

To:
The Minister of Governmental Innovation
members of the Election Committee

Subject: continuity elections

Sint Willebrord, 22 November 2006

Dear mister Nicolaï,

Without any exaggeration it can be stated that The Netherlands have an election process that's organized way better than in any other Western European country or possibly the whole world, up to this day anyway. Without any false modesty I proudly state that an important part in the realization of that situation was performed by a small company (3-5 persons) that I've been in charge of for over 18 years;

Agency for Election Results J.W. Groenendaal b.v.

This agency has realized an extensive software application that covers the whole election process and that has relieved the work, especially the duties of the municipalities. Our interference in the elections for years and years has made us come to realize that this specific area should not be left to market economy. Apart from that we think that only one uniform, legally binding system should prevail. For the rest I refer to the appropriate section in *Burgerzaken en Recht* no. 2-2006

The problem of being only a small organisation is guaranteeing continuity. I have been drawing attention to this problem for a long time. When your predecessor had arrived, the Election Committee has pointed explicitly to this problem and advised to contact me, but so far that just didn't happen.

(To my great dissatisfaction this letter, whereas I knew about its existence I wasn't actually having this letter in my possession, has been published recently on the website of hacker G., who found cause in it for a groundless personal charge against my person.)

However, the events during the last weeks have accelerated things. For different reasons than expected (retirement) the survival of our agency is at stake abruptly, and with that the preparation of the coming elections is in danger too. Correspondence on this matter with Mr Heide from your department did not produce any results. He refers to the independent committee that you have promised The House. I'm afraid we cannot nor want to wait for that.

My concrete proposal:

- The ministry takes over our agency, naturally at a suitable fee, and receives the ownership of the software.
- Maintenance of the application is commissioned to a non-commercial supramunicipial institution.
- We will make ourselves available, if desired, for supporting the transition.

I have to press for a quick response.

yours sincerely,

J.W. Groenendaal