsterdam’s Arena stadium. Among their other tasks, the Aviation Police also investigate accidents involving private aircraft and check airliner crews for alcohol use.

The Aviation Police provide air support, mainly at the request of the regional police forces. But responsibility for general aviation enforcement and investigative activities rests with the Aviation Police themselves. These activities involve monitoring compliance with legislation on the transport of hazardous substances by air, the airworthiness of aircraft, the flight crew’s certification and the prescribed arrival and departure routes.

The Aviation Police also conduct criminal investigations into emergency landings, near-accidents, unknown air traffic and aircraft accidents. They interview witnesses and suspects, conduct investigations at the scene, and identify victims.

2.3.5.9 **Operations Support and Coordination Department**

The Operations Support and Coordination Department offers operational support for public order and safety to the KLPD itself, to the regional police forces and to other public authorities. This support consists of staff, equipment and expertise, especially in the areas of emergency assistance, intake, and information for investigation and enforcement. The Department provides information on stolen vehicles and the deployment of police units in incidents on motorways, waterways and railways. It transfers mobile 112 calls to the regional emergency control rooms, and it conducts crime scene investigations.
2.3.5.10 Mounted Police and Police Dogs Service

The Mounted Police and Police Dogs Service (DLHP) assists other units with horse patrols and specially trained dogs. The DLHP trains horses and dogs for specific police tasks. It also trains mounted officers and dog handlers. Its main task is to enforce public order and safety. DLHP horses and their riders are often present at large-scale riot squad operations, football matches that may lead to violence, and major events and emergencies. But they also supervise shopping centres open in the evening and nightlife centres. The DLHP horses also have a special task. They serve as the escort of honour at the State Opening of Parliament and during Royal House special events.

Sniffer dogs are trained to recognise specific odours. The DLHP has sniffer dogs specialising in the odours of living humans, corpses, explosives, drugs and fire accelerants. It also coordinates the deployment of some regional forces and serves as a knowledge centre for foreign police services.

2.3.5.11 Royalty and Diplomatic Protection Department

The Royalty and Diplomatic Protection Department provides tailored protection for members of the Royal House, their guests, politicians, diplomats and other persons designated by the government so that they can live, work and relax safely. ‘Tailored’ protection means that in each case the Department decides the number of bodyguards, the resources, and the measures necessary to guarantee the safety of the person to be protected.

The DKDB does not itself decide who will receive personal security protection. The Surveillance and Protection Department (EBB), part of the office of the National Coordinator for Counterterrorism (NCTb), assigns security to individuals under the Surveillance and Protection System. It does so on the basis of information about the type of threat posed and the chance that something will really happen. It may also order a security assignment for protocol reasons. Personal security protection for members of the Royal House is laid down in the Police Act.
As well as carrying out operational and physical tasks, the DKDB also has an advisory function. Its knowledge about personal and static security is not confined to its own staff. The DKDB is a knowledge and expertise centre, where regional police forces and other government authorities and agencies can obtain advice or ask questions. DKDB staff stay informed about the latest developments in security protection by training, collecting relevant information and networking. The DKDB works closely with foreign counterpart services and liaison officers on incoming and outgoing visits.

The KLPD’s International Police Department (IPOL) draws up threat estimates and informs the EBB and other relevant bodies about risks and threats. Some 90 KLPD officers work on the day-to-day coordination of information.

2.4 Weapons and equipment

The weapons that the police are permitted to carry are prescribed by the Minister of Justice and the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. How the police have to carry out their duties is regulated in such documents as the Police Code of Conduct.

2.4.1 Standard-issue weapons and equipment

Each police officer in the Netherlands has the following standard-issue weapons:
- a 9 mm service pistol;
- a short baton;
- pepper spray.

Strict rules govern the use of force and weapons by the police. Handcuffs and a bullet-proof vest are part of the equipment.

2.4.2 Use of weapons and force

The Police Code of Conduct specifies who may use force and when. The Code lays down the circumstances in which officers may use firearms and handcuffs. Dutch police officers are obliged to be tested on their skills with this equipment periodically.
2.4.3 Special weapons and equipment

A few special units such as the mobile units (riot squads), police dog handlers and mounted police have special equipment such as helmets, riot shields and long batons. Arrest teams are equipped with extra weapons such as semi-automatic firearms and stun-bag shotguns.

