

11. Recovery and Resilience Facility - update

Aard bespreking

- Het voorzitterschap zal de EPC informeren over de wetgevende onderhandelingen over de Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF).
- De EPC zal discussiëren over hervormingen en investeringen rondom de groene transitie/renovatiegolf en over public administration.

Nederlandse inzet

- Voorzichtigheid betrachten over hervormingen en investeringen in ons RRP, omdat hierover nog geen besluiten zijn genomen.
- Indien opportuun antwoorden op (enkele van) de zeer inhoudelijke discussievragen over de groene transitie/renovatiegolf en public administration.
- 10.2.a i.r.t. RRP en de vragen zijn belangrijk om verder te onderzoeken en met de lidstaten te bespreken. Anderhalf uur is hiervoor erg kort en doet geen recht aan de stukken en alle vragen die worden gesteld in de nota. Verzoek vanuit BZK is om op korte termijn hierover langer van gedachten te kunnen wisselen met Public Administration experts uit de lidstaten en DG REFORM (d.w.z. de opstellers van de noties). Graag horen we wat de vervolgstappen zijn voor deze discussienota.

Spreeklijn

- *Despite the relevance and the various initiatives on these topics, the Netherlands has not yet decided which reforms and investments will be included in our RRP. Such decision will also take into account reforms and investments in other relevant areas.*
- **[Opportuun]** Discussievragen over investeringen en hervormingen gerelateerd aan de energie-efficiëntie van publieke en private gebouwen:
 - 10.2.a
 - *Renovation is relatively popular in residential buildings in the Netherlands, especially in owner occupied houses and social housing. This is due to financial benefit from energy saving and home improvement and long lasting government policies stimulating home improvement.*
 - *What does pose a big challenge is to ensure that owners (of rental and owner occupied homes) cope with the rate of renovation that is required to match the Climate goals. The challenge is to step up the pace and to get the specific groups of owners that experience much difficulty to actually switch to renovating / making their property more sustainable.*
 - *In terms of financing most home owners currently invest in sustainable measures through their savings. More capital intensive investments are likely to require additional measures. The Dutch government uses several financial and non-financial incentives to make investing in sustainable measures more interesting and easier for building owners. This by subsidizing insulation and heat solutions and an attractive scheme for balancing the supply and demand of solar energy between home owners with solar panels and energy companies.*
 - *We also see challenges on the supply side. In the past few years there has been a shortage of labour capacity in the building sector, and this sector works very decentralized which leads to inefficiencies (and therefore higher costs) in the purchasing process. To make the final step to an alternative energy source (financially) interesting for more home owners, innovation in technique and customer journeys and economies of scale in renovation are necessary.*
 - 10.2.a
 - *In the Netherlands, home owners have various options for making their property more sustainable. They can finance sustainability measures with their mortgage. With Dutch banks committing to the Climate Agreement and offering several sustainable mortgage products, home owners are stimulated to invest in sustainability. Also there is a tax incentive called the "Regeling Groenprojecten" for so called "green banks" to provide*

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financing to sustainable projects (e.g. energy neutral newly built houses). In addition, various consumer loans are available to finance sustainability measures.

- *Moreover, the Dutch government offers a "Warmtefonds". This fund provides attractive consumer loans. From next year onwards, this "Warmtefonds" will also provide financing to vulnerable people who cannot borrow money through the regular channels. This fund is funded by private investors (ASN, Rabobank) as well as (semi) public institutions as the European Investment Bank. The Dutch government acts as a backstop for these loans. In this way it is ensured that vulnerable people do not get into further problems due to the national sustainability ambitions.*

- 10.2.a
 - *The above mentioned "Warmtefonds" will ensure that vulnerable homeowners, without borrowing capacity, are able to make their homes more sustainable. This offers people the prospect of a sustainable home. Step by step, the Dutch built environment will be made more sustainable. The government makes it possible for vulnerable groups to keep up with these developments.*
 - *European state aid rules are a complex factor for multi-owner buildings, because different sets of rules for home owners and companies in the same building complicate subsidies and cheap financing.*
- **[Opportuin]** Discussievragen over investeringen en hervormingen gerelateerd aan public administration:
- Measures to improve public procurement:
 - *The Netherlands has an ambitious climate and sustainability policy with an exemplary role for the central government. Central government contributes to making the Netherlands more sustainable through its own actions. The climate agreement and the recent purchasing strategy of the national government stipulate, among other things, that the government organization will be climate neutral by 2030, will use 50% fewer primary raw materials and will ensure inclusive jobs and good working conditions in the purchasing chain. National government wants to be an example for the rest of The Netherlands when it comes to procurement.*
- Measures to improve ii) skills, recruitment (including for senior civil servants) and mobility:
 - *The organization of HR is complex in the Netherlands. Each ministry or department and some other sub-organizations have their own HR organization. Meaning that every ministry or department organizes talent management, recruitment and mobility in their own way. Or have the right to do so.*
 - *However, in a number of times it is wise to organize things centrally. So, The Netherlands has shared services on recruitment, talent management and mobility.*
 - *Moreover, the government has its own career-platform. On this platform all the jobs for the Dutch government are published. It also improves mobility because internal candidates have more insights into the vacancies within the whole of government.*

