

# WORK PROGRAMME 2017 - 2018



## About the Council for the Environment and Infrastructure

The Council for the Environment and Infrastructure (*Raad voor de leefomgeving en infrastructuur, Rli*) advises the Dutch government and Parliament on strategic issues concerning the sustainable development of the living and working environment. The Council is independent, and offers solicited and unsolicited advice on long-term issues of strategic importance to the Netherlands. Through its integrated approach and strategic advice, the Council strives to provide greater depth and breadth to the political and social debate, and to improve the quality of decision-making processes.

The Council was established by law on 10 February 2012.

The Council in its first composition was appointed on 1 August 2012.

The Council in its second composition was appointed on 1 August 2016.

## Composition of the Council

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# FOREWORD

This document sets out the 2017-2018 work programme of the Council for the Environment and Infrastructure (Rli, hereafter referred to as the “Council”).

The Council has adopted a work programme for the 2017-2018 period that consists of a limited number of advisory reports, namely those that were already included in the previous work programme. The Council’s first term of office ended in August 2016. Five new members were appointed at the start of the second term of office. Based on the outcome of discussions to be held in autumn 2016 with the responsible members of government, the Council will present an update of the 2017-2018 work programme in December 2016.

Wherever possible, the Council will seek cooperation with other advisory bodies, the official planning agencies, and the Board of Government Advisors (CRA).



Jan Jaap de Graeff, Chair



Ron Hillebrand PhD, General Secretary



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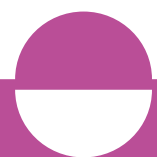
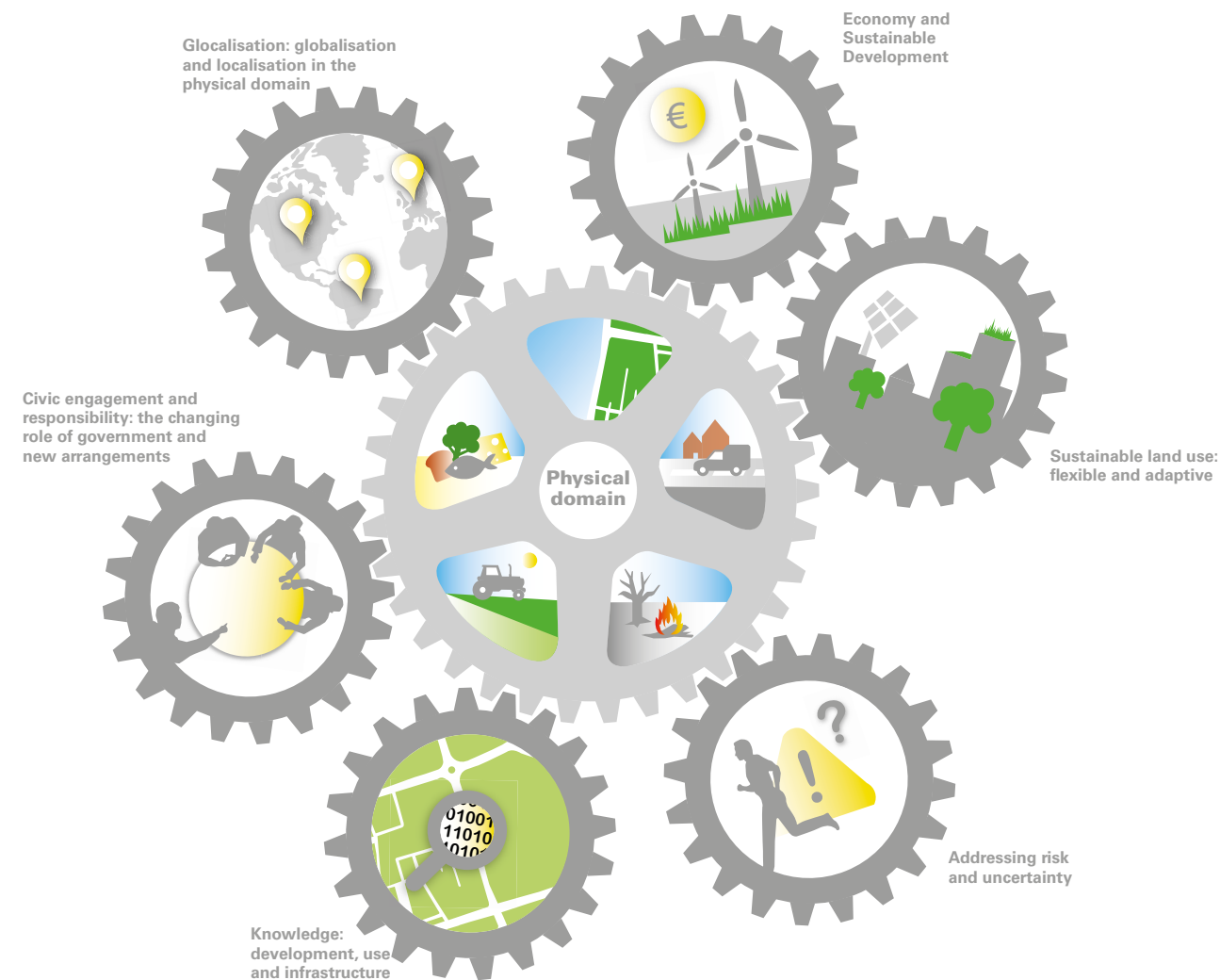