(A stun-bag consists of a small round bag filled with lead shot, which is fired from a special shotgun. This ammunition does not penetrate the body, but delivers a considerable punch. Stun-bags can be used only against persons who have a weapon and are deemed likely to use it, persons on the run, and persons resisting arrest.)

The use of automatic weapons requires prior consent from the public prosecutor, with the written authorisation of the Ministry of Justice. Police officers may use electric batons only as a defence against aggressive animals. They may also use CS gas canisters in certain clearly defined situations, for example for crowd dispersal. Another special weapon is the police dog. Police handlers have to be properly qualified, and the dogs have to comply with statutory criteria and be certified.
Developments like open borders, growing mobility, multiculturalism, and counterterrorism require consistency and cooperation between the regional police forces and other authorities and agencies concerned with public safety and security. In 2006, therefore, the 26 force managers together set up the Police Cooperation Facility (vtsPN), which assists the police and other emergency services in making the Netherlands a safer place. The vtsPN has an executive board, consisting of the 26 force managers. The chair is the mayor of Amsterdam, who is also force manager of Amsterdam-Amstelland regional police force.
3.1 What does the vtsPN do?

The vtsPN is a shared services organisation. With a staff of some 2,500, it provides the Dutch police forces with vital shared services: network and ICT services; the management of the C2000 communications system; the design and functional management of the 112 emergency telephone number and shared emergency control rooms; organisational support in the implementation of policy and systems; and – increasingly – the conclusion and management of national procurement contracts.

The vtsPN’s first major task was to implement a strategic plan for the Dutch police forces to ensure homogeneous information management. As a result, they can now share investigation and enforcement information, and they can plan to share capacity.

The vtsPN has a number of units.

3.2 Logistics and Distribution Unit

The vtsPN’s Logistics and Distribution Unit is the central facilities service for the Dutch police. From its distribution centre in Apeldoorn, it provides goods like clothing, equipment, weapons and ammunition. Officers can consult the police intranet for a catalogue of goods available and order their requirements online.

The Unit is also in charge of weapons and ammunition confiscated by the justice authorities. It keeps them in a special warehouse and destroys them if instructed to do so. In addition, it advises its clients about vehicles and police equipment, personal protective equipment, and the European tender procedure. To optimise its performance, the Unit spends a great deal of time on research, development and market research.

Another vtsPN unit is the Dutch Police Institute (NPI), which aims to further professionalise policing in the Netherlands. The NPI’s main task is to provide independent administrative support to the Board of Regional Police Force Managers (KBB) and the Board of Chief Commissioners (RHC). It provides secretarial services for these two bodies and their various committees and strategic policy groups.

In addition, NPI advisers ensure that force managers and police chiefs receive appropriate support in fulfilling their remit. To perform its tasks properly, the NPI operates like a spider in the web of the security community, making connections between ministries, partners in the justice system and police forces.

The NPI is headed jointly by the secretaries of the KBB and the RHC, who oversee three policy divisions: the Strategy & Communications Division, the Professionalisation Division, and the Operational Management Division.

3.3 NPI administrative support
Alongside the civilian police service, the Netherlands also has a police force with military status: the Royal Military and Border Police (KMar). Since the force was established in 1814, it has adhered to the three internationally known principles of the ‘gendarmerie’, namely that it should consist of military personnel, be a mounted force, and be quartered in barracks. Those principles still exist, although ‘mounted’ has now become ‘mobile’, and ‘living in barracks’ has become ‘rapidly deployable’.

In terms of its position and structure, the Royal Military and Border Police is comparable to the Italian Carabinieri, the Spanish Guardia Civil and the French Gendarmerie. It has both civilian and military tasks.
4.1 **Civilian tasks**

The Royal Military and Border Police’s main civilian tasks are:
- to guard the members of the Royal House, in close cooperation with the KLPD’s Royal and Diplomatic Protection Service;
- to perform policing and security duties at the Prime Minister’s official residence;
- to help civilian police forces uphold public order and enforce the criminal law, including in the area of cross-border crime;
- to perform policing and security tasks at Schiphol and other airports;
- to enforce immigration legislation by guarding the external borders of the Schengen Area, carrying out the mobile supervision of aliens, assisting in the reception of asylum seekers, and removing failed asylum seekers and undesirable aliens;
- to protect the transport of valuables belonging to De Nederlandsche Bank (the Dutch central bank).

