



**Tweede Kamer**  
DER STATEN-GENERAAL

# Annual report 2021

Report by the Committee for the Intelligence and Security Services  
(CIVD) on its activities in 2021

Adopted on 16 June 2022

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## **1 Report**

Adopted on 16 June 2022

The Committee for the Intelligence and Security Services has the honour of publishing a report on its activities in 2021.

Chair of the Committee,  
Hermans

## 2 Introduction

The Committee for the Intelligence and Security Services (hereinafter the Committee) is charged with parliamentary scrutiny of the classified aspects of government policy regarding the General Intelligence and Security Service (hereinafter the AIVD) and the Military Intelligence and Security Service (hereinafter the MIVD). As the information provided to the Committee by the relevant ministers is classified, it meets behind closed doors. The Committee believes it important to account to the House of Representatives for the way it has carried out the tasks entrusted to it by the House. In this annual report, the Committee seeks to provide as transparent an overview as possible of its activities in 2021.

The annual report describes the remit and basis of the Committee and gives a brief explanation of the various meetings and types of meetings held by the Committee and of the Committee's activities, and of the documents it deals with. The composition and support of the Committee are also discussed, as well as the frequency and attendance rate of the meetings in 2021. Finally, a concise chronological overview is provided of the topics and documents, including policy documents, received and discussed by the Committee in 2021. Because of the classified nature of the information, this is not an exhaustive summary of the topics discussed by the Committee.

### **3 Remit and basis of the Committee**

In principle, the cabinet provides information about the AIVD and the MIVD to the House of Representatives publicly, wherever possible. In practice, the information is provided to the standing committees on the Interior and Kingdom Relations, and Defence respectively. In cases where the interests of the State override the need for such information to be made public, the Intelligence and Security Services Act 2017 (hereinafter the ISS Act 2017) allows for the provision of information to the Senate and the House of Representatives to be made on a confidential basis. In the House of Representatives, such information is provided to the Committee for the Intelligence and Security Services. This means that the Committee deals in principle with classified information only.

The existence and composition of the Committee is provided for in Section 7.5 of the Rules of Procedure of the House of Representatives. The Committee is charged with parliamentary scrutiny of the operational activities of the AIVD and the MIVD. The ISS Act 2017 also states that the Committee should be informed by the relevant ministers of any irregularities (or reports of irregularities) at the AIVD or the MIVD that involve classified data. This has not yet occurred since the entering into force of the ISS Act 2017.

## **4 Meetings and activities of the Committee**

The Committee meets at least once a month for meetings and working visits.

### **Regular meetings**

During the regular meetings, documents and policy documents are discussed from the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, the Minister of Defence and the Minister of Justice and Security concerning the AIVD, the MIVD and the National Coordinator for Security and Counterterrorism (hereinafter the NCTV). In addition, classified documents from the Review Committee on the Intelligence and Security Services (hereinafter the CTIV'), the Netherlands Court of Audit, and the Review Board for the Use of Powers (hereinafter the TIB) are discussed, as are the responses by the ministers in question. Finally, the Committee is informed orally and in writing about current issues, and is given presentations on specific topics or countries.

These meetings are generally attended by the ministers concerned (Interior and Kingdom Relations, Defence, and Justice and Security), the Secretaries-General of the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and of the Ministry of Defence, the Director-General or Deputy Director-General of the AIVD (accompanied by no more than one AIVD official), the Director or Deputy Director of the MIVD (accompanied by no more than one MIVD official) and the NCTV or his or her deputy (accompanied by no more than one NCTV official).

### **Additional meetings**

Additional meetings are planned on an ad hoc basis with the minister or ministers concerned, for example as a result of a specific event.

### **Meetings with third parties**

Apart from meetings with ministers, the Committee holds meetings with the CTIVD, the Netherlands Court of Audit, and the TIB. Topics of discussion include the secret appendices to CTIVD review reports, classified reports from the Netherlands Court of Audit, and classified letters from the TIB.

### **Meetings only attended by members of the Committee**

Meetings behind closed doors are attended only by Committee members. These meetings are generally of a decision-making character. This involves decisions, for example, on the Committee's annual plan and its annual report, on its working procedure, and on specific topics dealt with in the regular meetings. The Committee also uses these meetings behind closed doors to hold preliminary discussions on the next regular meeting. Finally, the Committee takes decisions on dealing with letters from third parties, on requests to consult the Committee's archives, and on the hosting of delegations from abroad.

### **Working visits**

The Committee aims to pay several working visits to the AIVD, MIVD and the NCTV every year. The Committee members may also pay working visits in an individual capacity.

As well as the Committee members, all its activities are attended by the clerk and the advisor of the Committee.<sup>1</sup> The clerk writes the reports of meetings and discussions, which are then adopted by the Committee at its next meeting. These reports are classified.