# PROGRAMME LINES

In 2014 the Council adopted a number of so-called 'long-term programme lines'. This approach is in line with the recommendation made in the first benchmark report which preceded the establishment of the Council in its current form (Berenschot: Verbinden in onafhankelijkheid, 2011), whereby the authors advised the adoption of a long-term strategic perspective. The Council has therefore identified a number of key trends and developments, and incorporated them in multi-year programme lines for

its work programme. A circular representation of the programme lines emphasises their interrelationship and the integrated nature of the approach (see Figure 1 below). The Council will present an updated version of its 2017-2018 work programme in late December 2016, at which time it will also announce if the use of long-term programme lines will be continued or if another approach will be adopted.

**Figure 1: Long-term Rli programme lines**



The advisory reports published by the Council often relate to these multiple programme lines. The table below lists a number of recent reports according to the programme line most extensively covered in the report.

Long-term programme line	Advisory reports
Economy and sustainable development in the physical domain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep Moving, Towards Sustainable Mobility. Edited by Bert van Wee. October 2012 (Rli/EEAC).</li> <li>• Room for Sustainable Agriculture. March 2013 (Rli 2013/01).</li> <li>• Dutch Logistics 2040: Designed to Last. June 2013 (Rli 2013/03).</li> <li>• Sustainable Choices in the Implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy in the Netherlands. October 2013 (Rli 2013/06).</li> <li>• Circular Economy: From Wish to Practice. June 2015 (Rli 2015/03).</li> <li>• A Prosperous Nation Without CO<sub>2</sub>: Towards a Sustainable Energy Supply by 2050. September 2015 (Rli 2015/06).</li> <li>• Beyond Mainports. July 2016 (Rli 2016/02).</li> </ul>
Sustainable land use: flexible and adaptive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature's Imperative: Towards a Robust Nature Policy. May 2013 (Rli 2013/02).</li> <li>• Living Independently for Longer: A Shared Responsibility of the Housing, Health and Welfare Policy Domains. January 2014 (Rli 2014/01).</li> <li>• Quality Without Growth: On the Future of the Built Environment. March 2014 (Rli 2014/03).</li> <li>• Managing Surplus Government Real Estate: Balancing Public Interest and Financial Gain. December 2014 (Rli 2014/07).</li> <li>• Fundamental Revision of Environmental Law [<i>'Stelselherziening Omgevingsrecht'</i>, only available in Dutch]. May 2015 (Rli 2015/03).</li> <li>• Reform of Environmental Law: realise your ambitions. December 2015 (Rli 2015/07).</li> </ul>
Addressing risks and uncertainties in the physical domain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risks Assessed: Towards a Transparent and Adaptive Risk Policy. June 2014 (Rli 2014/06).</li> <li>• Recovering the Costs of Environmental Damage: Financial Indemnity to be Provided by High-Risk Companies. June 2014 (Rli 2014/05).</li> <li>• Safety at Companies Subject to the Major Accidents Risks Decree: Responsibility and Effective Action. June 2013 (Rli 2013/04).</li> </ul>
Knowledge in the physical domain: development, use and infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Survey of Technological Innovations in the Living Environment. January 2015 (Rli 2015/01).</li> </ul>
Civic engagement and responsibility in the physical domain: the changing role of government and new arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pulling Together: Governance in the Schiphol/Amsterdam Metropolitan Region. September 2013 (Rli 2013/05).</li> <li>• The Future of the City: The Power of New Connections. March 2014 (Rli 2014/04).</li> <li>• Influencing Behaviour: More Effective Environmental Policy Through Insight into Human Behaviour. March 2014 (Rli 2014/02).</li> <li>• Changing Trends in Housing: Flexibility and Regionalisation within Housing Policy. June 2015 (Rli 2015/04).</li> </ul>
'Glocalisation': globalisation and localisation in the physical domain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Room for the Regions in European Policy. September 2015 (Rli 2015/05).</li> </ul>



