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Ministerie van Volksgezondheid, Welzijn en Sport

Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

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Reference: DOB/OAO/971559E  
Information: J.R. Kruizenga  
Subject: The Social Quality of Europe

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The Netherlands, Rijswijk  
28 March 1997

Enclosure(s) 3

Your reference

Dear

In the first six months of 1997, the Netherlands holds the presidency of the European Union. Within this framework, the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport has undertaken the initiative of organizing an invitation conference on the subject of

**'THE SOCIAL QUALITY OF EUROPE; SOCIAL BALANCE: A COMMON INTEREST'.**

This conference, which is intended as an extension of current discussions on the social policy of Europe, is being organized by my ministry in collaboration with the European Commission. The conference will take place from Sunday, 8 June (at 5.30 p.m.) to Tuesday, 10 June 1997 in the Grand Hotel Krasnapolsky in Amsterdam. The organization with regard to the content of the conference is being prepared by this department, together with representatives of the European scientific community.

As early as the end of last November, a multidisciplinary team of scientists from the Member States of the European Union gathered to discuss the above-mentioned subject in a meeting of experts. The results of this meeting are currently being compiled in a book, which will form the scientific starting point for the coming invitation conference in Amsterdam.

The first announcement, which I enclose herewith, contains a brief description of the conference, a provisional programme and a synopsis of the book mentioned above.

The invitation conference is intended as an exchange of participants' ideas with regard to social developments and possible recommendations for the future social policy of the European Union, based on these discussions. In addition to a selected multidisciplinary group of scientists, those taking part in the conference are high-level administrative representatives of the national governments of the Member States of the European Union and senior representatives of European institutions. The working languages during the conference will be English and French, with documents being supplied in English only.

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DOB/OAO/U-971559E

In plenary sessions and workshops, participants will be invited, on the basis of the documentation made available, to reflect upon the provisional results and conclusions of the scientific community in respect to the various aspects of the "social quality of Europe in the future".

In the plenary sessions, keynote speeches on the central theme of the conference will be presented from the viewpoints of various scientific disciplines. In small workshops, involving members from a variety of disciplines, the discussions will focus on three key themes: ageing Europe, the social aspects of the information society and social cohesion. In the second week of May or thereabouts, papers on these themes will be sent to the registered participants, together with the definitive version of the conference programme.

I would greatly appreciate it if you would attend this invitation conference between 8 and 10 June 1997 in Amsterdam. The cost of travel and accommodation as well as all other costs of participation will be paid in full by my ministry.

Please would you be so kind as to return the enclosed registration form before 12 April 1997 to:

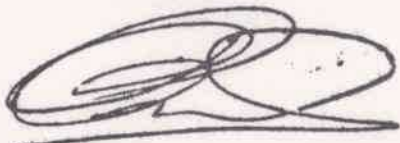
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The participants in the invitation conference are assured of a warm and inspiring reception in Amsterdam. I look forward to receiving your reply.

Yours sincerely,



Peter. H.B. Pennekamp  
Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport

