Plan of Action

Child sex tourism

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Plan of action on child sex tourism

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Introduction
Child sex tourism is the practice of visiting a foreign country to engage in sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of minors, or facilitate these activities in some way.

Child sex tourism occurs worldwide, and Dutch nationals are known to engage in the practice. However, no hard facts are available on the total number of Dutch offenders. The cases known to date reveal that dozens of Dutch nationals have travelled to countries such as Cambodia, Thailand, Brazil, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Gambia, Ghana, South Africa, Romania and Bulgaria over the past few decades and have subjected children there to sexual abuse or sexual exploitation.\(^1\) In addition, information provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reveals that a number of Dutch nationals are being prosecuted for, or have been convicted of, child sex abuse in Western countries. These countries include the United States, Belgium, Germany, Spain and Switzerland.\(^2\) All this shows that this phenomenon is very widespread. It should be added that countries with ailing economies, poverty, and a lack of adequate statutory instruments to fight child sex abuse accord insufficient priority to investigating and prosecuting these offences and to tackling corruption. This makes it easier for potential child sex tourists to engage in sexual contact with children in these countries, frequently with impunity.

Basic principles underlying Dutch policy
The Dutch government takes it as a fundamental assumption that all children must be protected from sexual violence. This includes children who live, or who are staying, in other countries. This concern is magnified when Dutch nationals are involved. Child sex tourism is not defined as a separate offence in the Criminal Code. Offenders are prosecuted on the basis of the sex offences defined in articles 240b, 244, 245, 247, 248a-248e and 249 of the Criminal Code. These relate to child sex abuse committed in a foreign country by a Dutch national (or resident of the Netherlands). In addition, in certain cases those concerned may be prosecuted under article 273f of the Criminal Code (human trafficking). Dutch nationals can also be prosecuted in the Netherlands for the sex offences mentioned in these articles, in conjunction with articles 5 and 5a, if the offences were committed in another country.

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\(^1\) Sources: [www.ecpat.nl](http://www.ecpat.nl), Report of 20 August 2013, ‘Barières tegen kindersekstoerisme’ (‘Creating barriers to prevent child sex tourism’) issued by the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children (NRM) and the report issued by Terre des Hommes on 10 September 2013 entitled ‘Tipping the Scales: Recommendations for a better balance in combating child sex tourism’.

\(^2\) Overview supplied by the Consular Affairs and Migration Policy Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, referred to in the NRM’s report of 20 August 2013, cited in note 1.
Investigation of offences in other countries where possible
Given that these offences deeply offend society’s sense of justice, and that there is a need to offer victims support and redress, and also given the practical advantages of conducting investigations and prosecutions in the country where the offences were committed, the Dutch government prefers child sex tourism suspects to be investigated and prosecuted, wherever possible, in the country concerned. It may adopt a different view if a Dutch national has been under investigation abroad but not prosecuted, or was convicted and subsequently fled to the Netherlands. The situation is also different if a Dutch national is investigated in the Netherlands. This applies, for instance, to criminal investigations in the Netherlands in which a suspect has saved images of webcam sessions in which he forced children to perform sexual acts in front of the camera abroad, or which include images of child pornography produced abroad. The nationwide adoption of the plan of action on child pornography and child sex tourism in 2012 laid the foundations for qualitative and quantitative improvements in the efforts of the police and Public Prosecution Service to combat child sex tourism. The police’s revised priorities have led to a necessary expansion in the capacity to combat child pornography and child sex tourism. Subsuming these efforts into a national structure and placing national control under the authority of the Public Prosecution Service have led to a great improvement. As noted above, a Dutch national who is suspected of child sex tourism can be prosecuted in the Netherlands. Such prosecutions sometimes take place. The National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children (NRM) and Terre des Hommes (TdH) refer to these developments in their reports, and the police and the Public Prosecution Service mention them in their descriptions of child sex tourism. All three reports also note that it is occasionally possible for the Dutch police and criminal justice authorities to contribute to investigations and prosecutions of Dutch nationals who are suspected of child sex tourism in other countries by providing legal assistance. However, the investigation and prosecution of Dutch child sex tourists is highly complex. This is because of differences between legal systems and the fact that the Dutch police and criminal justice authorities do not have investigative powers in the countries concerned, making them heavily dependent on local bodies. What is more, there is a lack of international agreements and cooperation with these countries in this area and the Dutch police and criminal justice authorities lack access to relevant information.