4.2 **Military tasks**

The Royal Military and Border Police’s main military tasks include:
- policing tasks for the Dutch armed forces, for foreign military personnel stationed in the Netherlands, and for international military headquarters;
- peace-keeping and other international tasks, such as training and advising local civilian police services;
- policing tasks at sites run by the Ministry of Defence.

The Minister of Justice is responsible for the role of the Royal Military and Border Police in enforcing civil and military law. The Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations is responsible for its role maintaining public order. And the Minister of Defence is responsible for its role in carrying out specifically military tasks.

The Royal Military and Border Police is organised in five districts:
- South;
- Northeast;
- West;
- National and Foreign Units;
- Schiphol.

4.3 **Schiphol Airport**

Some 1,700 officers of the Royal Military and Border Police are deployed at Schiphol Airport. They control and police the border in line with the Dutch and international regulations. They carry out this task professionally and courteously, taking account of the economic interests at stake.

At Schiphol Airport, the force provides the full range of policing tasks, including criminal investigation. It has built a strong intelligence-gathering capacity there. In cooperation with Customs and the Economic Investigation Service and Fiscal Intelligence and Investigation Service, it combats drug trafficking both by passengers and in air freight. It is in daily contact with other Dutch police forces on a range of subjects.

The Schiphol district of the Royal Military and Border Police has access to the Expertise Centre on Identity and Document Fraud (ECID), which specialises in travel document fraud. The Centre provides training for police forces at home and abroad.
Police officers have to carry out their duties in a constantly changing, diverse and multicultural society. Safety and the quality of life are growing preoccupations in the Netherlands, and the police play a crucial role in safeguarding and promoting them. This makes great demands on the professionalism of the police forces and the competence of their officers. The police aim to deal with social change flexibly and to continue adapting and learning. A key concept in current police training is competence development.
5.1 Coherent system of police training

Police officers are expected to give clear and appropriate answers in their day-to-day work. Police training caters for this by ensuring that its content is constantly updated to take account of changing needs. This strengthens the police service’s professional capacity. Police training has recently been overhauled, and the traditional training programme has been transformed into a new, unique and coherent training system.

The new training system is based on:
– clear occupational profiles;
– examination criteria linked to the occupational profiles;
– a qualification structure comparable to that of regular vocational and higher education, so that a certificate obtained from a police training programme can qualify its holder for exemptions in mainstream education and vice versa;
– a combination of work and study;
– competence-based learning.

The new system provides all-round vocational training at secondary vocational, higher professional and university level. A distinction is made between initial police education (basic training) and post-initial education (further training).

5.2 Police College

The Police College is responsible for police training. It works closely with the police forces, the government ministries concerned, and mainstream educational institutions. It has a staff of approximately 1,300, many of whom have come straight from the world of practical policing. In addition, it employs hundreds of guest lecturers from many sections of society on its various courses.

5.2.1 Partners

Every year, 30,000 police officers follow the Police College’s training programmes and courses. Various partners play a role.

5.2.1 Ministries

The Police College is charged with organising and providing police training by the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and the Ministry of Justice. The Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations provides funds annually for the provision of initial and post-initial police training and for recruitment and selection. The Minister also makes funds available for the Police College’s research activities. The Police College and the Ministry conclude a multiyear voluntary agreement with performance targets, and the College reports to the Ministry on the results achieved.

5.2.2 Police forces

The police forces play an important part in police training. Trainees learn both at the Police College and on the job. The forces provide officers to coach and guide trainees during on-the-job training. Experts working for regional police forces play an important part in developing knowledge in various areas of policing. They work closely with experts from the Police College to develop professional practice.
5.2.1.3 Police Training Council and Police Knowledge Council

The quality of the Police College's training and knowledge activities are guaranteed by two advisory bodies: the Police Training Council and the Police Knowledge Council. The Police Training Council is an independent body that advises the minister on the provision of police training. It is also jointly responsible for developing a coherent system of police training. In addition, it ensures that standards and certification in police training are comparable to those in mainstream education.

The Police Knowledge Council advises the Police College’s Executive Board on its role in research, especially with regard to the Police and Research Programme. The Police College is fostering its research role to improve and modernise day-to-day policing and to promote police studies as an academic discipline.

5.2.1.4 Supervisory Board

As an autonomous administrative authority, the Police College is legally obliged to have separate executive and supervisory structures. Its executive management is in the hands of the Executive Board. Its oversight is in the hands of the Supervisory Board, which takes a broad social perspective in overseeing the Police College’s operational management and the quality of its provision.

5.3 Police College’s tasks

5.3.1 Recruitment and selection

Finding out about vacancies and applying for a job are the first steps in any career in the police. The police forces decide their own staff requirements and keep close contact on vacancies with the Police College’s Centre for Competence Measurement and Monitoring.

The forces are currently working with the Centre on ideas for attracting a wider range of recruit to the police service. The forces communicate with the labour market via various channels, including advertisements in publications, on radio and TV, and on the internet site www.politie-werving.nl.

They also hold recruitment drives at major events and fairs.

Once a person has applied to become an officer in a police force, he or she will undergo a selection test conducted by the Police College. If the applicant’s test results are favourable and further examination allows, he or she will be appointed to the force and will start his or her training.

5.3.2 Recognition of prior learning

Police training is goal-oriented. Competences acquired earlier in a trainee’s life can lead to exemptions from certain courses or intake at a higher level of training than normally allowed by the trainee’s prior educational attainment. The Police College’s Centre for Recognition of Prior Learning (EVC) follows a fixed procedure that facilitates entry into the police service for applicants with non-standard qualifications.

5.3.3 Initial training

Once an applicant has been accepted into a police force, he or she will follow a training programme at the Police College. Trainees can enter the programme at one of five levels, depending on their prior education. The initial training programme provides trainees with all the necessary competences to work as a police officer. This training is provided by the Police College’s General Police Studies Faculty.

The Police College provides initial training courses at six levels, all of which combine working and learning:

- voluntary police officer: 3 years part-time
- assistant police officer (senior secondary vocational level 2): 1.5 years
- police officer (senior secondary vocational level 3): 3 years
- all-round police officer (senior secondary vocational level 4): 4 years
- bachelor in police studies (higher professional/university level): 4/3 years
- master in police studies: 1 year (following the three-year bachelor programme)

Depending on their prior education, some trainees can complete their training at an accelerated pace.
5.3.4 Post-initial training

Police officers with several years of work experience can further their career via post-initial training, which they follow part time at the Police College. In their own time, they can train for specialist or leadership positions. Post-initial training is provided by the Police College’s Special Police Studies and Leadership Faculty.

The Police College provides post-initial training in five police domains:
– danger management;
– criminal investigation;
– traffic and the environment;
– police leadership;
– aliens supervision.

5.3.5 Examination

Competence assessment plays a major role in the examination of trainees, who have to prove that they can carry out their duties competently in practice. Their competences are tested for every core component. The tests take various forms: some are held on the job, some are simulations, and some are case-based.

5.3.6 Knowledge

The Police College is not only an educational institution; it is also a knowledge centre for the police service. While police training focuses on the acquisition of competences, the knowledge function is concerned with sharing knowledge acquired and developing new knowledge for the future. The knowledge function is designed to improve and modernise day-to-day professional practice and to develop police studies as an academic discipline.

5.3.7 International developments

The Police College helps develop and maintain international relations in the area of police training and knowledge. Its International Police Training Department (IPO) initiates and maintains international contacts and takes part in national and international consultation activities. IPO updates and underwrites the international aspects of policing in police training and in knowledge development.

It also provides international training, some of which is carried out under the auspices the Association of European Police Colleges (AEPC) or the European Police College (CEPOL). The IPO has also been involved in the establishment of
training courses derived from various projects for bilateral European police cooperation. It serves as a national liaison for the European Police College, and it organises short study visits to international organisations for coordinators of international relations in the regional police forces.

5.4 Career development

The regional police forces are responsible for their own career development policies. Good career policy requires effort by both the employer and employees. The employer has to specify the requirements and offer opportunities for career advancement, and the employees have to be interested and committed, willing to undergo training, and sometimes willing to move elsewhere. The regional forces are also consulted on national policy.