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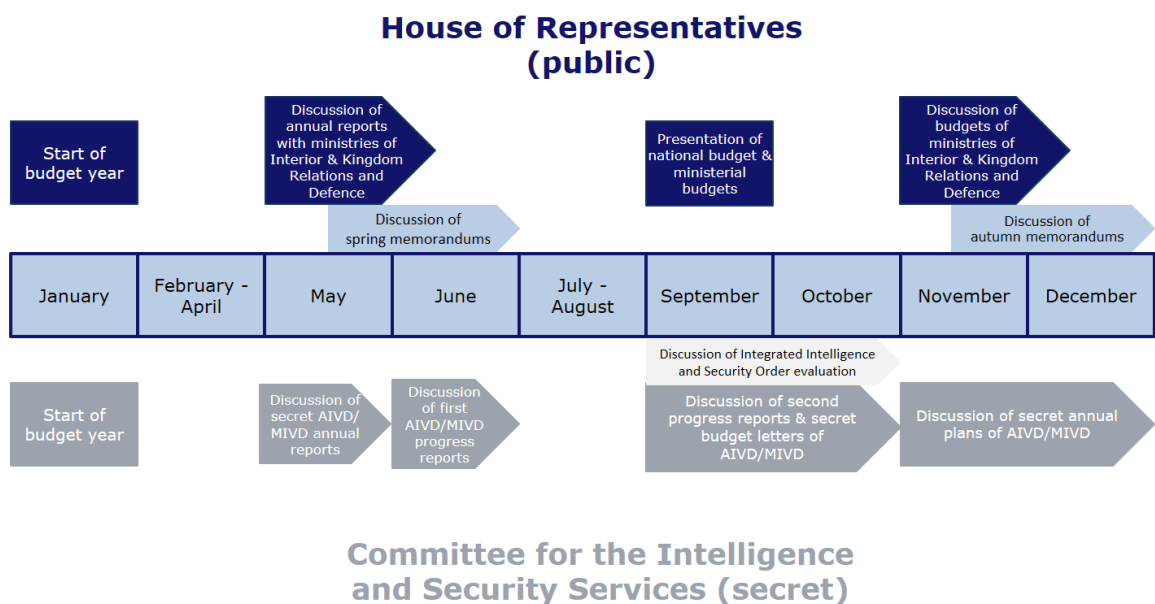
<sup>1</sup> See also Section 5.

## 5 Committee meeting documents

This chapter provides an overview of the various policy and other documents that are dealt with by the Committee.

### 5.1 AIVD/MIVD budget and accountability information

#### Budgetary procedure and financial accountability of AIVD/MIVD



Graph 1. See appendix for larger version of this graph.

#### Integrated Intelligence and Security Order

The Integrated Intelligence and Security Order describes the need for intelligence of various parties. This is established jointly by the Prime Minister, the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, and the Minister of Defence, in consultation with the Minister of Justice and Security and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Integrated Intelligence and Security Order comprises a public section, which is published in the Government Gazette of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and a confidential section. The confidential section is discussed by the Committee and consists of the investigation objectives for the next four years as well as the division of tasks between the AIVD and the MIVD.



### **Annual plans**

The Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and the Minister of Defence work out the details of the Integrated Intelligence and Security Order in the annual plans (investigation plans) for the AIVD and the MIVD respectively. Due to their content, the annual plans are classified; however, they are published in general terms and offered to the House of Representatives (more specifically, to the standing committees on the Interior and Kingdom Relations, and Defence). The confidential annual plans are presented to the Committee by the ministers.

### **Progress reports**

The AIVD and the MIVD issue progress reports three times a year, including a classified annual report. In these progress reports, which are classified, the AIVD and the MIVD account for the progress of their operational activities, as established in the annual plans, for the period concerned.

### **Budget letters**

The Committee receives the budget letters for the AIVD and the MIVD in September, at the same time the House of Representatives receives the budgets from the Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and the Ministry of Defence. These letters deal with the classified aspects of the public budgets, focusing on the budget breakdown for the various sections of the AIVD and the MIVD and on the trends that will be of relevance to national security in the forthcoming year. The figures are clarified with the help of an appended graphic representation.

### **Annual reports**

Before 1 May of each year, the AIVD and the MIVD simultaneously provide the Senate and the House of Representatives with a public report on the manner in which they have performed their tasks in the previous calendar year. The report (sometimes referred to as the 'third progress report') gives a complete overview, in accordance with the ISS Act 2017, of the areas on which the service has focused its activities in the past year and is doing so in the current year.

The public annual report makes no reference to information that reveals the resources used by the security services in specific cases, the confidential sources used by the security services, and the services' current knowledge level.<sup>2</sup> The ministers can provide such details confidentially to the Senate and/or the House of Representatives. In practice, this means that the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and the Minister of Defence send a classified annual report for both security services to the Committee.

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<sup>2</sup> Section 12 of the ISS Act 2017.

## 5.2 Other meeting documents

As well as the aforementioned budget documents, the Committee also deals with the following documents.

### **Terrorist Threat Assessment Netherlands**

The Committee also examines the classified version of the Terrorist Threat Assessment Netherlands (hereinafter DTN) by the NCTV. The DTN is based on information from the AIVD and the MIVD, and is published two or three times a year. The Standing Parliamentary Committee on Justice and Security deals with the public version of the DTN.

### **The Cyber Security Assessment Netherlands**

The Committee also deals with the classified version of the Cyber Security Assessment Netherlands (hereinafter CSBN). The NCTV publishes the CSBN once a year; it affords insight into developments, interests, threats, and resilience relating to cyber security. It is produced in collaboration with the AIVD, the MIVD, and other bodies. The Standing Parliamentary Committee on Digital Affairs deals with the public version of the CSBN.

### **Intelligence Assessment of Threats to National Security**

The AIVD and the MIVD generally draw up the Intelligence Assessment of Threats to National Security once every four years. It represents the security services' joint vision concerning threats to the national security interests of the Netherlands. The Committee examined the intelligence assessment for the first time in 2020.

### **Letters on current issues**

Before every regular meeting, the Committee receives a letter on current issues from the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and the Minister of Defence. The AIVD and the MIVD use the letters to inform the Committee about current events and developments.

