2015 Annual Report
Transatlantic Christian Council

LIFE

FAMILY

FREEDOM
February 2016, Bodegraven

Stichting Transatlantic Christian Council

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Board 2015:

Chair: Mr. H.J. van Schothorst (Netherlands), former assistant European Parliament, director TCC Europe office.

Secretary/Treasurer: Mr. T.M. Huizinga (US), former US diplomat in Brussels, director TCC U.S. office.

Member: Ms. Lexmann (Slovakia), Head International Republican Institute (IRI), Office Brussels, former diplomat Slovak Republic.
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3 ACTIVITIES 2015

   JANUARY

   FEBRUARY

      February 18: Session Court Case Second Appeal on tax exempt application (ANBI)


   MARCH

      March 12: Conference London

      March 14: Concert for TCC in Bodegraven, Netherlands

      March 24: Pro Life conference European Parliament:

      March 24: Grand opening Office Brussels of Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF)

      March 30: Tabling critical Parliamentary questions on a draft resolution of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva about the ‘Rights of the Child’ resolution

   April

      April 2, 17 (and June 1): Forum voor Democratie, Amsterdam

   May

      May 16: Visit Peace Palace and International Criminal Court, The Hague

      May 27: Positive Verdict Tax Exempt Court Case
June 1 and 2: Conference Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD), The Hague

June 10: TCC Board meeting, Amsterdam

July 2 and 3: Attended and addressed OSCE meeting on Religious freedom on in Vienna, Austria

July 14: Attended meeting on the 'Right to life' the Human Rights Council of the UN in Geneva

September 12-15: Agenda Europe Summit, including TCC Board meeting at All Hallows College, Dublin

September 22-26: Washington D.C.: Several meetings with organizations and with Congressman at Capitol Hill where we also saw Pope Francis and the Chinese President Xi Jinping

- Attended Value for Voters Summit, Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington D.C. (http://www.valuesvotersummitorg/)

September 29 and 30: TCC participation in the Warsaw ODIHR Working sessions 14 and 15 of the 1048th Plenary Meeting of the OSCE Agenda for the 2015 Human Dimension Implementation

October 15: Brussels, meeting with ADF International Brussels Office on Equal Treatment Directive

October 26: Participated in Family Rights Leadership Summit (FRLS) in Salt Lake City

October 27-29: World Congress of Families

Friday October 30: United Nations New York

November 5: Meeting with Mr. Bolkestein, Amsterdam

November 20 and 21: Training Tbilisi, Georgia

November 26: Fundraising event/campaign in fishers’ village TCC, Urk, Netherlands


December 1 and 2: Attending European Prayer Breakfast and conference, European Parliament, Brussels

December 7: Debate Dutch Parliament on ‘The State of the European Union 2016’ and the Role and Priorities of the Dutch EU Presidency (first half of 2016)
December 17: Appointment with former candidate European Commissioner Rocco Buttiglione, Rome

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Christelijke organisaties vragen Juncker richtlijn gelijke behandeling in te trekken

Strijd tussen fiscus en TCC nadert zijn ontknoping

Christelijke lobbyclub en denktank TCC krijgt ANBI-status

„Niets doen voor het gezin is geen optie”

Zeven vragen: Strijd voor vrijheid geweten

„EU-richtlijn gelijke behandeling geeft regeldruk bedrijven”

Gezinsgids, augustus 2015: Even bellen met ... Henk Jan van Schothorst – ‘We mogen nooit het hoofd in de schoot leggen.’
Geographical Picture of TCC Activities in 2015
1 MANAGEMENT REPORT

Objective:

The mission of TCC is the development of a transatlantic network of mainly American and European people involved in public policy with the aim to further Christian principles in our societies and in public policy. TCC influences public policy mainly on international level at international organizations from a Christian perspective. Subsidiarity, where a higher authoritative source should not do which can be done by lower authoritative sources, is a leading principle. With the approach of core task oriented governments TCC aims to protect Christian freedoms such as freedom of religion and education and free enterprise and markets with the family as the foundational building block of society. Protection of the position of Christians is an important goal.