Career development policy in the regional forces includes regional management development policy, which focuses on identifying, selecting, developing and deploying managerial potential. This policy applies to all positions in the police force, except for the most senior officers, who are appointed by the Crown. The two government ministers responsible for the police appoint the most senior officers and draw up their job requirements.

The Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations is responsible for some aspects of career policy, the most important being the job evaluation system. In addition, the Minister encourages and facilitates the development of instruments for use by the forces, for instance in implementing diversity policy.

5.4.1 National Management Development Agency for Police and Fire Services

The National Management Development Agency for Police and Fire Services works with the police forces and police training institutes to find talented individuals who can serve in the highest strategic ranks of the Dutch police service. It also fosters the development of talent and arranges for appointments to be made by the Crown – a function it also performs for the fire service.

In order to select highly talented individuals for the police service, the Agency has set up an admissions committee consisting of force managers, regional police chiefs and chief public prosecutors. The committee assesses whether an individual is suitable for a strategic position and works out a personal development process for each individual, in close collaboration with the Police Leadership School (SPL).

5.5 Ethnic and cultural diversity

To deliver quality and flexibility, the police has to represent society. Their position will be stronger if the whole of society feels represented and supported by them. The police service as a whole will then be better equipped to meet the demands of an increasingly complex society. The challenge is to make the Dutch police service reflect the composition of society as a whole.

The Diversity and Police Expertise Centre (LFCD), which is part of the Police Training and Knowledge Centre, initiates policy on diversity and encourages the police forces to implement the policy as widely as possible.
The Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations is responsible, as an employer, for terms and conditions of employment in the police service. But police officers are actually employed by the managers of the regional police forces, the KLPD, or the executive board of the Police College. These bodies are responsible for personnel policy and policy on terms and conditions of employment.
6.1 Terms and conditions of employment and legal status

As an employer, the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations negotiates with the Central Collective Bargaining Committee for the Police (CGOP) on the broad outline of the terms and conditions of employment and legal status.

The CGOP represents the four national police unions: the Dutch Police Union, the ACP Police Union, the General Dutch Police Association, and the Association of Middle-ranking and Senior Police Officers. These unions together represent some 80% of police staff. The CGOP and the Minister have to agree about policy on terms and conditions of employment and on legal status or changes to this policy.

The legal status of police personnel is laid down in secondary legislation. The force managers (as the actual employers of police officers) and the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (as the overall employer) work closely together to reach agreement with the CGOP on terms and conditions of employment. This cooperation, laid down in a voluntary agreement, makes a clear contribution to the unity of the police service.

6.2 Employee participation

In the Netherlands employees are entitled to participate in the process by which strategic decisions are taken by the organisation for which they work. The establishment of a works council is laid down by law. The staff are represented on this council.

Each regional force has its own works council, which consults regularly with force management about operational management and general personnel issues. The works council has the right to be consulted about proposed reorganisations. The consent of the works council is required for decisions to alter policy in certain other fields such as training and the quality of work. The Works Councils Act contains the frameworks for employee participation.

6.3 Modernisation of terms and conditions of employment

The terms and conditions of employment in the police service have to reflect the changing demands made upon the police. Efforts are therefore made in consultation with all parties concerned to strike a balance between flexibility for the organisation and security for the staff.
The Public Order and Safety Inspectorate is the supervisory authority for all organisations engaged in disaster response and crisis management, including the police and fire services and medical professionals called to accidents and disasters. The Inspectorate supervises the work of executive bodies and operational services in the area of public order and safety. An annual risk analysis determines what is to be inspected, and the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and the Minister of Justice draw up a work plan on that basis.
The Inspectorate conducts various types of inspection, including systematic inspections (such as the General Disaster Response Review) and theme-based and incidental inspections. The Inspectorate is often consulted about safety issues by individual citizens, business enterprises, operational services, and local and regional government. This is why advice and incidental inspections are part of the Inspection's remit. Its opinion is always impartial.

The Inspectorate focuses on identifying obstacles and encouraging improvements, and thus boosts the knowledge and performance of the police and fire services and other professionals concerned with disaster response and crisis management. The Inspectorate's recommendations and reports have binding consequences for the police service.