### **Letters from ministers containing supplementary information**

The Committee can request the relevant ministers to provide additional information on specific topics or investigations. Such information is sometimes presented orally during meetings, but is often shared with the Committee by means of a letter. The ministers in question may also send letters to the Committee of their own volition. The ministers also sometimes fulfil public undertakings by letter.<sup>3</sup> All letters from ministers to the Committee are put on meeting agendas.

### **Review reports from the CTIVD**

- Some CTIVD review reports include classified appendices. They are presented to the Committee by the relevant minister. There are two occasions on which the Committee discusses the reports:

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<sup>3</sup> Records of undertakings by ministers are kept by the clerk in a list of undertakings that is included on the agenda of every regular meeting.

- In a discussion with the CTIVD: the CTIVD gives an explanation of the report, and answers any questions the Committee may have. The ministers are absent during this meeting.
- In a regular meeting: the Committee questions the relevant minister about the classified appendix to the report. The CTIVD is not present at this meeting.

### **Classified letters from the TIB**

In 2021, the Committee received one classified letter from the TIB. It was discussed with both the TIB and the ministers on 25 November.

### **Classified reports from the Netherlands Court of Audit**

The Committee also examines documents from the Netherlands Court of Audit, including classified letters accompanying the results of accountability audits, or secret appendices to reports. These documents, too, are always first discussed by the Committee and the Netherlands Court of Audit, and then with the relevant ministers.

### **Letters from third parties**

Finally, the Committee receives letters from citizens and institutions containing questions, complaints, or comments concerning the AIVD and the MIVD. The Committee decides in meetings only attended by members of the Committee what action is to be taken regarding these letters. In 2021, the Committee did not receive any letters from third parties.

## **6 Composition and support to the Committee**

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the House of Representatives,<sup>4</sup> the Committee consists of the chairs of the five largest parliamentary groups. At the recommendation of the Committee, the House of Representatives may enlarge the Committee with up to two more chairs of parliamentary groups. The Rules of Procedure also state that in the event of any chair of a parliamentary group renouncing their membership of the Committee, the House of Representatives may decide, on the recommendation of the Committee, to appoint another parliamentary group chair as a member. Finally, the Rules of Procedure state that ministers, including temporary ministers, may not be members of the Committee. It is possible, for example, for a minister or state secretary in an outgoing cabinet (post-election) to be the chair of a parliamentary group. As it is undesirable that a member of the Committee would essentially be accountable to him or herself in this situation, the Rules of Procedure state that the chair of the parliamentary group in question should be (temporarily) replaced on the Committee by a fellow member of the parliamentary group.

Taking the aforementioned provisions into account, the composition of the Committee during the reporting year was as follows:

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<sup>4</sup> See Section 7.5 of the Rules of Procedure.

2022	VVD	D66	CDA	PVV	GL	PvdA	SP
Jan	Mr Dijkhoff	Mr Jetten (Replaced Kaag, then a minister in the outgoing cabinet and the formal chair of the D66 parliamentary group)	Mr Heerma (replaced Hoekstra, then a minister in the outgoing cabinet and leader of the CDA parliamentary party)	Mr Wilders	Mr Klaver	Ms Ploumen	Ms Marijnissen (Has stated no wish to sit on the committee)
Feb							
Mar							
17 March: elections to the House of Representatives 31 March: swearing in of the House of Representatives							
	3 months						
Apr	Mw. Hermans				4 months	4 months	
May	(replaced Rutte, then the outgoing PM and formally the chair of the VVD parliamentary group)						
Jun							
Jul							
Aug		9,5 months					
Sep		Ms Kaag					
Oct		Chair of the parliamentary group from 16 Sept					
Nov							
Dec	9 months	2.5 months	12 months	12 months			

The Committee is supported by its own staff. This consists of a clerk, an advisor, and two assistants. The clerk and the advisor jointly take care of such matters as preparing and planning meetings, drawing up annotations, recommendations, and meeting reports. They also maintain contact with the AIVD, the MIVD, the ministries, the CTIVD, the Netherlands Court of Audit, and the TIB. The responsibilities of the assistants to the Committee include receiving, registering, and sending documents, including postal documents, and archiving them. They also schedule the meetings and invite ministers, Committee members, and third parties to the various activities of the Committee. All four members of staff have been screened by the AIVD and are in possession of a Certificate of No Objection (hereinafter VGB).

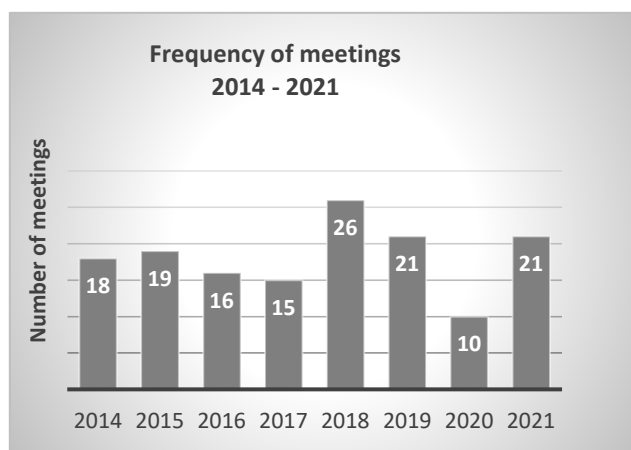
The Committee is also supported by the Analysis and Research Department (DAO) of the House of Representatives. For every regular meeting, an information specialist supplies an overview of news reports concerning intelligence and security services in the Netherlands and abroad. The information specialist concerned does not have a Certificate of No Objection and is therefore not privy to the topics discussed by the Committee (other than what is subsequently stated in the annual reports). The information specialist draws up the overviews solely on the basis of public sources