Strategy:

TCC connects Christians in a transatlantic network, reflects on public policy and brings the best practices in the public debate and in the process of the shaping of directives and polices by governments and at international organizations. It develops strategic networks with partners on both sides of the ocean and builds local capacity. TCC exists three years now and has made a good start. Important milestones were the inaugural conference in Brussels on December 4, 2013 and the events in the Library of Congress and the Capitol in Washington DC from 10-12 September 2014. In 2015 TCC has concentrated on research and accreditation at international organizations as the United Nations (UN) in New York and Geneva, European Institutions as the European Union (EU) in Brussels and Strasbourg, the Organization for Security and Cooperation (OSCE) in Vienna and Warsaw and the Organization for American States (OAS) in Washington D.C.

Results:

By invitation and on own initiative TCC has actively spread its ideas in Europe and North America. In Christian circles and beyond, to politicians, academics, diplomats, government officials, businessmen, NGOs, journalists, think tanks and supporters. TCC focused on pressurized freedoms like freedom of education and religion, the family and security. It appeared that TCC was a welcome transatlantic connector of Christians involved in public life and effective networks were built. With further action through media and input to politicians etc, public policy from a Christian perspective was protected and promoted. For a list of concrete and implemented activities and publicity we refer to the Annual Report 2015 below, which is also published on our website.

Evaluation:

In 2015 the focus of TCCs activities extended, next to vision development, to advocacy and lobby. With this a more complete and targeted application was given to the statutory objectives, in particular in giving more specific substance to the verbs: develop, promote, influence, encourage and protect. This will lead to an update of the type of activities as mentioned in the multi-annual policy plan 2014-2016. Advocacy and lobbying activities are added. These types of activities do already exist, but with specifically mention and embody them the transatlantic network can work in an even more practical and effective way on the implementation of its objectives. So a main niche area of work develops in the direction of international organizations with focus on areas as life, family and freedoms as freedom of religion and education.

ANBI (tax exempt status obtained):
A significant part of the start-up capital has been used for the 2.5 year judicial process with the tax authority to get tax exempt status. This summer the Court of Second Appeal found hundred percent in favor of TCC. The main issue was whether TCC in strengthening the democratic Rule of Law from a Christian perspective did serve the common good (position TCC) or the particular interests of a particular group of society, namely Christians (position Tax Authority). As opposed to TCC the Tax Authority put in place Amnesty International organization acting from a secular perspective) as norm and example. In their view Amnesty International promoted the democratic rule of law impartially, and thereby, as opposed to TCC, did serve the common good pre-eminently. With this the court case became a clash of worldviews and basic rights and got national media attention. We are happy, also for other organizations with a Christian or another worldview, that the three-headed Court of Second Appeal found fully in favor of the position of TCC. Following the verdict TCC completely aims for the common good in all its objectives, finances and actual activities.

Outlook for 2016

Now, released from the chokehold of the condemned tax authority which hold TCC hostage from its establishment, TCC aims to develop further and will march on with the further implementation of its objectives. Special attention will also be given to fundraising. The result of January 2016, in which TCC received €6,000, is a promising start of a new period for TCC.

Bodegraven, February 2, 2016

H. J. van Schothorst,

Chairman Transatlantic Christian Council
The factual activities derive from the two main objectives as described in the Mission Statement:

**Mission Statement TCC:**

The mission of the Transatlantic Christian Council is to develop a transatlantic public policy network of European and North American Christians and conservatives in order to promote the civic good, as understood within the Judeo-Christian tradition on which our societies are largely based. Our goal is to influence public policy on both sides of the Atlantic from a Christian and politically conservative perspective, with the broad objective of fostering and protecting the greatest achievements of our political systems: limited government, the free market and individual liberty, especially religious freedom and freedom of education, with the family as the foundational building block of society.

By bringing together Christians and conservatives involved in policy think tanks, law, business, journalism, training and education, foundations and other institutions in the public square, the Transatlantic Christian Council will function as a transatlantic actor and hub for analyzing public policies and social trends, as well as promoting and facilitating reflection and action among a wide variety of like-minded people involved in public life.

