

NOTITIE

To: Committee Abrahamsen
From : KIVI NIRIA
Subject : KIVI NIRIA key-points in the issue of degrees and titles for the Dutch system of Higher Education
Date : April 18 2005

Dear Mister Abrahamsen,

As the Royal institute of engineers KIVI NIRIA we would like to thank you for consulting us in the issue of degrees and titles. Last years we received a lot of questions from individually engineers (from the Netherlands as well from other countries) and from Dutch universities and universities of professional education about this issue. Especially from engineers who wants to work outside the Netherlands. Please find below our opinion and experiences compromised in comments on this issue. In reference to our interview with Miss van Gennip also two other documents are enclosed (formula of basic science content in the engineering programmes and the formula for the professional engineering qualification EURING). Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Drs. ing. Jan Willem Proper
Board member International affairs of KIVI NIRIA

Key-points of KIVI NIRIA

1. Point of departure in this discussion must be the international market and each country should give a contribution to the transparency of the educational system in Europe (and the rest of the world) to stimulate the mobility of students and graduates;
2. The binary character of our Higher Education System is of great value for the labour market. The two programmes are complementary to each other;
3. The terms *application oriented and theoretical oriented* programmes are already widely used and must be used instead of *vocational and academic* programmes;

4. The present distinction in the suffixes of the degrees in the Netherlands to make the binary system visible is based on our own situation and is not conform the international market (based on our experiences within European 'mobility' structures) . Suffixes must anyway not be used to make the difference between the theoretical and application oriented programmes visible but to create an domain identity like for example science.
5. The information about the program must be explained in the Diploma Supplement. The Diploma Supplement should get more attention from the governments because this will be an important medium in the international mobility.
6. The government should be aware of the fact that the educational system in Europe is an organic process at this moment, so the government must be carefully with determining rules for the degrees and domains. Flexibility is an important issue for the coming years.