## 7 Frequency of and rate of attendance at meetings

In 2021, the Committee held a total of 21 meetings:

Regular meetings	9
Additional meetings (scheduled following a specific event, for example)	1
Discussions with the Netherlands Court of Audit	2
Discussions with the CTIVD	1
Discussions with the TIB	1
Meetings only attended by Committee members	7
<b>Total for 2021</b>	<b>21</b>

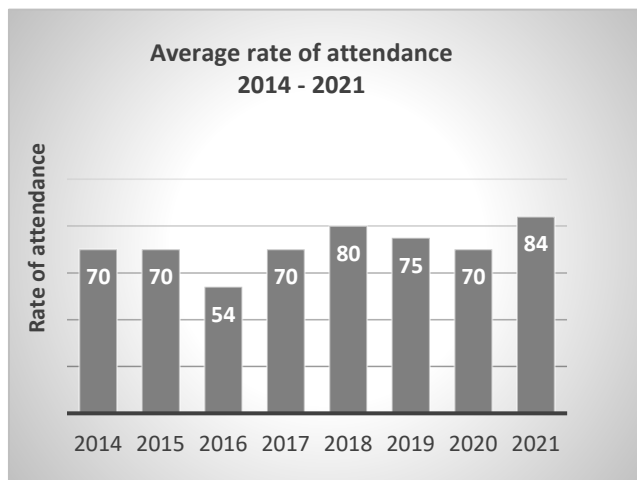
The frequency is therefore considerably higher than in 2020, when the Committee met ten times, as a result of the measures taken against the COVID-19 pandemic (see *Graph 1*).



*Graph 1*

In addition to the above meetings, the Committee paid one working visit in 2021. During this working visit to the NCTV, the Committee received a detailed briefing about the creation of the DTN and the CSBN. Two other working visits scheduled for 2021 were cancelled.

The average rate of attendance at the meetings in 2021 was 84% (see *Graph 2*).



Graph 2

## **8 Chronological overview of topics and documents, including policy documents, discussed by the Committee**

### **11 February 2021**

#### ***Regular meeting***

On 11 February 2021, the Committee held a regular meeting with the Ministers of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, Defence, and Justice and Security. The Committee noted that this was the last meeting chaired by Mr Dijkhoff.<sup>5</sup>

In addition, the AIVD and NCTV gave a presentation, at the request of the Committee, about the security situation regarding the elections and electoral process. The presentation considered the context of the measures taken against the COVID-19 pandemic, anti-government extremism, threats to the national security interests, cyber, and the approach of the NCTV towards the elections.

During the discussion on the letter from the AIVD on current issues, members of the Committee asked questions about AQ in relation to Iran, a jihad veteran who had left the Netherlands and was seeking to settle in the country again, the Terrorist Detention Units, Wahhabism and Salafism in education, women coming from Syria to the Netherlands via refugee camps, and finally a Dutch company that had been the victim of a cyber attack carried out by a state actor. The AIVD also gave further information about the Russian intelligence officers who had been expelled from the Netherlands in December 2020 due to espionage activities.

During the discussion on the letter from the MIVD on current issues, members of the Committee asked about, among other things, the report that ISIS was gaining influence in Syria and the role of the ISIS coalition in this matter. The Minister of Defence undertook to give the Committee a briefing about ISIS in Syria at a subsequent meeting. The MVID also informed the Committee about various countries that had been the target of disinformation and espionage by a state actor.

### **8 April 2021**

#### ***Meeting only attended by members of the Committee***

On 8 April, the Committee held a meeting behind closed doors. The Committee discussed and adopted the draft annual report for 2020. It also discussed the composition of the Committee. The chair of the SP parliamentary group had expressed a wish not to sit on the Committee, leaving the Committee to decide whether it wished to nominate another parliamentary group chair as a member. It also discussed the

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<sup>5</sup> In March 2021, the Committee did not meet because of the elections to the House of Representatives. Given that Mr Dijkhoff had stated his intention not to stand for re-election to the House of Representatives, the meeting of the Committee on 11 February was his last. Formally, he continued as chair until 31 March 2021.



possibility of increasing its number of members by a maximum of two. The Committee decided to wait until there was greater clarity of the outcome of the discussions on the formation of a new cabinet, which at the time were still taking place. It was decided that the subject of the Committee composition would be added to the May agenda.

## **22 April 2021**

### ***Regular meeting***

On 22 April 2021, the Committee held a regular meeting with the Ministers of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, and Justice and Security. As the Minister of Defence was unable to attend, the MIVD-related subjects were dealt with by the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

With regard to the letter from the AIVD on current issues, members of the Committee asked for greater clarification about the arrest of a Syrian residence permit holder in a European country, about those returning from abroad who were due to be released that year, and about what the follow-up procedure to which they are subject entails. Questions were also asked about specific cyber attacks linked to state actors, about the foreign funding of Wahhabi-Salafist institutions in the Netherlands and about Wahhabi-Salafist education, about a far-right group, and the activities of a foreign intelligence service in the Netherlands aimed at dissidents. Finally, the Committee discussed the Terrorist Detention Units and long-term policies with a view to the release of individuals; members of the Committee also asked what aspects of this could be shared in public.

With regard to the letter from the MIVD on current issues, the Committee discussed the increased Russian presence in the Crimea and in the area near the Russian-Ukrainian border. It was asked what was needed for Russia to intervene in Ukraine. The Committee also asked questions about the extension of the German mandate for its assistance with the Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan, and what the consequences of that would be for the sending of Dutch servicemen and women to Afghanistan. The Committee sought information too on whether servicemen and women had already been sent in anticipation of an Article 100 letter and the debate in the House of Representatives. The cabinet stated that this was necessary, but that the actual deployment of servicemen and women would not take place until after the debate in the House of Representatives.