Briefly defined they ring as follows:

1. **To develop a transatlantic public policy network in order to promote the civic good;**

2. **To influence public policy from a Christian and politically conservative perspective.**

**A. TCCs Manifesto, from which the factual activities originate from**

**Manifesto: A Transatlantic Focus on Human Dignity, Liberty and Virtue**

Since the middle of the last century the partnership between the United States and Canada and the free nations of Europe has formed the geopolitical basis for greater security and the worldwide spread of democracy, the rule of law and free markets. The principal foundation of the transatlantic partnership and the political, economic and social system that underpins it is our common commitment to upholding human dignity and the individual liberty that a belief in human dignity entails. This commitment, derived to a great extent from the Christian faith upon which Western civilization was largely built, is now under threat as the public square comes to be characterized by indifference and even hostility toward Christian faith. Christians and those of like mind must reclaim a place for themselves in the public debate and in policy formulation, not in the interest of dominating or forcing their faith upon others, but in the interest of safeguarding for everyone our most precious public goods -- again, limited government, free markets, and individual liberty -- and the
transatlantic community of sovereign democracies without which, in this globalized 21st century, those public goods will be in danger worldwide.

We also believe that it is vital to recognize that true liberty is impossible without a citizenry that is freely committed to seek the good of both individuals and society, including foundational social institutions such as the family. Good citizenship begins at home and in local communities. Against today’s strong tendency toward homogenization and centralization of power, we maintain that local, historic and home-grown identities must be respected and fostered. With this in mind, we will not only uphold the classical freedoms of religion, speech, association, press, education and the like but also seek to foster societies that encourage individual and civic virtue -- societies in which people are free to live out the fruit of the Spirit in the public square: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

**Basic Tenets and Approach**

**Statement of faith**: We hold to the traditional, historic, orthodox Christian faith as expressed in the Apostles’ Creed as it has been commonly understood throughout the centuries. We are open to members of all of the branches of the traditional Christian faith -- Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox.

**Human Dignity**: To quote the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany, "human dignity is inviolable."

The sole source of human dignity is our status as image bearers of God -- the fact that God created us in his image. The inherent dignity of every human being as an image bearer of God entails a political, economic and social framework that respects the right of each individual to live, as far as feasible, in liberty. In addition, human dignity entails the obligation of each individual to respect all others as fellow image bearers of God and treat them accordingly.

We also acknowledge that all human beings are captive to their sinful nature and in need of redemption. This makes the state necessary to restrain evil and safeguard the rule of law. However, as all human institutions, including the state, are also subject to the effects of sin and imperfection, the powers of the state must be limited and subject to checks and balances.

**Limited Government**: The primary purpose of government is to provide for and enforce the rule of law domestically and security internationally. In order to preserve human freedom, both for individuals and for social institutions such as the family, the powers of the state must be carefully limited and subject to checks and balances. In this globalizing world, not only national governments but also all other structures of governance must be accountable to the appropriate electorates. Because of this, we take a cautious approach to international organizations and supranational institutions that claim the right to exercise power without direct accountability to an electorate. We believe that subsidiarity is an important principle in the exercise of governmental power.

**The Nature of Liberty**: As indicated above, liberty and human dignity are intrinsically connected. They both give rise to the same combination of rights and obligations. A fundamental characteristic of liberty is the freedom to do good, without authoritarian or totalitarian coercion by the state or government. In the public square this implies not only government protection of the classical freedoms of religion, speech, association and press, but also the calling of each individual to live out the fruit of the Spirit in interaction with others.

**The Nature of the Family**: We believe that it is necessary for the long-term strength of society to protect and honor the family as traditionally understood. The ideal manifestation of the family consists of a father and mother, united in marriage and living together with their children. We recognize that this ideal is not always possible. We also maintain that children belong to their families, not to the state or schools.
Implications of our Transatlantic Approach: To reach our goal of influencing public policy from a Christian and politically conservative perspective, we wish to provide a forum for all people interested in bringing such a perspective more fully to bear on the political, economic, technological and foreign policy issues that North America and Europe face. We invite people from all areas of public life – politics, business, academics, the natural sciences, emerging technologies, education and journalism, for example – to participate. We will foster an environment of mutual support among our participants in which all can learn and benefit from each other. Also, we will function as a platform that we and our participants can use to bring our perspectives into the broader public debate.

