

**Covenant on the Frisian Language and Culture**  
**June 5, 2001**  
**(official journal 125 of 3 July 2001)**

CHAPTER 1: GENERAL  
(Article 7 of the European Charter)

1.1. Central government and the province will ensure that all policy documents relating to territories regarded as falling within the scope of this covenant, having regard to the provisions of the European Charter which the Netherlands has accepted, will consider the consequences of policy intentions for the Frisian language.

Action: central government/province.

1.2 Central government will respect the administrative unit that is the province of Fryslân as the basis for its policy.

Action: central government.

CHAPTER 2: EDUCATION  
(Article 8 of the European Charter)

Amendment of current national legislation to accord with those provisions of the European Charter which have been accepted by the Netherlands:

2.1.1. When preparing a statutory regulation to satisfy the relevant provisions of the European Charter, central government will take account of Frisian-language activities in pre-school settings. It will liaise with the province of Fryslân on how best to do this.

Action: Central government/province.

Amendment of current national legislation to accord with the provisions of the European Charter which have been accepted by the Netherlands:

2.5.1. Subject to any statutory amendments consequent on the results of the education inspectorate's 1999 evaluation of basic secondary education (the lower secondary curriculum), central government will include attainment targets for Frisian in the Basic Secondary Education (Attainment Targets and Recommended Number of Periods per Subject 2003-2010) Decree.

Action: Central government.

2.5.8. Central government and the province will encourage the development of an annual international exchange with other minority languages in Europe as an optional part of the syllabus for pupils opting for Frisian as a full examination subject. Relevant materials will also be developed.

Action: Central government/province.

2.8.1. Central government will ensure that initial training courses for primary school teachers provide students with the agreed basic skills they need to start their careers. This includes skills in Frisian; central government will strive to ensure that the attainment targets for the secondary education teacher training courses (including those for the course for teachers of Frisian) includes targets for classroom and other educational skills in relation to the teaching of bilingual and multilingual children.

Action: Central government.

2.8.2. Central government and the province will encourage closer contacts between universities and colleges of higher professional education in Europe offering courses in regional and minority languages and cultures. A framework plan and materials will be developed for this purpose.

Action: Central government/province.

## CHAPTER 3: JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES

(Article 9 of the European Charter)

3.5. The province of Fryslân will over the next few years give central government concrete indications of where legislation including the phrase 'the Dutch language' can be amended to read 'the Dutch and Frisian languages'. Meanwhile, central government will endeavour to update the 1987 study by the Berie foar it Frysk and the Fryske Akademy.

Action: Province

## CHAPTER 4: ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES

(Article 10 of the European Charter)

4.1. Central government and the province will strive to ensure that by 2003 ten municipalities in the province of Fryslân will have adopted regulations for their own use of Frisian.

Action: Central government/province.

## CHAPTER 5: MEDIA

(Article 11 of the European Charter)

5.1. In view of the fact that Frisian is the second national language, central government will strive to ensure that Omrop Fryslân TV has sufficient funds to achieve a full and varied range of programmes.

Action: Central government.

5.6. Thirty-seven hours of Frisian-language school television programmes for the lower years of secondary education will be provided by the Netherlands Broadcasting Foundation (NOS) and broadcast nationally. These programmes will be produced within the profile and budget of the NOS and will be assessed in the light of the basic premises of the public broadcasting system.

Action: Central government.

## CHAPTER 6: CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

(Article 12 of the European Charter)

6.6.5. Frisian-language films will qualify for subsidies from the Dutch Film Fund.

Action: Central government.

## CHAPTER 7: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE

(Article 13 of the European Charter)

7.1. Central government will investigate what constraints may exist on the use of Frisian in economic and social life. It will strive to ensure any necessary amendment of legislation.

Action: Central government.

7.2. The use of Frisian on labels and in product instructions will not be prohibited. Central government will strive to ensure any necessary amendment of legislation.

Action: Central government.

7.5. The annual reports of social care institutions subsidised by central government and the province whose sphere of operations includes the province of Fryslân will provide information on the position of the Frisian language.

Action: Central government/province.