Finally, the Committee received two briefings. The first concerned the threat of espionage against the telecoms sector by a state actor, a topic that also featured on several occasions in 2019 and 2020 at the Committee's meetings. The briefing was given at the instigation of the AIVD, as a result of recent media reports.

As promised in the meeting of 11 February, the Committee also received a briefing from the MIVD about ISIS in Syria. This briefing looked at the strategic and military intentions of ISIS, its capabilities and strategic leadership, the situation in the refugee camps, and finally expectations for the next few years regarding the threat to security that ISIS forms.

## **27 May 2021**

### ***Regular meeting***

On 27 May 2021, the Committee held a regular meeting with the Ministers of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, and Justice and Security. As the Minister of Defence was absent, the MIVD-related subjects were dealt with by the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. Extensive consideration was given in the meeting to the classified annual reports of both security services and to the NCTV's DTN. Because of the lack of time, discussion about the letters on current issues was deferred until the next meeting.

In the context of the classified annual report from the MIVD, the Committee discussed the information position of the service in certain countries. For example, the Committee asked about the consequences of prioritising certain country investigations, and whether the MIVD was able to obtain intelligence from partner services with regard to countries in which the deployment of resources is limited. The Committee proposed that a working visit be scheduled in order to obtain further information about the counter-proliferation investigations into Iran and Pakistan, two countries that were also discussed during the meeting.<sup>6</sup>

The Committee also asked for more information about an operational activity referred to in the annual report of a foreign intelligence official who had been under observation by the MIVD. Members of the Committee also asked questions about specific cyber attacks and the data that had been stolen in the process. The MIVD gave details of these cyber attacks, and described the broader-based developments in this area.

The classified annual report by the AIVD was also discussed. Among other matters, the Committee members asked about the non-attainment of certain objectives contained in the Integrated Intelligence and Security Order, and how – and to what extent – the objectives might still be achieved. Concerns regarding developments involving far-right activities in the digital domain were also discussed. With regard to the threat posed by those returning from abroad and jihadists who are released, the AIVD undertook to give a briefing about jihadi activities in the Netherlands at a subsequent meeting.<sup>7</sup> The intelligence position of the security services in a particular country was also discussed. The Committee also discussed Russian intelligence officers working under diplomatic cover, and the question of what the Netherlands could and should do about this. The Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations undertook to return to this matter at a later time.

The classified DTN54 was also discussed, in addition to the classified annual reports. Following reports of a stabbing incident at the Terrorist Detention Unit, the Committee directed its attention at the Terrorist Detention Units. It also discussed developments relating to a far-right group and another new generation of far-right extremists. Finally, the Committee held an extensive discussion about the subversive messages in several

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<sup>6</sup> The working visit took place in February 2022.

<sup>7</sup> This briefing was converted into a working visit, which took place on 13 June 2022.

informal extracurricular teaching programmes, and about what aspects of this topic could be shared in public or kept classified. Emphasis was placed on the importance of remaining alert to what can be shared in public, for the sake of the public debate. At the same time, it was stated that information that is classified should remain so and that it should be treated as such in the Committee.

***Meeting only attended by members of the Committee***

The Committee again discussed the possibility of enlarging the Committee. It was decided that the situation should be reviewed again after the summer recess.

As a result of the discussion of the DTN in the regular meeting, the Committee expressed its concerns regarding the threats in a number of areas and the question of the extent to which information could be declassified with a view to the public debate. As not every question regarding the DTN was dealt with during the meeting of 27 May, it was decided that the DTN would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. It was also decided that a working visit with the NCTV should be scheduled, for the purpose of examining the creation of the DTN. This working visit took place on 13 September 2021

**17 June 2021**

***Meeting only attended by members of the Committee***

In a meeting behind closed doors, the Committee discussed possible topics for future working visits. The Committee also decided that it would meet behind closed doors in advance of regular meetings at which major issues were on the agenda in order to hold preliminary discussions regarding the agenda.

**17 June 2021**

***Meeting only attended by members of the Committee***

In a meeting behind closed doors, the Committee discussed possible topics for future working visits. The Committee also decided that it would meet behind closed doors in advance of regular meetings at which major issues were on the agenda in order to hold preliminary discussions regarding the agenda.

***Discussion with the Netherlands Court of Audit***

The subject of the discussion was the *Rapport Slagkracht AIVD en MIVD* ('report on the effectiveness of the AIVD and MIVD') by the Netherlands Court of Audit into the consequences of the implementation of the ISS Act 2017 on the effectiveness of the AIVD and the MIVD.<sup>8</sup> This concerned a public report, with the Netherlands Court of Audit providing an explanation of those areas that could not be discussed in public. The Committee spoke with the Netherlands Court of Audit about the area of tension between public and non-public, and about the possibility of sharing the examples

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<sup>8</sup> *Parliamentary document* 29 924, no. 210 (appendices).

referred to with the House of Representatives to a greater extent, whether confidentially or otherwise.

### **Regular meeting**

On 17 June 2021, the Committee held a regular meeting with the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, the Minister of Defence, and the Minister of Justice and Security.

