



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
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Date 4 February 2015  
Re Note UA NLD 1/2014, joint urgent appeal

**Our reference**

GEV/PA 034/2015

Dear Sir,

This is to confirm receipt of your note of 12 December 2014 accompanying the joint urgent appeal (UA NLD 1/2014) from the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants.

The urgent appeal is triggered by two reports of 9 July 2014 of the European Committee on Social Rights (ECSR) in the cases of the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless (FEANTSA) v. the Netherlands, and the Conference of European Churches (CEC) v. the Netherlands, which decisions pertain, *inter alia*, to shelter and reception facilities for unlawful aliens. In this regard, I should inform you that the reports of the ECSR have been transmitted to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in accordance with Article 9, first paragraph of the Additional Protocol to the European Social Charter Providing for a System of Collective Complaints. Under that provision the Committee of Ministers shall, by a majority of two-thirds of those voting, adopt a resolution including a recommendation addressed to the Government of the Netherlands. Only upon such adoption, the procedure under the European Social Charter will be completed.

This being the case, the Government will reply in substance to the urgent appeal after conclusion of the proceedings in Strasbourg. I do, however, wish to convey already now my Government's concerns in noting that the urgent appeal not only addresses questions to the Government about the background of the matter, but also appears to express a final view thereon. In the light of the state of play as set out above, this would appear to be somewhat premature.

Yours sincerely,

Roderick van Schreven  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

OHCHR REGISTRY

- 6 FEB 2015

Recipients :..... *SPD* .....

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