Foundations for the plan of action
Over the past few years, the Dutch government’s new approach to combating child sex tourism involves both public and private partners. Measures include the launch of an
internet hotline, www.meldkinder5ekstoerisme.nl, partnerships with the KMar, the travel industry and NGOs, and two campaigns at airports on the subject of child sex tourism. Since 1 October 2012 all reports of child sex tourism have been registered centrally with the national child pornography unit, which assesses them and passes them on to be dealt with by the police. On 18 April 2013, the Netherlands became a member of the international Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT) – composed of representatives of countries and investigating authorities, NGOs and companies – which was set up to stop online child abuse. VGT membership widens the scope for strategic cooperation with a range of international partners to combat child pornography and child sex tourism in innovative ways. Building on the foundations described above, this multi-year plan raises the efforts to stop child sex tourism to a higher level. On the one hand, it contains measures that create barriers to prevent actual or potential Dutch child sex tourists, in other countries as well as in the Netherlands, from subjecting children to sexual abuse abroad. It also includes measures aimed at enhancing the availability of and access to information in order to facilitate police investigations and prosecutions of child sex tourists and intensify cooperation with public and private partners at national and international level.

**Three lines of action**

In adopting this plan of action, the aim is to implement a cohesive package of measures over a period of several years. Through a process of reflection and a growing understanding of the problems involved, it is possible to elaborate the different parts of the plan in greater detail and implement them. The plan is structured such that measures are implemented step by step, each with the appropriate partners, and become more and more detailed in the course of implementation. With this plan, the Dutch government shows that it is taking responsibility for Dutch nationals who subject children to sexual abuse in other countries. In addition, the plan makes a contribution to worldwide efforts to combat child sex tourism.

The plan of action on child sex tourism contains three lines of action:

1. Focus on prevention
2. Investigation and prosecution
3. National and international cooperation

1. Focus on prevention

1.1 General observations

1.2 International Certificate of Conduct

1.3 SOMEC project

1.4 Screening of employees and volunteers within children's aid agencies

1.5 Long-term supervision of sex offenders

1.6 Refusal and revocation of passports

1.1 General observations

It is essential to create as many barriers as possible to prevent Dutch nationals from travelling abroad for the purpose of subjecting children to sexual abuse. General preventive measures will not suffice here. The measures that deserve closest attention are those that prevent Dutch nationals who have been convicted of child sex abuse in the Netherlands from reoffending in other countries. Several different paths already exist for the supervision of sex offenders. These are now being built on to tackle the problem of child sex tourism.

1.2 International Certificate of Conduct

At European level, partly at the Netherlands' request, agreements have been made in the Directive on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children to prevent child sex abuse. Article 10 of this Directive provides that, in order to avoid the risk of repetition of offences, convicted offenders should be temporarily or permanently prevented from exercising at least professional activities involving direct and regular contacts with children. On the basis of these agreements, the Netherlands makes enquiries of other Member States, and has done since 1 October 2012, concerning any relevant criminal records of persons wishing to take employment in childcare, youth care or education, and applies for Certificates of Conduct to be issued for such persons. These enquiries are made as a matter of course regarding anyone without Dutch nationality who wishes to work in the Netherlands in childcare, youth care or education.

To enable employers elsewhere, for instance in child sex tourism destination countries, to request Certificates of Conduct for Dutch nationals wishing to work there, the Integrity and Screening Agency (Justis) is currently preparing to make the Certificate of Conduct, and
the application form for it, available in English. This will help foreign organisations to identify Dutch nationals who have been convicted of sex offences in the past, and guard against appointing such individuals to positions in which they would be working with children or other vulnerable people.