As not every question regarding the DTN had been dealt with during the meeting of 27 May, the DTN was again on the agenda. The Committee again discussed the Terrorist Detention Units, about the possible risks associated with the release of detainees from the Terrorist Detention Units, and how to approach the matter. The AIVD and NCTV provided explanations on the aspects of the information that is classified. Finally, the Committee requested a briefing about the strategy of the AIVD with regard to the jihadist movement in the Netherlands.<sup>9</sup>

Following the discussion with the Netherlands Court of Audit prior to the regular meeting, the Committee discussed the *Rapport Slagkracht AIVD en MIVD* with the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and the Minister of Defence. The Committee and the ministers talked about how the urgency of this issue could be better highlighted, by bringing the Standing Parliamentary Committees up to date, in confidence. The Committee decided to place this subject on the agenda again on a subsequent occasion.

The Minister of Defence and the Director of the MIVD (hereinafter DMIVD) also informed the Committee, at its request, about the developments on the international solution regarding the NSO satellite ground station in Burum.<sup>10</sup>

In view of the letter on current issues from the AIVD, the Committee again asked questions about the freedom of movement of a terrorist organisation in a particular country and about what information on this matter could be made public.<sup>11</sup> Additionally, the Committee asked about the forthcoming elections in Iran and their possible impact on the region. The Director-General of the AIVD (hereinafter DG AIVD) undertook to return to this matter in more detail at a later time. There was also a discussion about the increasing number of cyber attacks and hacks by certain countries. As far as developments regarding far-right extremism are concerned, the DG AIVD expressed his concerns about the increase in accelerationism in the

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<sup>9</sup> This briefing was converted into a working visit, which took place on 13 June 2022.

<sup>10</sup> At the meeting of 4 April 2019, the Committee asked to be kept informed about the developments on the international solution regarding the NSO satellite ground station in Burum. The Minister of Defence undertook to do so.

<sup>11</sup> This subject was also discussed at the meetings of 4 April, 29 May, 20 June, 3 October, 9 October, and 13 November 2019, and at the meeting of 30 January 2020. See the annual reports by the Committee for 2019 (*Parliamentary document* 35 309, no. 1) and 2020 (*Parliamentary document* 35 810, no. 1).

Netherlands. He undertook to provide a briefing on the topic at the next meeting. Finally, in response to an expected broadcast of *Argos*, the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations raised a case that had been discussed on various occasions by the Committee in 2018. It concerned the so-called 'Iran case': indications from the AIVD about the involvement of Iran in the 2017 murder of Ahmad Nissi.<sup>12</sup> Information subsequently shared by the Minister should, in the view of the Committee, have been shared with it in 2018. The Committee therefore requested further written clarification about the case

## **1 July 2021**

### ***Meeting only attended by members of the Committee***

Meeting behind closed doors, the Committee discussed the Iran case, which was due to be discussed in the regular meeting with the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations immediately afterwards. In response to a letter from the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations on the case, the members shared the view that the Committee had been insufficiently informed by the cabinet in 2018.

The Committee decided that, in future, it would meet for half an hour behind closed doors immediately before every regular meeting, in order to hold preliminary discussions of the agenda and the documents pertaining to the meeting. Finally, the Committee discussed the wish to invite the TIB and perhaps the ISS Act Evaluation Committee (Jones-Bos) for an exchange of views about the problem areas relating to the ISS Act 2017.

### ***Regular meeting***

On 1 July 2021, the Committee held a regular meeting with the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. The Ministers of Defence and of Justice and Security were unable to attend.

Following the meeting of 27 May and the subsequent letter from the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, a more detailed explanation was given by the Minister and the DG AIVD about the Iran case. Committee members asked specifically about the provision of information to the House of Representatives which, in their view, had been incomplete. The Committee emphasised that it should be informed as openly and transparently as possible to enable it to perform its scrutinising role on behalf of the House of Representatives as effectively as possible. The Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations stated that it had never been the intention not to inform the Committee. The method for providing information was based on the existing considerations contained in the letter sent to the Committee.

The first progress reports for 2021 by the security services were also discussed during this meeting. With regard to the progress report by the MIVD, the Committee asked

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<sup>12</sup> This case was first discussed at the meeting of 4 April 2018. The case was also subsequently raised on 17 April, 31 May, 28 June, and 5 July 2018. See the annual report by the Committee for 2018 (*Parliamentary document* 35 185, no. 1).

about the changing activities of the MIVD in relation to Afghanistan, about far-right extremism among those applying to join the armed forces, about the consequences of COVID-19 for the work of the MIVD, and about how much the service knew about the cyber activities of China. There was also a discussion about economic security in the Netherlands in the broad sense. One Committee member requested a briefing about risks relating to economic security in order gain a broader picture of the extent of this threat. The DMIVD undertook to give a briefing about this subject.<sup>13</sup>

Following the progress reports by the AIVD, there was a discussion on, among other things, the required extra investments in technology and data processing in both security services. The DG AIVD explained that the security services are working on a joint data platform. Questions were also asked about the intelligence position of the service in relation to Belarus and the Baltic countries.

Finally, the subject of the ISS Act 2017 was raised, with the security services noting that the Act (and its interpretation) is resulting in restrictions on investigations into the threats from countries with malicious cyber programmes aimed at the Netherlands. The Committee asked the services to state in specific terms, on a future occasion, what the problem areas are.

Due to lack of time, the letters on current issues from the AIVD and the MIVD were postponed to the next meeting.

At the end of the meeting, the DG AIVD and the NCTV deputy gave a briefing on far-right extremism. Specifically, they dealt with the relatively new threat to the Netherlands from accelerationist networks. In response to the briefing, members of the Committee asked about the connection with psychosocial problems among these groups, the way in which the security services are dealing proactively with them, and about the possible increase in this phenomenon.

