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THE NETHERLANDS: ALL EXISTING PUBLIC LAW PERMIT SYSTEMS ARE UNDER REVIEW

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In order to substantially reduce the permit burden, all existing permit systems will be checked as to usefulness and necessity on the basis of government regulations before 1 May 2006. Permit systems which do not satisfy the conditions will disappear or be converted into general rules.

Permits can disappear if protection of public interests is also possible without a prior individual review. If a permit is necessary, applicants have to be able to count on a quick decision which is made in a transparent manner. Permits must be an effective and proportional tool. This contributes to a recovery of Dutch competitive strength, reduction of regulatory zeal and bureaucracy and reinforcement of the responsibility and autonomy of citizens and companies.

The project will be completed at the end of 2006 latest.

Abolishing unnecessary permits and reinforcing the granting of permits which remain after the review will create a broader supporting base for the permit system in general. Granting a permit is a vital and effective tool for the government to efficiently protect public interests via prior review of possible risky social activities.

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