1.3 SOMEC project
The Netherlands is a partner in the project known as SOMEC (Serious Offending By Mobile European Criminals), which was launched following a British initiative in February 2013. The aim of this project is to make recommendations at European level, at the end of 2014, on exchanges of information regarding serious violent and sexual offenders, to enable member states to optimise the supervision of these individuals to prevent repeat offending. As part of this project, efforts are currently under way to chart the scope for exchanges of information at European level on serious violent and sexual offenders. The project also involves taking stock of best practices in the supervision of such individuals.

1.4 Screening of employees and volunteers within children’s aid agencies
Consultations are being conducted with a number of NGOs in the Netherlands to encourage NGOs, aid agencies, charitable institutions, schools and orphanages in other countries to recognise and shoulder their responsibility for protecting children. For instance, such organisations are being made aware of the possibility of requiring their Dutch employees and volunteers in child sex tourism destination countries to provide Certificates of Conduct. This is an area in which NGOs in the Netherlands can act as the driving force, so the government is seeking to work with them in this regard.

1.5 Long-term supervision of sex offenders
The bill to regulate the long-term supervision of sex offenders, once it has passed into law, will make it possible to place convicted child sex abusers under long-term supervision in the Netherlands, if necessary for the rest of their lives, and to make them subject to certain orders, such as a travel ban or a restraining order. This bill will be brought before the House of Representatives in the autumn of 2013.

Pending this new legislation, better ways of monitoring sex offenders in the Netherlands are currently being sought. This includes exploring effective ways of monitoring compliance with restrictions on the liberty of convicted paedophiles, preventing them from leaving the country.
1.6 Refusal to issue and revocation of passports

As and when necessary, a request will be submitted to the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, under section 24 (a) in conjunction with section 25 of the Passport Act, to include the personal details of a convicted paedophile considered at high risk of reoffending in the Passport Alert List. If an individual’s name is on the Passport Alert List, his/her passport can be refused or revoked under the terms of section 24 (a) of the Passport Act. Two caveats should be noted here. First, the inclusion of a person’s name in the Passport Alert List will not suffice in all situations, since Dutch nationals are free to travel within Europe carrying an identity card, and an identity card cannot be refused or revoked, since this would be incompatible with the Compulsory Identification Act. Second, the final decision to refuse or revoke a passport is taken by the passport issuing authority. Furthermore, in practice, the refusal or revocation of a passport is only useful in combination with other supervisory measures (for instance a systematic obligation to report to the authorities). Efforts are being made to identify other effective ways of monitoring compliance with restrictions on the liberty of convicted paedophiles, preventing them from leaving the country. This includes ways of enforcing non-punitive orders refusing or revoking a person’s passport.
2. Investigation and prosecution

2.1 Improving availability of and access to information

2.2 Campaign to combat child sex tourism

2.3 General action undertaken by police and Public Prosecution Service

2.4 Use of liaison officers (LOs)

2.5 Handbook on combating child sex tourism

2.1 Improving availability of and access to information

According to their own research, the Dutch police and criminal justice authorities currently have insufficient access to information about persons who engage in child sex tourism. Who are they? How do they operate? What are the main locations involved? And who facilitates the abuse?

In order for the police and the Public Prosecution Service to tackle child sex tourism effectively, it is important that the justice system registers clearly which cases have involved child sex abuse in other countries. The Public Prosecution Service and the police are investing jointly in clear and unequivocal registration of these offences. To this end, a survey will be made of the specific details that need to be extracted (from reported incidents, cases and any other information received) and registered in the databases of the police and Public Prosecution Service and how this being done at present. The next stage will be to translate the results of this exercise into concrete improvements in the registration of child sex tourism in the databases of the police and Public Prosecution Service, to substantially enhance access to information.

It has been agreed with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that from 1 January 2014 onwards, the Ministry will give the Dutch police a monthly overview of Dutch nationals who have been accused or convicted of child sex abuse in other countries. It should be noted that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs only has information about Dutch nationals who are being held in detention abroad if these nationals have themselves given their consent to the local authorities to notify the Dutch embassy. This means that while the Ministry's overview will provide some useful information, it is not comprehensive. New conclusions resulting from improved availability of and access to information will help to provide the basis for, and will be incorporated into, the further implementation of the plan of action.