## **9 September 2021**

On 9 September 2021, the Committee held an extra meeting with the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, the Minister of Defence, and the Minister of Justice and Security, as a result of the situation in Afghanistan. Before this extra meeting, the Committee had raised several questions with the ministers.

The Committee emphasised its wish to be informed during the meeting of matters that could not be shared in public. The DMIVD gave a detailed explanation of the timeline of the events in Afghanistan, based on the intelligence position of the MIVD. The DMIVD, the DG AIVD, and the NCTV then dealt with the questions asked by the Committee. The Committee asked for more details about the intelligence position of the security services in Afghanistan.

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<sup>13</sup> This briefing has been converted into a working visit, which is expected to take place in 2022.

One member of the Committee also asked why a particular country had not been included in the Integrated Intelligence and Security Order. The member in question asked the ministers to inform the Committee in writing of their intention to add this country to the Integrated Intelligence and Security Order.

## **16 September 2021**

### ***Meeting only attended by members of the Committee***

As the Committee was not complete, it was proposed that all the agenda items be deferred to the meeting behind closed doors on 30 September.

### ***Regular meeting***

On 16 September 2021, the Committee held a regular meeting with the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, and the Minister of Justice and Security. As the Minister of Defence was absent, the MIVD-related subjects were dealt with by the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

The main topic in this meeting was the classified CSBN 2021. The NCTV explained the report, examining among other things the intentions of state actors that carry out espionage attacks, their motives for doing so, and the data that could be stolen during the course of such attacks. The security services gave an insight into how they investigate these attacks and the cyber capabilities of the countries in question.

In the meeting, the Committee again looked at the ISS Act 2017. The Committee asked the security services about the specific areas to which the ISS Act 2017 forms a hindrance, whether it involves a potential risk to national security, and whether possible interim solutions are available in advance of any necessary changes to the law.<sup>14</sup>

## **30 September 2021**

### ***Meeting only attended by members of the Committee***

In the meeting behind closed doors, the Committee discussed the problem areas associated with the ISS Act 2017 that were raised by the security services. The Committee decided to schedule discussions with the security services, the CTIVD, the TIB, and possibly the Jones-Bos Evaluation Committee for a further exchange of views. In addition, the Committee discussed its procedures, including the structure of its regular meetings, and its wish to convert a briefing it had requested about the strategy of the AIVD with regard to the jihadist movement in the Netherlands into a working visit.

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<sup>14</sup> The Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations informed the House of Representatives, in a letter dated 5 July 2021, about the next steps for the bill for amending the ISS Act 2017. *Parliamentary document* 34 588, no. 90 (Letter to Parliament).

### ***Discussion with the Netherlands Court of Audit***

In a discussion with the Netherlands Court of Audit, the main topic was the budget letters from the AIVD and the MIVD. The President of the Netherlands Court of Audit stated that the fact that the Committee has now been receiving the budget letters from the security services in the past few years is an improvement, as is the fact they are dealt with promptly by the Committee. With regard to the 2022 budget letters, he explained the aspects that stood out for him and the information that he believed was still lacking. The Netherlands Court of Audit also announced a new investigation.

### ***Regular meeting***

On 30 September 2021, the Committee held a regular meeting with the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, the Minister of Defence, and the Minister of Justice and Security.

The meeting started with the budget letters from the security services. The Committee discussed the increasing collaboration between the security services and what this means regarding the division of costs and the (division of) ministerial responsibility. The Committee also asked about the effects on costs, now that the security services would not be sharing the premises at the Frederikkazerne.<sup>15</sup> The Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations undertook to return to the matter, to deal with aspects that could not be public. In addition, the Commission asked what extra resources in certain investigations would be used for. During this meeting, too, consideration was given to the problem areas identified by the security services in relation to the ISS Act 2017.

The agenda also included a letter from the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and the Minister of Defence about the explicit exclusion of a particular country from the Integrated Intelligence and Security Order. A member of the Committee had requested such a letter at the extra meeting of 9 September. The Committee stated that the letter did not meet the request that had been made at that time. The Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations promised to send a new letter.

The Committee also discussed a letter from the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and the Minister of Defence, which clarified the public reports about Pegasus hacking software. At the meeting, the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations answered a number of questions asked during the public debate, but which could not be answered in public.<sup>16</sup>

As a result of the letter on current issues from the MIVD, the Committee discussed, among other things, the activities of Russia near the Polish border. The question was asked how this should be interpreted. The DMIVD gave a detailed explanation of the intelligence position of the service.

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<sup>15</sup> The Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and the Minister of Defence informed the House of Representatives, in a letter dated 4 June 2021, about the sharing of premises by the AIVD and the MIVD. *Parliamentary document* 29 924, no. 227 (Letter to Parliament).

<sup>16</sup> *Parliamentary document* 35 810, no. 4028.



As a result of the letter on current issues from the AIVD, the Committee had a detailed discussion about the arrests in Eindhoven on Thursday 23 September 2021, in which nine jihadists were detained on suspicion of preparing a terrorist crime.<sup>17</sup> The DG AIVD gave an explanation of the investigation by the service that ultimately led to the arrests.

Finally, the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations undertook, at the request of the Committee, to send a letter about an application used by the security services.

## **12 October 2021**

### ***Meeting only attended by members of the Committee***

On 12 October 2021, the Committee held a meeting behind closed doors. During the meeting, the Committee members exchanged views about the problem areas associated with the ISS Act 2017, discussed previously.

## **11 November 2021**

### ***Regular meeting***

On 11 November 2021, the Committee held a meeting with the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, the Minister of Defence, and the Minister of Justice and Security.