Inclusive Approach: We seek to collaborate with all people, Christians and non-Christians, who recognize the importance of the basic principles and virtues that underpin Western society.

A Forum for Debate: We seek a core group of participants made up of orthodox and thus, in the broadest sense of the word, conservative Christians. That said, we leave room for political disagreement among our participants and, as a forum for debate among Christians and conservatives as well as for exchange with the general public, we look forward to robust debate and discussion on a broad range of issues. We believe that such debate and discussion – including outreach to people of other faiths and the non-religious, as well as to the general public -- is vital to the achievement of the type of transatlantic partnership we seek -- one more firmly grounded in the pursuit of the free and virtuous society and a transatlantic public square that is open to the voices and influence of traditional Christians, conservatives and others of like mind.

DESCRIPTION TARGET GROUPS

B. Target groups

a. Support base: People who support TCC and its objectives and activities;

b. Initiators implementers of public policy: Ministers, national officials, diplomats from European and American countries, international organizations (EU, NATO, UN, WTO, OSCE, etc.) and their officials;

c. Initiators and checkers of public policy: politicians, representatives of political parties (research departments, party foundations, members of parliament and their assistants, board members);

d. Influencers who give meaning to public policy from different perspectives: NGO-representatives, think tanks, business associations, legal associations, churches;

e. Followers, interpreters and commentators of public policy: journalists/press, academics, writers, intellectuals, professors, students/scholars/workers and support base.

C. Elaboration strategy towards target groups

In approaching the target groups and in liaising with our networks we use means from our ‘toolkit’. The networks we build are found in the target groups as mentioned and are shaped as follows:

Ad. a. We approach people, associations, churches, organizations, business people, academics, etc. in America and Europe who support the objectives and activities of TCC. We try to encourage and mobilize them to study the achievements and challenges of public policy from a Christian perspective, to translate them to today’s
reality and spread them in their own environment and networks. This can be done for example by approaching their local politicians and fundraising for TCC. TCC can transfer the voice of the support base further to the other mentioned target groups.

Ad. b. We approach ministers on public- and party gatherings and conferences and have meetings with officials of national departments, governors of States, EU and US and of international organizations;

Ad. c. We make appointments with politicians and representatives of political parties and build networks with them in Europe and America;

Ad. d. We build networks with influencers and with those who give meaning to public policy, who are relevant for the realization of our objectives in Europe and America;

Ad. e. We build networks with followers, interpreters and commentators of public policy in Europe and America.

**DESCRIPTION TYPE OF ACTIVITIES**

**D. Factual activities**

The factual activities stem from the way and means whereby TCC aims to realize its objectives. The Transatlantic Christian Council aims to function as a transatlantic actor and hub for analyzing public policies and social trends, as well as promoting and facilitating reflection and action among a wide variety of like-minded people involved in public life.

The common good which we aim at is the strengthening and promotion of the democratic legal order. That’s different from other areas of the common good, like development assistance, healthcare and education. In these terrains it is often easier to show concrete and measurable results. For example: for €5 a child can go to school, to the dentist or get a food package.

In the space we are operating in is the public domain and debate. We have defined important players in that field in our target groups. These people are involved in legal order and public policy. We need to reach them in order to implement our objectives. That requires a specific approach with specific tools from the toolkit and applicable instruments. Research, education, exchange and communication are some key instruments. A number of instruments to be used are the following types of activity:

1. Develop networks in and between Europe and America
2. Shape a support base and liaise with them, including fundraising
3. Website maintenance with relevant and actual information + blog
4. Organize digital video conferences
5. Develop a quarterly newsletter
6. Form working groups of experts on themes directly linked to the objectives
Organize exchange visits for prominent and promising persons from Europe and America in the fields of politics, business, science, journalism and students

Opinion articles in newspapers

Contributions to debates via newspaper, radio, television, conferences

Possible development of a transatlantic think tank

Exchange of students/scholars/ laborers in summer(season)schools with a curriculum based on and stemming from the objectives of TCC

The research of the set-up of branches of TCC in other countries and regions in Europe and America

Participate in (international) conferences (on invitation and when relevant for our objectives)

Accept invitations to speak on relevant meetings

Organize international conferences – a lot of work, as selecting, approaching, settle relevant speakers, venue, catering, transport, hotel, flyers, promotion material, invitations, website, etc., etc.