The Inspectorate presents its reports to the accountable politicians and the authorities responsible for the democratic oversight of the police service. Its publications are available for the general public on the internet (www.ioov.nl). The Public Order and Safety Inspectorate works with other inspectorates.
With its open borders and deep involvement in trade, transport and the movement of persons, the Netherlands depends on international structures and contacts. Many parts of the Netherlands are taking on a more international and multicultural character, and this affects policing, too. The police service is increasingly engaging in formal and informal cross-border contact, assistance and cooperation. Since legal systems and policing vary from one country to the next, and since countries cherish their national sovereignty, international cooperation is often regulated in formal agreements or treaties, both between countries bilaterally and within the framework of the European Union.
8.1 International Police Intelligence Department

The national contact point for international police cooperation is the KLPD’s International Police Intelligence Department (IPOL). The Department includes the Dutch branch of Interpol (internationally known as ‘NCB The Hague’), the Dutch Europol National Unit, and the Dutch office of SIRENE (Supplementary Information Request at National Entry), making it the Dutch centre of the Schengen Information System (SIS). It also contains a unit that coordinates criminal intelligence.

The National International Legal Assistance Centre (LIRC) plays a key part in implementing international information exchange and legal assistance. The LIRC is co-managed by the National Public Prosecutors’ Office and the KLPD. Administratively, it is part of IPOL.

The LIRC is the national hub via which all Interpol and Europol messages pass and are processed. The SIRENE office, which is part of the LIRC, facilitates international information exchange round the clock. As well as assisting foreign liaison officers stationed in the Netherlands, the LIRC also oversees a network of 35 Dutch liaison officers attached to Dutch embassies abroad, who work for all the Dutch investigative services and justice authorities.

Since January 2007, the LIRC liaison network has consisted of officers from both the civilian police service and the Royal Military and Border Police (KMar). The primary task of these international liaison officers is to prevent and combat international organised crime, organised illegal migration and terrorism. In three countries, liaison officers are present from both KMar and the civilian police.

8.2 European Union

Police and judicial cooperation is written into the Treaty on European Union. The member states act jointly to prevent and combat various forms of organised and cross-border crime. For this purpose, various agreements and decisions apply that also affect Dutch enforcement services and cross-border activities by the police. The decisions have been adopted by the EU’s Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council, which meets at least twice a year in Brussels or Luxembourg.

The JHA Council’s decisions in the area of police cooperation are prepared by the European working party on police cooperation, the Dutch contribution to which is provided by the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations in close consultation with the KLPD and the Ministry of Justice.

8.2.1 Europol

The most visible symbol of European police cooperation is Europol, the European law enforcement organisation, headquartered in The Hague. Europol has no executive tasks and is limited to dealing with certain types of serious crime involving two or more member states. It receives intelligence from the national police services and supplies it to other member states when it deems it useful. On the basis of the intelligence collected and the requirements of the member states, Europol compiles ‘analytical work files’ (AWFs) on certain subjects. It also carries out analyses for member states upon request.

Europol maintains a computer database with information supplied by all the member states on national investigations. Since recently, it also regularly produces the European Organised Crime Threat Assessment (OCTA), based on information from member states and other European institutions and agencies. The JHA Council bases its priorities on OCTA, which can be regarded as a prototype European safety and security plan.
8.2.2 Schengen Agreement

Since Europe abolished its internal borders, the police have based their cooperative activities on the Schengen Agreement, incorporated into EU law in 1999. Typical cooperative activities include cross-border pursuit and surveillance, and information exchange. Communications between the Dutch police service and the Schengen Information System (SIS) pass via the KLPD’s SIRENE office. The SIS is about to be upgraded and expanded to include biometric information.

8.2.3 Prüm Convention

In May 2005, seven EU member states, including the Netherlands, concluded the Prüm Convention. Their intention was to intensify cross-border cooperation, especially in combating terrorism, cross-border crime and illegal migration. The Convention’s primary instrument is the exchange of information via automated searching, but it also provides for physical forms of assistance.

The Prüm Convention gives the police of the signatory states easier access to each others’ national DNA and fingerprint databases and registers of vehicle owners. Each signatory state maintains a national contact point for each type of information exchanged. The Convention also widens the opportunities for joint police operations, such as patrols, inspections in border regions, and cooperation at large public events such as football matches.