At the request of a Committee member who was absent, the Committee deferred the discussion on DTN no. 55 to the next meeting. The Committee held further discussions with the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and the Minister of Defence about the problem areas associated with the ISS Act 2017.

Also during the meeting, there was a discussion about the requested letter containing more detailed information about an application used by the security services, and a letter from the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations about the reporting of the arrest of a Dutch national in Kabul, who had been linked in some reports in the media to an attack by ISIS on a hospital in Kabul.

### ***Meeting only attended by members of the Committee***

After the meeting, the Committee met behind closed doors. It was decided that the CTIVD and the TIB should be invited separately to meetings in order to exchange views about the problem areas associated with the ISS Act 2017.

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<sup>17</sup> See Politie.nl, 24 September 2021, 'Negen aanhoudingen vanwege voorbereiden terroristisch misdrijf', and elsewhere.

## **25 November 2021**

### ***Discussion with the CTIVD***

The ISS Act 2017 was on the agenda during a discussion with the CTIVD, as was the classified appendix to a review report by the CTIVD about the issuing of personal data by the AIVD and MIVD to foreign services with increased risk profiles.<sup>18</sup> There was also a discussion on a CTIVD report on the monitoring of detection services provided by the AIVD and the MIVD.<sup>19</sup>

### ***Discussion with the TIB***

The Committee also discussed the ISS Act 2017 with the TIB, including a letter by the TIB on the subject.

### ***Regular meeting***

On 11 November 2021, the Committee held a meeting with the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, the Minister of Defence, and the Minister of Justice and Security.

Against the background of DTN no. 55, one member asked about the information position of the AIVD in relation to a specific area. The Committee also held further discussions with the security services, the Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations and the Minister of Defence about the ISS Act 2017.

Also on the agenda were the aforementioned documents from the CTIVD: the classified appendix to a review report by the CTIVD about the issuing of personal data by the AIVD and MIVD to foreign services with increased risk profiles, and the reports on the monitoring of detection services provided by the AIVD and the MIVD.

The meeting also focused on the progress reports by the security services. In relation to the progress report by the AIVD, the Committee asked about the deployment of certain resources, the Netherlands' chairmanship of the Club de Berne, cyber attacks on Dutch diplomatic missions, the intelligence position in a certain country, and the non-attainment of certain objectives. In response to the progress report by the MIVD, the Committee asked questions about the non-attainment of an objective in a particular country, and about the priorities at the MIVD.

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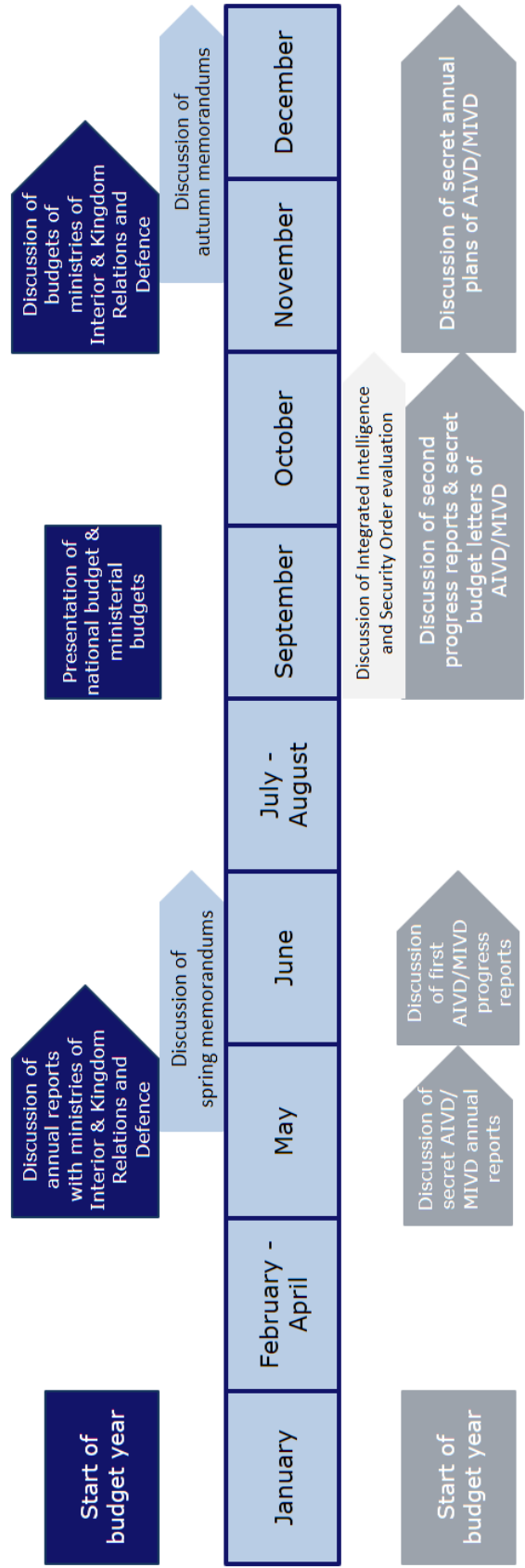
<sup>18</sup> *Parliamentary document* 29 924, no. 221 (appendices).

<sup>19</sup> See the 2021 Annual Report by the CTIVD, (p. 13-14), available at [www.ctivd.nl](http://www.ctivd.nl).

9 Appendix: graph 1

Budgetary procedure and financial accountability of AIVD/MIVD

House of Representatives  
(public)



Committee for the Intelligence  
and Security Services (secret)