Organization of targeted study, information, education, communication meetings on location for the support base and other target groups

Lobby and advocacy

**STRATEGY AND INTENDED OBJECTIVES**

1. **Connect**: To connect and mutually reinforce networks of Christians from European countries and the U.S. and Canada.

2. **Reflect**: To constitute transatlantic teams of specialists and reflect on several policy areas and come up with concrete recommendations for public policy from a Christian perspective.

3. **Act**: To discuss the best applications in the various countries and to deploy and advocate them in public debates in other countries.

4. **Building of strategic networks**: To build strategic and connecting networks with target groups and organizations mainly in Europe and North America.

5. **Building local capacity**: To establish offices both in Europe and America.
3 ACTIVITIES 2015

Introduction

This chapter contains an overview per month with the most important activities implemented in 2015. The activities are linked to the 16 type of activities as mentioned in chapter 3. Also is indicated per activity which objective from the planning table has been served: 1 Connect, 2 Reflect, 3 Act, 4 Building Strategic Networks, 5 Building Local Capacity.

During the year and the evaluation of activities it became clear that the mentioned 16 types of activities need an update. In TCCs Multi-Annual Policy Plan they were introduced as ‘a number of’ activities. There is space to bring them even more in line with the statutory objectives of TCC. Especially to be thought of is a more concrete implementation of the mentioned verbs: develop, promote, influence, foster and protect. This update includes more focus on policy influencing and advocacy. This is already part of the activities. But with a more precise description and inclusion as a specific type of activity it would do justice to TCCs objectives and the implementation of them.

TCC exists now for three years. The year 2013 can be characterized as laying the foundations under TCC and the buildup of the transatlantic network, crowned with a successful inaugural conference in Brussels. The year 2014 can be characterized as broadening the scope and type of activities, also geographically in bridging the ocean by organizing our main event: the Washington September 10-12 events and a Transatlantic political family conference at United Nations Headquarters of December 5. The year 2015 can be characterized as including a focus on lobby and advocacy at international organizations.

HERE PER MONTH SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES OF TCC IN 2015:

JANUARY
Further elaboration of objectives and strategy.

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 18: SESSION COURT CASE SECOND APPEAL ON TAX EXEMPT APPLICATION (ANBI)
More than two years after the application date for tax exempt (ANBI) status (February 6, 2013) TCC was still in a legal procedure in order to get this favourable status. The Court Session went well for TCC, but the verdict was expected only in June/July. TCC is an organization with two main goals: First to develop an international network of Christians (and conservatives) involved in public policy and secondly to influence public policy and strengthen the rule of law from a Christian perspective with a focus on life, family and freedom. An important question in the Court Case was: Does an organization with a Christian perspective serve the common good (position TCC) or only the particular interests of a particular group of people in society (position Tax Authority). – In the end TCC won the case on all points.

Type of activity:

2 Shape a support base and liaise with them, including fundraising

Objectives reached:

5 Building local capacity: Both in Europe and America we are establishing offices.

**FEBRUARY 24: CONFERENCE ‘TOWARDS A EUROPEAN FAMILY STRATEGY’, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BRUSSELS**


Type of activity:

1 Develop networks in and between Europe and America
6 Form working groups of experts on themes directly linked to the objectives
13 Participate in (international) conferences (on invitation and when relevant for our objectives)

Objectives reached:

1Connect: To connect and mutually reinforce networks of Christians from European countries and the U.S. and Canada.
2 Reflect: To constitute transatlantic teams of specialists and reflect on several policy areas and come up with concrete recommendations for public policy from a Christian perspective.

3 Act: To discuss the best applications in the various countries and to deploy and advocate them in public debates in other countries.

4 Building of strategic networks: To build strategic and connecting networks with target groups and organizations mainly in Europe and North America.