The Prüm Convention expands the territorial reach for the types of cross-border cooperation that the Netherlands had already established with Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg.

8.2.4 Joint investigation teams (JITs)

In 2003, an EU framework decision laid the foundation for joint investigation teams (JITs), consisting of police officers from different member states. Dutch police officers have served as members of JITs, combating vehicle crime, firearms offences, and football hooliganism at international matches. European police services also work together in the area of personal security and in special units, operational and non-operational, for the purposes of training and exercises.
8.2.5 European Police College (CEPOL)

The European Police College (CEPOL) was established in 2000 as a network of national police colleges engaged in training senior police officers. It offers courses and exchange programmes, which are provided at the national police colleges. The Dutch Police College has long been a member of the European Police College. It offers courses and has developed educational materials and an e-learning system.

8.2.6 European Police Chiefs Task Force (EPCTF)

The European Police Chiefs Task Force was established in 2000. It meets regularly to discuss strategic and operational issues.

8.3 Bilateral cooperation

The Dutch regional police forces and police units active at the national borders work closely with the authorities in the neighbouring countries in the areas of information exchange, investigation and the maintenance of public order. In 2004 and 2005, the Netherlands concluded treaties with Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany to allow cross-border activities and powers that go further than those allowed by the Schengen Agreement.

Police officers may carry out patrols and inspections on each other’s territory. In border areas, they may carry out joint exercises and even share police stations. They meet regularly to discuss the implementation of the treaties and their experience with cross-border cooperation. A special form of cooperation with Belgium and France are the checks conducted by joint police teams on the Lille-to-Rotterdam motorway, to combat drug smuggling.

As well as taking part in operational cooperation, the Dutch police service maintains bilateral contacts with foreign police services and institutions in non-operational areas, such as training and research. This has usually taken the form of multiyear country programmes with EU candidate countries as well as Suriname, Indonesia and South Africa.

8.4 Global cooperation

Via Interpol, the Dutch police service works with police services worldwide. Interpol provides a network of contact points in its member states. It is not based on a treaty, but on an agreement between various police services, regulated in a constitution. Via Interpol, information is exchanged on all forms of crime.

8.5 Postings

To expand EU participation in peace missions, steps have been taken under the Second Pillar of the European Union to implement the conclusions of the Cologne (June 1999) and Helsinki (December 1999) European Councils. Police deployment is the main component of non-military crisis management as a means of strengthening the Common Foreign and Security Policy.

In the Netherlands, the organisational structure is almost complete. The Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations may provide police officers to the UN, the OSCE and the EU by means of an order in council.

Recruitment, selection, orientation and aftercare are provided by the KLPD’s IPOL Department. The police officers posted are given special leave for the period of the posting. Global developments have shown that the need for policing on peace missions is likely to grow in the near future.
The Kingdom of the Netherlands comprises not only the Netherlands in Europe but also the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. Each of the countries within the Kingdom is responsible for its own law enforcement and security policy. They also have their own police legislation and their own police forces: the Netherlands Antilles Police Force and the Aruba Police Force.
Changes are under way in the constitutional structure of the Netherlands Antilles. The islands of Curaçao and St Maarten are to become – like Aruba – autonomous countries within the Kingdom. The islands of Bonaire, Saba and St Eustatius have chosen to have closer ties to the Netherlands. These developments will of course have consequences for the organisation of policing within the Kingdom. Consultations are still taking place on how the islands will organise their police services. The provisional date for the changes to the constitutional structure of the Netherlands Antilles is 15 December 2008.

The greater scale of Dutch police forces broadens the range of their expertise – which can benefit the forces in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. Cooperation and the exchange of expertise also help ensure that the quality of law enforcement and policing is of a similar standard throughout the Kingdom.

The different countries and police forces work together in almost every area of policing, including organisational and training changes and computerisation projects. This sometimes leads to the deployment of Dutch police officers in the other parts of the Kingdom. When Dutch, Antillean and Aruban police officers work together in an investigative team, the team is overseen by the competent authority in the country concerned.

Combating organised and cross-border crime is an important part of their work.
Ranks

police trainee

police patrol officer

constable

constable 1st class

sergeant

inspector

superintendent

deputy chief constable

chief constable