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# ADVISORY REPORTS 2017 - 2018



## Topics to be covered

The concrete topics listed in this work programme will be covered in advisory reports that are currently in the preparation stage. However, the Council in its new composition may still decide, in consultation with the relevant government members, to redefine the priorities for the 2017-2018 work programme.

## Vulnerable critical infrastructure and the role of the citizen

The 'critical infrastructure' comprises public, semi-public and private organizations which supply products and services that are essential to the daily lives of the majority of people in the Netherlands. Such products and services include drinking water, food, healthcare, energy, telecommunications, and safety and security. What vulnerabilities in the physical domain are relevant in this context? What action can the government take to avoid or reduce the social costs of any disruption to the critical infrastructure?

### Background

Safeguarding critical infrastructure is the shared responsibility of government authorities and private-sector organisations. There is increasing interdependency between the sectors involved. As a result, a chain or 'domino' effect could disable several components of the critical infrastructure simultaneously. Greater interdependence also gives rise to a different dynamic, whereby it becomes more difficult to monitor the vulnerabilities within the physical domain. Moreover, those vulnerabilities are not static; all demand constant attention. Just as the interdependency between sectors has increased, so has the need for cooperation between

the different sectors. Do current policy instruments and formal agreements (covenants) with the companies concerned take the new dynamic adequately into account? Have developments affected risk management practices (in the broadest sense, from prevention to damage limitation)? Is a consideration of the critical infrastructure adequately embedded within regular policy on the physical domain? What action can and should the government take to maximise the public's ability to deal with the effects of any disaster within the physical domain?

Long-term programme line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainable land use</li><li>• Risks</li><li>• Knowledge in the physical domain</li><li>• Civic engagement</li><li>• Glocalisation</li></ul>
Type of advisory report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Instrumental</li></ul>
Ministries involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interior and Kingdom Relations</li><li>• Infrastructure and the Environment</li><li>• Economic Affairs</li></ul>
Lead Directorates-General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Economic Affairs / DG Energy, Telecommunications and Competition</li><li>• Infrastructure and the Environment / DG Spatial Planning and Water Affairs</li></ul>



## Survey of policy interventions with consequences for the physical domain

Policy trends in non-physical domains may have unforeseen consequences for the physical domain. The Council therefore wishes to conduct a broad survey intended to identify such consequences at the earliest possible stage. Examples include the overhaul of the social insurance system, labour market policy, educational policy or the tax system. Is additional or supporting policy needed to anticipate unforeseen effects in the physical domain?

### Background

The advisory project 'Living Independently for Longer: A Shared Responsibility of the Housing, Health and Welfare Policy Domains' (2014) revealed that policy trends outside the physical domain – in particular those involving major transitions – can have huge consequences for the physical living environment. That is equally true for developments in other areas of policy. International trends can also have enormous implications for the Netherlands. In the past, the advantageous tax regime for LPG as a motor fuel led to a dense points-of-sale network that prompted numerous spatial planning restrictions for reasons of public safety. After the introduction of 'the new way of working' in central government, more than 25% of all state-owned office buildings became superfluous to needs. The demand for student housing will be affected by the government's decision to continue or discontinue the student public transport pass. Other policy dossiers could also have consequences for the physical living environment.