Voorliggende documentatie

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Toelichting

10.2.a

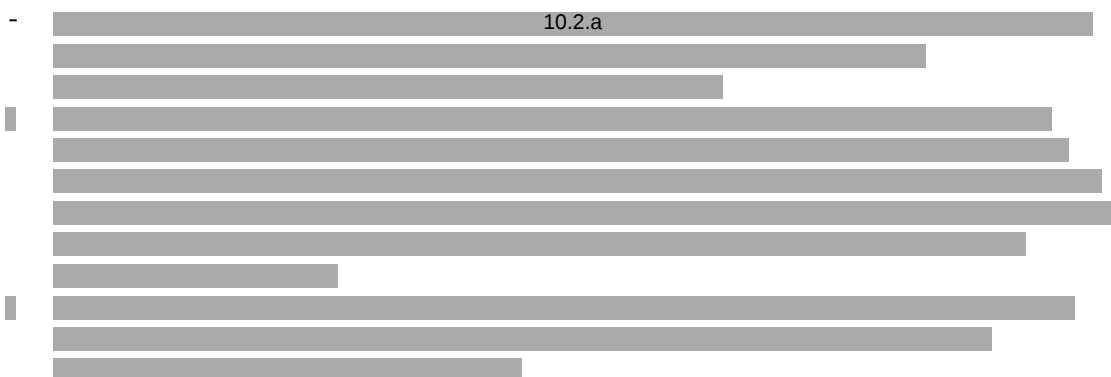
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- Bij DG Reform wordt gewerkt aan een public benchmarking tool. EZK (10.2.e) en BZK (10.2.e) hebben hierover contact met de EC / DG REFORM. De essentie is dat het belangrijk is om aan te sluiten op bestaande benchmarking frameworks die o.a. de OESO en de EC eerder hebben ontwikkeld, al is het tevens van belang om aan te sluiten bij RRP frameworks en de huidige tijd.
- Hieronder volgen de uitgebreide antwoorden op discussie vraag 3 zoals ontvangen vanuit BZK:

3v) Measures to improve public procurement:

The Netherlands has an ambitious climate and sustainability policy with an exemplary role for the central government. Central government contributes to making the Netherlands more sustainable through its own actions. The climate agreement and the recent purchasing strategy of the national government stipulate, among other things, that the government organization will be climate neutral by 2030, will use 50% fewer primary raw materials and will ensure inclusive jobs and good working conditions in the purchasing chain. National government wants to be an example for the rest of The Netherlands when it comes to procurement. We think this is important and urgent because:

- Urgent from the palatable consequences of climate change and the depletion of our earth.
- Urgent, based on policy commitments, whereby the role of the national government is increasingly being looked at more often and emphatically.
- Urgent from the need for a sustainable recovery of the economy as a result of COVID-19.
- The business community also continues to ask for this. Sustainable NGOs as well as our The Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers (VNO-NCW) and building sector have been making a strong plea for purchasing and tendering based on impact instead of lowest price for years.

Resulting in:

- Reduce of our own environmental damage, CO2 emissions, nitrogen emissions, etc. Our operational management alone has an emission of at least 660,000 tons of CO2. Government estimates total 5 megatonnes (including Rijkswaterstaat which is part of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, Defence and the purchasing chain).
- Stimulate green transition and economic recovery by encouraging sustainable business (for example by acting as a launching customer, by boosting innovation, awarding sustainability performance and creating employment by applying social return)
- Spin-off of exemplary behaviour from central government to other governments, unlocking the potential of 75 billion purchasing expenditure (previous research by the RIVM already showed a reduction of 5 megatonnes of CO2 with a limited application)

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- Increased quality and credibility of national policy. By doing what we ask of society ourselves, policy improves (direct feedback loop) and the credibility of the government as a reliable partner increases.

Lessons learned:

- Sustainable procurement has been around for some time. Developing a purchasing strategy by the Cabinet is an important turning point in thinking and doing. It made way from non-binding to a core assignment for Central government.
- Putting the goal first (or making it compulsory), avoiding imposing all kinds of technical purchasing criteria for all kinds of product groups. A good example of this at EU level is the clean vehicles directive. This is an obligation for government to have a percentage (differs per country) of the own vehicle fleet clean by 2025 (in fact, clean emissions less than 50 grams of CO2 per km). And thus not making all kinds of techniques and systems compulsory on the vehicles. This way of thinking can be broadened to other product groups. For example, a target for the energy purchase of money (X percent green electricity in 2025)
- In a transition platform or program structure outside the line organization that can direct support with: the (re-) formulation of purchasing questions, market consultations (what is possible), customer needs (culture change) and the development and implementation of support systems for monitoring and capacity for better management of the realization of goals.
- Realizing a research budget of X million per year to be converted against a category plan / purchase packages in order to invest directly in further research for further implementation of the transitions (eg footprint studies, alternative award criteria, contact management etc.)

3 ii) Measures to improve skills, recruitment (including for senior civil servants) and mobility:

- o The organization of HR is complex in the Netherlands. Each ministry or department and some other sub-organizations have their own HR organization. Meaning that every ministry or department organizes talent management, recruitment and mobility in their own way. Or have the right to do so.
- o However, in a number of times it is wise to organize things centrally. So The Netherlands has shared services on recruitment, talent management and mobility. Organizing such HR themes centrally has some benefits such as financially: we'll have to hire less people who have certain knowledge; procurement wise it's smarter to buy bigger and pay less. Also knowledge and expertise is centralized. Experts learn from each other and expertise can be better found within the whole organization.
- o Government has its own career-platform: www.werkenvoornederland.nl. On this platform all the jobs for the Dutch government are published. The benefit of this is that it is easier for candidates from outside the organization to search for a government job. It also improves mobility because internal candidates have more insights into the vacancies within the whole of government.
- o The platform of the Dutch government functions as a labor market on its own. Internal candidates don't have to look outside the government.