MARCH

MARCH 12: CONFERENCE LONDON

Westminster and conference venue Emmanuel Centre, London

TCC participated in a conference organized by ‘Voice for Justice – United Kingdom’. Theme was ‘The Case for Christian Freedoms – 800 Years since Magna Carta’ and the following questions were discussed: Since Magna Carta was sealed under oath by King John on 15th June 1215, it has been foundational for the preservation of liberty and the rights of the individual against the tyrannical exercise of power by the state. Key ideas in this respect are Democracy, Limitation of Power, Equality and Freedom under Law, Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Belief. Increasingly, in the 21st century, these freedoms seem under threat. Why and how? Are they genuine rights or merely a social construct in process of change? Do they matter, and what can we do to defend our human rights – especially the rights to freedom of belief and speech? Speakers, amongst others, included politicians, bishops, diplomats and academics.

Type of activity:

1 Develop networks in and between Europe and America
6 Form working groups of experts on themes directly linked to the objectives
13 Participate in (international) conferences (on invitation and when relevant for our objectives)

Objectives reached:
1. **Connect:** To connect and mutually reinforce networks of Christians from European countries and the U.S. and Canada.

2. **Reflect:** To constitute transatlantic teams of specialists and reflect on several policy areas and come up with concrete recommendations for public policy from a Christian perspective.

3. **Act:** To discuss the best applications in the various countries and to deploy and advocate them in public debates in other countries.

4. **Building of strategic networks:** To build strategic and connecting networks with target groups and organizations mainly in Europe and North America.

**MARCH 14: CONCERT FOR TCC IN BODEGRAVEN, NETHERLANDS**

Concert invitation and performance of the Choirs, Bodegraven

TCC was the beneficiary charity of two choirs and a soloist in their joint Easter concert in Bodegraven, the place where the office of the organization resides.

Type of activity:

2 Shape a support base and liaise with them, including fundraising

16 Organization of targeted study, information, education, communication meetings on location for the support base and other target groups

Objectives reached:

**Building local capacity:** To establish offices both in Europe and America.

**MARCH 24: PRO LIFE CONFERENCE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT:**
In Brussels TCC attended a conference of the One of Us – Pro Life Federation titled: ‘Human Dignity in 2015: Which challenges ahead?’ Starting at 11 a.m. and hosted by Member of European Parliament Miroslav Mikolasik and the EPP working Group on Bioethics and Human Dignity the topic was discussed in two round table sessions and concluded at 6 p.m.

Type of activity:

1. Develop networks in and between Europe and America
6. Form working groups of experts on themes directly linked to the objectives
13. Participate in (international) conferences (on invitation and when relevant for our objectives)

Objectives reached:

1. **Connect:** To connect and mutually reinforce networks of Christians from European countries and the U.S. and Canada.
2. **Reflect:** To constitute transatlantic teams of specialists and reflect on several policy areas and come up with concrete recommendations for public policy from a Christian perspective.
3. **Act:** To discuss the best applications in the various countries and to deploy and advocate them in public debates in other countries.
4. **Building of strategic networks:** To build strategic and connecting networks with target groups and organizations mainly in Europe and North America.

**MARCH 24: GRAND OPENING OFFICE BRUSSELS OF ALLIANCE DEFENDING FREEDOM (ADF)**
**Grand opening office Alliance Defending Freedom, Brussels**

TCC took part in the Grand Opening of a Brussels office of partner organization Alliance Defending Freedom in the evening of March 24.

**Type of activity:**

1. Develop networks in and between Europe and America

**Objectives reached:**

4 **Building of strategic networks:** To build strategic and connecting networks with target groups and organizations mainly in Europe and North America.

**MARCH 30: TABLING CRITICAL PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ON A DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL IN GENEVA ABOUT THE ‘RIGHTS OF THE CHILD’ RESOLUTION.**

These questions were asked to the Dutch Minister of Foreign Affairs via a member of the Dutch Parliament. That is because the Netherlands is one of the current 47 Members of the UN-Human Rights Council and can be influenced and controlled on taken positions by the Dutch negotiating delegation.