This survey project will start in 2017 on the basis of the new coalition agreement. The advice question will be coordinated with the Netherlands

Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL), which has identified several instruments and measures outside the physical domain that nevertheless have a major impact on the physical living environment. Over time, some of these policy trends have led to unintended and unforeseen consequences for the physical living environment (e.g. tax incentives that turn out to promote long-term vacancy of office buildings). This topic is also on the research agenda of the National Environmental Strategy. Through conducting this survey, the Council aims to gain more insight into the consequences of policy interventions for the physical domain.

Long-term programme line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sustainable economy</li><li>• Sustainable land use</li><li>• Risks</li><li>• Knowledge in the physical domain</li><li>• Civic</li><li>• Globalisation</li></ul>
Type of advisory report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agenda-setting</li><li>• Conceptual</li><li>• Strategic</li></ul>
Ministries involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interior and Kingdom Relations</li><li>• Infrastructure and the Environment</li><li>• Economic Affairs</li></ul>
Lead Directorates-General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Infrastructure and the Environment / DG Accessibility, DG Spatial Development and Water Affairs</li></ul>



## What is required for accelerated implementation of innovations in towns and cities?

Technological innovations in urban areas offer the prospect of enhanced economic vitality, greater sustainability, and more attractive towns and cities. Relevant developments include:

- Decentralised energy generation and energy saving
- Rapidly expanding role of data use in the physical living environment
- New types of mobility in the urban environment
- New combinations of functions in the living and working environment, and flexible building concepts that take account of these

### Background

Capitalising on opportunities requires more than the availability of technology: it also involves actually implementing innovations that deal with urban issues. What is needed so as to ensure quicker valorisation? How can new facilities be incorporated into buildings and into the urban environment? What role can city dwellers and socio-cultural organisations play in this process? What modes of action are available to government for influencing this valorisation, in terms of governance or in relation to spatial and physical conditions and infrastructure?

The theme of urban innovation is therefore receiving considerable attention in the cooperation between the government, cities, and urban stakeholders under the heading of the 'Urban Agenda'. The Council has agreed with the Minister for the Interior and Kingdom Relations (who is responsible for the Urban Agenda) that it will consider which specific advice question the Council might address concerning innovation

and its accelerated implementation in Dutch towns and cities. Given their strong involvement with the Urban Agenda it is important to consult the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment. Some of the relevant developments mentioned above will also be covered in advisory reports to be published by the Council in 2016.

Long-term programme line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable economy</li> <li>• Sustainable land use</li> <li>• Knowledge in the physical domain</li> <li>• Civic engagement</li> </ul>
Type of advisory report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agenda-setting</li> <li>• Instrumental</li> </ul>
Ministries involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interior and Kingdom Relations</li> <li>• Infrastructure and the Environment</li> <li>• Economic Affairs</li> </ul>
Lead Directorates-General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interior and Kingdom Relations / DG Governance and Housing</li> </ul>





# RESPONSIBILITY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In consultation with the responsible Ministries, the Council has adopted a work programme for the 2017-2018 period that consists a limited number of advisory reports, namely those that were already included in the previous work programme.

Five new members joined the Council as of 1 August 2016. The Council in its new composition will present an updated version of its 2017-2018 work programme in December 2016. Because a new Cabinet will take office during the implementation of this work programme, the programme leaves room for adjustments based on the new coalition agreement and/or consultations with newly appointed members of government. Wherever possible, the Council will seek cooperation with other advisory bodies, the official planning agencies, and the Board of Government Advisors (CRA).

### **Ongoing dialogue on advisory topics**

To ensure optimal coordination with the ministries, the Council will begin each advisory project by consulting with the parties requesting advice about the exact nature of the advice question. This will ensure that the question properly reflects current needs.



# APPENDIX

## RLI PUBLICATIONS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

### Expected in 2016

- New market design (autumn 2016).
- Landscape (September/October 2016).
- Accessibility (autumn 2016).

### 2016

- Challenges for Sustainable Development: Main Focus Areas Identified in Advisory Reports Published in the Past Four Years by the Council for the Environment and Infrastructure. July 2016 (Rli 2016/03).
- Beyond Mainports [Mainports voorbij]. July 2016 (Rli 2016/02).
- System Responsibility in the Physical Living Environment. [‘Notitie Systemverantwoordelijkheid in de fysieke Leefomgeving’ – only available in Dutch]. May 2016 (Rli 2016/01).