2.2 Campaign to combat child sex tourism
Efforts are currently underway to enhance information gathering from third parties such as NGOs and members of the public regarding alleged child sex tourists and improve the way this information is used. This information can be collected by collaborating with other private and public parties, as laid out in the line of action ‘cooperation’. This information also surfaces in the context of the public awareness campaigns. Systematic attention will be paid to improving the quality of reports of child sex tourism in this connection. The plan of action on child sex tourism includes involving society in efforts to combat this practice. Two campaigns have been conducted in this regard thus far, most recently at Schiphol, The Hague-Rotterdam and Eindhoven airports. In consultation with partners such as the KMar, the anonymous crime reporting hotline ‘Meld Misdaad Anoniem’, the travel industry and the NGOs ECPAT and PLAN Nederland, it was decided to repeat the campaign at airports each year. In addition, efforts are being made in collaboration with the aforementioned partners to raise public awareness, for instance during the annual holiday fair in Utrecht or as part of the publicity surrounding the World Cup and UEFA soccer fixtures. For instance, campaign activities are currently being prepared to coincide with the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

In addition, in 2014 ways will be sought to link up with the European campaign against child sex tourism, under the slogan ‘Don’t look away’. The countries currently taking part are Austria, France, Germany, Luxembourg and Switzerland. The aim is to adopt this campaign nationwide, and organise activities at international level together with the other countries taking part. This campaign will eventually replace the current ‘Meld Misdaad Anoniem’ campaign under the slogan ‘Break the silence’, the aim being to take uniform, recognisable and transnational action with the participating countries.

2.3 General action undertaken by the police and the Public Prosecution Service
At the level of individual cases, the work of tackling child sex tourism has been assigned to the police’s child pornography and child sex tourism teams (TBKK), under the oversight of the police’s National Programme to Combat Child Pornography and Child Sex Tourism (NPKK). Responsibility for investigations lies with the Public Prosecution Service, with oversight by the National Public Prosecutors’ Office. At strategic level, the National Steering Team on Child Pornography and Child Sex Tourism (NSKK) has oversight with a view to achieving the set objectives in combating these crimes. The Tactical Steering Team is responsible for assessments and tactical decisions in child sex tourism cases. The police officers assigned to child sex tourism cases are deployed primarily from the
150 FTE earmarked for child pornography, where possible in association with the units assigned to sex offences and human trafficking.

The primary principle on which policy is based is that as far as is possible, persons suspected of child sex tourism should be investigated and prosecuted in the country in which the child sex abuse took place. The Dutch police and criminal justice authorities are actively studying ways in which the Netherlands can contribute to such investigations and prosecution in the countries concerned, for instance by sharing information and cooperating with the authorities there. It is a prerequisite that the country concerned is also willing to engage in such cooperation. In addition, the police and Public Prosecution Service take on cases to which they have been alerted or that have been reported to the police in the Netherlands, or in which information about child sex tourism has surfaced in the course of ongoing investigations. In short: every indication relating to child sex tourism is followed up. Though every report of child sex tourism receives attention, this does not mean that each one automatically leads to an investigation. That is because not all of them contain sufficient leads to make an investigation feasible. However, each one is registered and looked into as far as possible.

In the period from 1 January 2013 to 1 October 2013, the police and Public Prosecution Service investigated eight cases of child sex tourism. The experience gained during these investigations will help identify the best ways of approaching cases in future and will be incorporated into the drive to achieve improvement.

Where child sex abuse takes place makes little or no difference under Dutch law. Cases of child sex tourism that surface in the Netherlands are therefore prosecuted in accordance with the Public Prosecution Service’s guidelines on the prosecution of sex offenders.

