

Ministry of Education, Culture and
Science

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Reference

26568997

Your letter from

November 2020

Date

Subject Eurovision Song Contest 2021

5.1.2e

Dear [REDACTED],

Following your letter from November 2020, I hereby gladly inform you on the measures and conditions concerning the organization of the Eurovision Song Contest 2021, in the Netherlands. The Netherlands acknowledges the importance of the ESC, especially in this era of Covid-19, and welcomes the opportunity to make it happen in 2021.

General working conditions

Regarding the general working conditions in the Netherlands, I kindly share with you Article 1 of the Dutch Constitution, which states (translated): "All those present in the Netherlands shall be treated equally in equal cases. Discrimination based on religion, philosophy, political affinity, race, gender or any other ground is not allowed."

In response to your request to confirm basic freedoms, access to information and acknowledgement of the non-political character of the ESC, please note:

- Article 7.1 of the Dutch Constitution states (translated): "No one needs prior permission to express thoughts or feelings through the press, subject to every individual's responsibility according to the law."
- Article 7.2 of the Dutch Constitution states (translated): "The law lays down rules for radio and television. There is no prior supervision of the content of a radio or television broadcast."
- Article 7.3 of the Dutch Constitution states (translated): "For the disclosure of thoughts or feelings by means other than those mentioned in the preceding paragraphs, no one needs prior permission for the content thereof, except for everyone's responsibility under the law. The law may regulate screening of content for the protection of morality to persons under the age of sixteen."

- Article 8 of the Dutch Constitution states (translated): "The right of association is recognized. This right may be limited by law in the interests of public order."

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In addition, please be advised that the Kingdom of the Netherlands has signed and ratified the European Convention on Human Rights.

Furthermore, the editorial independence of the Dutch public media services have been established in the Media law of 2008. Article 2.1, second paragraph, sub d states (translated): "Public media services are in accordance with public values, meeting the democratic, social and cultural needs of Dutch society. To this end, they provide media offerings that are independent of commercial influences and, subject to the provisions by or pursuant to the law, of government influences."

The Dutch Government is aware of the non-political character of the ESC, which shall in no case be used as a platform for any political purpose.

Entrance of people and goods

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs can provide in accordance with applicable laws and regulations to the organizers with the necessary assistance (if possible) for all those working at or attending ESC 2021 to be granted Customs entry to the Netherlands, including, if necessary, the appropriate visas, in accordance with Dutch law and relevant treaties. In particular, be advised that the Netherlands is part of the Schengen Area.

Specifically, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science has granted an exemption to any applicable entry bans for accredited crew, artists and necessary delegates, and journalists visiting the Netherlands for the ESC 2021, in accordance with the existing *Exemptions to the entry ban for professionals in the cultural and creative sectors and professional journalists* (source: <https://www.government.nl/topics/coronavirus-covid-19/tackling-new-coronavirus-in-the-netherlands/travel-and-holidays/visiting-the-netherlands-exemptions-to-the-entry-ban>).

Customs formalities with respect to all products, materials and technical equipment that need to be brought into the Netherlands for or in connection with the ESC 2021 will be facilitated in accordance with applicable Dutch law and relevant treaties.

Health & Safety

The Dutch Government fully recognises the importance of the health, safety and wellbeing of all those visiting and working at the ESC 2021 in the Netherlands.

As I have been informed, formal security, health and safety plans are being developed in collaboration with the Host Broadcaster and the City of Rotterdam and the EBU. These plans shall be validated by the appropriate jurisdiction, *i.e.* the competent local authority of the municipality of Rotterdam, in accordance with

the applicable laws and regulations. We refer to the agreement vis-à-vis the City of Rotterdam and NOS for further details.

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We appreciate your acknowledgement and awareness that any commitments and guarantees in relation to the ESC 2021 are at all times subject to health and safety restrictions that may, at the time of the ESC 2021, be in place because of the COVID-19 pandemic, in the interest of public health. This might mean that additional measures might be necessary at the time of the actual event. The Dutch Government is taking appropriate measures to mitigate public health risks, including those in relation to ESC 2021.

On behalf of the Dutch government,
Yours sincerely,

the minister for Primary and Secondary Education and Media,

Arie Slob