### 2015

- Reform of Environmental Law: Realise your Ambitions [‘Vernieuwing omgevingsrecht: maak de ambities waar’]. December 2015 (Rli 2015/07).
- A Prosperous Nation Without CO2: Towards a Sustainable Energy Supply by 2050 [‘Rijk zonder CO2, naar een duurzame energievoorziening in 2050’]. September 2015 (Rli 2015/06).
- Room for the Regions in European Policy [‘Ruimte voor de regio in

Europees beleid’]. September 2015 (Rli 2015/05).

- Changing Trends in Housing: Flexibility and Regionalisation within Housing Policy [‘Wonen in verandering, over flexibilisering en regionalisering in het woonbeleid’]. June 2015 (Rli 2015/04).
- Circular Economy: From wish to Practice [‘Circulaire economie: van wens naar uitvoering’]. June 2015 (Rli 2015/03)
- Fundamental Revision of Environmental and Planning Legislation [‘Stelselherziening omgevingsrecht’ - only available in Dutch]. May 2015 (Rli 2015/02).
- Survey of Technological Innovations in the Living Environment [‘Verkenning Technologische Innovaties in de leefomgeving’]. January 2015 (Rli 2015/01).

## 2014

- Managing Surplus Government Real Estate: Balancing Public Interest and Financial Gain. [‘Vrijkomend rijksvastgoed, over maatschappelijke doelen en geld’]. December 2014 (Rli 2014/07).
- Risks Assessed. Towards a Transparent and Adaptive Risk Policy [‘Risico’s gewaardeerd, naar een transparant en adaptief risicobeleid’]. June 2014 (Rli 2014/06).
- Recovering the Costs of Environmental Damage: Financial Indemnity to be Provided by High-Risk Companies [‘Milieuschade verhalen, advies financiële zekerheidsstelling milieuschade Brzo- en IPPC4-bedrijven’]. June 2014 (Rli 2014/05).
- International Scan 2014: Signals: Emerging Issues in an International Context [Internationale verkenning 2014. Signalen: opkomende

vraagstukken uit het internationale veld]. May 2014 (Rli 2014).

- The Future of the City. The Power of New Connections [‘De toekomst van de stad, de kracht van nieuwe verbindingen’]. March 2014 (Rli 2014/04)
- Quality Without Growth: On the Future of the Built Environment [‘Kwaliteit zonder groei, over de toekomst van de leefomgeving’]. March 2014 (Rli 2014/03)
- Influencing Behavior, More Effective Environmental Policy Through Insight into Human Behaviour [‘Doen en laten, effectiever milieubeleid door mensenkennis’]. March 2014 (Rli 2014/02).
- Living Independently for Longer – A Shared Responsibility of the Housing, Health and Welfare Policy Domains [‘Langer zelfstandig, een gedeelde opgave van wonen, zorg en welzijn’]. January 2014 (Rli 2014/01).

## 2013

- Sustainable Choices in the Implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy in the Netherlands [‘Duurzame keuzes bij de toepassing van het Europees landbouwbeleid in Nederland’]. October 2013 (Rli 2013/06).
- Pulling Together. Governance in the Schiphol/Amsterdam Metropolitan Region [‘Sturen op samenhang, governance in de metropolitane region Schiphol/Amsterdam’]. September 2013 (Rli 2013/05).
- Safety at Companies Subject to the Major Accidents Risks Decree: Responsibility and Effective Action [‘Veiligheid bij Brzo-bedrijven, verantwoordelijkheid en daadkracht’]. June 2013 (Rli 2013/04).
- Dutch Logistics 2040: Designed to Last [‘Nederlandse logistiek 2040, designed to last’]. June 2013 (Rli 2013/03).



- Nature's Imperative: Towards a Robust Nature Policy ['Onbeperkt houdbaar, naar een robuust natuurbeleid']. May 2013 (Rli 2013/02).
- Room for Sustainable Agriculture. March 2013 (Rli 2013/01).

## 2012

- Keep Moving, Towards Sustainable Mobility. Edited by Bert van Wee. October 2012 (Rli/EEAC).





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