2.4 Use of Liaison Officers

When the Dutch police and criminal justice authorities learn of a case in which a Dutch national has been arrested abroad (more specifically in the known destination countries) for child sex abuse – regardless of whether this person is in the foreign country for a short or extended stay or is resident there – the Dutch police contact the local investigating authorities through the Liaison Officer (LO) and offer to help with the investigation and prosecution of the suspect concerned in the country where the offence was committed. This is frequently done by drawing attention to the possibility of submitting requests for
legal assistance. It is not always necessary for a convention to exist in order to request and grant legal assistance. The police can always dispose of simple requests for legal assistance independently on the basis of article 552 (i) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and they can provide information to foreign authorities under the terms of article 5.1 of the Police Data Decree. This means that they can cooperate with destination countries of child sex tourism in criminal investigations without there being a convention on mutual assistance, although this is conditional on the destination countries themselves wanting to engage in this type of collaboration. In addition, the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) can serve as a basis for legal assistance if the offence falls under the heading of transnational organised crime. A total of 176 countries are party to this Convention.

The use of Liaison Officers (LOs) in tackling child sex tourism is part of the wider policy on the use of liaison officers. In relation to tackling child sex tourism, this means specifically that within Europe, the National Police will increasingly work with LOs who can be deployed flexibly, known as ‘FILOs’. FILOs are based in the Netherlands and focus their activities on specific countries and/or themes. Tackling child sex tourism is one such theme. The liaison function, and hence the deployment of LOs in tackling child sex tourism, is continued beyond Europe’s frontiers, and police LOs outside the EU are therefore closely involved in tackling these offences where necessary.  

The National Unit of the Dutch National Police will periodically ask Interpol’s National Central Bureaus (NCBs) whether they have any knowledge of Dutch sex tourists operating in the destination countries that are listed in the National Rapporteur’s report on creating barriers to prevent child sex tourism. In addition, known destination countries for child sex tourism that do not yet have a police or KMar liaison officer (or an accredited one) are assigned to the areas covered by the LOs in the region. When Interpol reports suspicions of an offence involving child sex tourism, the LO contacts the law enforcement authorities of the country concerned and looks into what action can be taken. Within the EU, both permanent and flexible LOs can also be deployed to combat child sex tourism.

An extra FILO is being stationed with the Manila force for two years to focus on the specific theme of child sex tourism in the Asia region, particularly in Thailand and Cambodia. At operational level, the FILO is the link between foreign police authorities, the

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3 The full list of secondments of liaison officers within the network of the National Police Agency and the KMar is in the annexe to the letter to the House of Representatives dealing with police liaison policy.
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TBKK and the human trafficking and people smuggling team of the National Unit. These teams carry out joint investigations of child sex tourism together with the Thai and Philippine police forces, with the child sex tourism FILO playing a connecting and facilitating role. The FILO also cooperates closely with the permanent police liaison officers in Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Canberra.

Every two months the LOs meet in a temporary regional platform on child sex tourism, specifically for the LOs in Asia, to discuss the current situation and regional developments and to agree on a uniform regional, mutually supportive approach. This measure means that the police has FILOs in all the main countries of destination for child sex tourism in the region. In addition, efforts are being made to forge modes of cooperation with Australia, which is also actively involved in tackling child sex tourism in Asia. The LO for child sex tourism in Asia is developing a regional approach to the problem, the aim being to draw up a list of tasks to be performed by the LOs in the region.

In addition, a FILO for child sex tourism focusing on South America is to be posted to Rio de Janeiro for one year (2014), along the same lines as the structure described above for Asia. This is because the 2014 FIFA World Cup is being staged in Rio de Janeiro, and events of this kind can act as magnets for child sex tourists. The FILO for child sex tourism in South America is also charged with developing a regional approach, in close partnership with the permanent LOs in the region (Colombia, Paramaribo, Caracas and Curaçao) to draw up a list of tasks to be performed by the LOs in the region.

In addition, a senior police officer is being deployed for twelve months to explore the scope for cooperation and to exchange experiences with other countries that adopt an active approach to combating child sex tourism (including the United Kingdom, Germany, the United States and Australia). This police officer will be responsible for issuing an advisory report to the Ministry of Security and Justice in the course of 2014. In this connection, efforts are also being made to see how the approach to child sex tourism can be linked to ongoing police activities for the benefit of the top priority countries for international police cooperation (see also the letter to the House of Representatives on police liaison policy). This police officer can also perform activities related to the Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT) mentioned in this plan of action.

Several of the destination countries named in the National Rapporteur’s report on creating barriers to prevent child sex tourism are in Africa. The police have an LO in Morocco and
a FILO for South Africa. The KMar has LOs in Morocco, Kenya and Nigeria. As far as the police are aware, there are virtually no indications that Dutch child sex tourists are present in this region at this time. Police intelligence on criminal links between the Netherlands and African countries is relatively weak. This is because the rule of law is poorly developed in many African countries, with child sex tourism frequently receiving little or no attention. For this reason, no extra LO is currently deployed in Africa for child sex tourism. If any indications of Dutch child sex tourists being present in Africa are received, the LO in the relevant region will respond. This approach applies to all destination countries, not only those in Africa.

2.5 Handbook on combating child sex tourism
In 2014 the police and OM will be issuing a handbook on combating child sex tourism. The handbook will chart best practices, among other things, and will be regularly updated and supplemented. It will in any case include a checklist on child sex tourism, which was developed to raise awareness of signs pointing to child sex tourism in child pornography cases. This checklist was devised in collaboration between various NGOs, the KMar, the police and the Public Prosecution Service. The handbook also serves as the Dutch contribution to an international handbook on tackling child sex tourism that will be issued by the Virtual Global Taskforce, and which will combine the best practices of the Taskforce’s various members.

3. National and international cooperation
Given the transnational nature of child sex tourism and the numerous government agencies and NGOs involved in tackling it, effective cooperation between these parties is essential. To explore new forms of collaboration and expand existing ones (or to place them on a more permanent footing), the following measures and paths will be included in this plan of action.

3.1 Cooperation with NGOs
3.2 Judicial cooperation with child sex tourism destination countries
3.3 Visit of delegation from Thailand
3.4 International masterclass
3.5 Interpol Specialist Group on Crimes Against Children (ISGCAC)
3.6 Non-Anonymity Project
3.7 Active participation within international organisations and forums
3.8 Cooperation with the Royal Military and Border Police (KMar)
3.1 Cooperation with NGOs

In the first half of 2013, the police and Public Prosecution Service explored the scope for cooperation with NGOs, charting existing legal barriers. In this connection, a theme-based meeting was also organised for LOs on the subject of child sex tourism. This exploratory study is set to culminate in a concrete pilot project in the final quarter of 2013. The results of the pilot project will be used in defining the parameters for exploring similar forms of cooperation to tackle child sex tourism in other countries (specifically, the primary destination countries).

3.2 Judicial cooperation with child sex tourism destination countries

In its efforts to combat sexual violence against children, the Netherlands cooperates closely with other member states of the EU and the Council of Europe. The foundations for these efforts are enshrined in various multilateral conventions and, where applicable, in bilateral treaties between the Netherlands and various other countries. This cooperation is predicated on a knowledge of, and confidence in, each other’s legal systems. Where a third country is not yet party to the multilateral conventions, or these multilateral conventions do not contain the necessary provisions, and in the absence of a specific bilateral treaty, it is possible to cooperate on a reciprocal basis if the Netherlands has a criminal-law interest in securing cooperation. Such agreements can be couched in the form of mutual exploration or MoUs of differing degrees of commitment, or in some cases in the form of a bilateral treaty.

In the near future, the Netherlands will be setting up talks with Thailand to chart the problems and needs on both sides for cooperation in criminal matters. The subject of child sex tourism will be explicitly included in these talks. Based on the conclusions arising from these consultations, it will be decided what kind of cooperation with Thailand is possible and desirable. The experience gained with Thailand can serve as an example for exploring cooperation in tackling criminal cases involving child sex tourism with other countries – that is, the primary destination countries for child sex tourism.

3.3 Visit of delegation from Thailand

In the week of 7 October 2013, a delegation of Thai police officers will be visiting the child pornography and child sex tourism teams (TBKK) of the Dutch National Police to be informed about the intensification of efforts to combat child pornography and child sex tourism and learn about the role these teams play in these activities. The delegation might also visit the KMar and customs authorities at Schiphol.
3.4 International masterclass
In partnership with the Police College, representatives of the National Programme to Combat Child Pornography and Child Sex Tourism (NPKK) and the TBKK will give a presentation as part of the international masterclass on the programme approach in The Hague in October 2013. During this masterclass, 27 individuals from 19 countries will be informed on four themes, one of which is child sex tourism. Those participating in the discussions on child sex tourism will be from Southeast Asia and Australia.

3.5 Interpol Specialist Group on Crimes Against Children (ISGCAC)
Since 1992, Interpol has had an international group with the specific mandate of combating crimes against children. This group, called the Interpol Specialist Group on Crimes Against Children (ISGCAC), meets annually. It is made up of representatives from Interpol member states, which include the Netherlands. The annual meeting is scheduled for the end of October 2013, and those taking part will include representatives of the NPKK and TBKK.

The group has the following objectives:

- To exchange information, including research findings.
- To exchange best practices, lessons learned and case studies.
- To expand cooperation between countries in areas relating to investigations of child sex abuse (on the internet).

3.6 Non-Anonymity Project
The Netherlands is taking part in the Interpol Non-Anonymity Project. This is a preventive risk-reduction project aimed at making it impossible for convicted paedophiles who are at high risk for reoffending to travel anonymously and unnoticed, to emigrate, or to perform work, including voluntary work, with children in another country. This project was initiated jointly by the Dutch police (the NPKK) and Interpol and has yielded three results:

1. The possibility for countries to request a special alert for convicted paedophiles. This alert will automatically notify authorities carrying out passport controls or checking visa applications, worldwide, that the person passing through passport control or applying for a visa is a convicted paedophile who is at high risk for reoffending.
2. The development of an Interpol certificate of no objection. Potential employers can require applicants to produce such a certificate. The candidate can apply to Interpol for the certificate. Interpol will then check worldwide whether the applicant is a convicted paedophile. Should this be the case, the certificate will be refused, and the employer can refuse to take on the applicant or volunteer.

3. A passive system to track the travel movements of convicted paedophiles. The resulting data can be used to provide member states with an overview of the international travel movements of their own nationals and to identify trends in travel movements.

The Non-Anonymity Project uses the existing Interpol network of 190 member states, existing databases, the existing IT infrastructure, the existing secure communication network 1-24/7, and the existing alert system as it is currently implemented. Interpol enjoys the confidence of police forces worldwide, which is essential to the project’s successful implementation. The project’s development and implementation will include cooperation with NGOs and a number of countries, including a destination country of child sex tourism.

3.7 **Active participation within international organisations and forums**

To both remain abreast of international trends, new instruments and possible approaches, and to highlight the Dutch approach in the international field, there will be active participation in diverse expert meetings and meetings convened by and with relevant international partners. These partners are highly diverse. They range from the Council of Europe, the United Nations and the European Union to agencies focusing more specifically on investigation, such as the Virtual Global Taskforce (VGT), Interpol, Europol, NCMEC (the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children), LOs and other parties on which the Netherlands depends, for instance for knowledge, skills and operational cooperation. Attending such meetings and sharing experiences creates a wide-ranging international synergy of experience and expertise, which benefits Dutch and international efforts to combat child sex tourism.

Membership of the VGT provides additional scope for strategic cooperation with diverse international partners to devise an innovative approach to combating child pornography and child sex tourism. As part of the VGT’s scheduled activities, the Dutch police (represented by the NPKK) will participate in the development of an international
handbook on tackling child sex tourism that sets out the best practices of the VGT’s various members. The best practices described in this handbook will be used in the further development of the Dutch approach to tackling child sex tourism.

3.8 **Cooperation with the Royal Military and Border Police (KMar)**

Given its mandate and position, the KMar is an important partner in efforts to combat child sex tourism. For some years now, campaigns revolving around this issue have been devised in collaboration with the KMar. Since this agency has an important role in identifying persons who pass through the country’s national frontiers, it also participates in the elaboration of plans for the long-term supervision of sex offenders. In addition, the KMar can issue alerts, in collaboration with other countries, for instance to prevent a national of one country from circumventing a travel ban by travelling via another country to a child sex tourism destination country.