The main points formulated in seven questions were the following

1. **Do States have the primary responsibility to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of the child or does the State also have a responsibility ... etc.**

2. **How does the Minister assess the description and call for inclusion of ‘comprehensive, evidence based education on human sexuality’, and if he was prepared to change that into the only legally family protecting formulation of ‘sex education’**.

Actions like this are needed. If nothing is done these kind of texts will become prospective customary applicable international law. Also for our families and schools. So the UN and its decisions are not a distant reality but, with this example, actually taking over control on the upbringing of our children even behind the front doors of our houses.

**Type of activity:**

9. Contributions to debates via newspaper, radio, television, conferences
Lobby and Advocacy

Objectives reached:

**3 Act**: To discuss the best applications in the various countries and to deploy and advocate them in public debates in other countries.

**APRIL**

**APRIL 2, 17 (AND JUNE 1): FORUM VOOR DEMOCRATIE, AMSTERDAM**

Program Forum voor Democratie and Inaugural conference Forum voor Democratie, Amsterdam

On invitation TCC visited several times the start-up meetings of the Dutch Forum for Democracy, led by Thierry Baudet. He is writer of several books, including ‘The Attack on the Nation State’, in which he rejects the EU and its imperialism, which takes gradually away the independence of Member States. In 2013 he was a speaker on a major TCC conference on Sustainable Freedom in Brussels.

Type of activity:

1. Develop networks in and between Europe and America
6. Form working groups of experts on themes directly linked to the objectives
13. Participate in (international) conferences (on invitation and when relevant for our objectives)

Objectives reached:

4. **Building of strategic networks**: To build strategic and connecting networks with target groups and organizations mainly in Europe and North America.

**MAY**

**MAY 16: VISIT PEACE PALACE AND INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT, THE HAGUE**

TCC visited the Peace Palace and the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague. Especially the internationally disputed powers, role, recognition and jurisdiction of this court are food for thoughts and discussion and an event may be held on this. That could be together with a lecture of TCC co-founder, who wrote a book titled: 'The New Totalitarian Temptation: Global Governance and the Crisis of Democracy in Europe'.

Type of activity:

1. Develop networks in and between Europe and America

Objectives reached:

4. Building of strategic networks: To build strategic and connecting networks with target groups and organizations mainly in Europe and North America.

MAY 27: POSITIVE VERDICT TAX EXEMPT COURT CASE

TCC won the Court Case of the Dutch Tax Authority against TCC for 100%. That was the dictum of the verdict of the Court of Second Appeal in The Hague which became effective on August 7, 2015. The tax authority had to grant tax exempt status with retroactive effect as of the application date, which was February 7, 2013. This tens of thousands Euro's costing process has lasted for exactly 2.5 years. It was won because of unbroken perseverance and determination, and the accuracy in TCC's objectives, activities and financial bookkeeping.

Type of activity:

2. Shape a support base and liaise with them, including fundraising

9. Contributions to debates via newspaper, radio, television, conferences

Objectives reached:

5. Building local capacity: To establish offices both in Europe and America

JUNE

JUNE 1 AND 2: CONFERENCE NETHERLANDS INSTITUTE FOR MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY (NIMD), THE HAGUE
Participation in the jubilee event of NIMD, celebrating their 15 years of supporting political parties in struggling democracies, was very helpful. Both for networking and programmatic reasons. The Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, H.E. Lilianne Ploumen, did also attend and participate in the program, as well as Thomas Carothers (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace), and several partner organizations. Under them are potential strategic partners for TCC from developing countries.

Type of activity:

1. Develop networks in and between Europe and America
2. Participate in (international) conferences (on invitation and when relevant for our objectives)

Objectives reached:

1. **Connect**: To connect and mutually reinforce networks of Christians from European countries and the U.S. and Canada.
2. **Reflect**: To constitute transatlantic teams of specialists and reflect on several policy areas and come up with concrete recommendations for public policy from a Christian perspective.
3. **Act**: To discuss the best applications in the various countries and to deploy and advocate them in public debates in other countries.
4. **Building of strategic networks**: To build strategic and connecting networks with target groups and organizations mainly in Europe and North America.

**JUNE 10: TCC BOARD MEETING, AMSTERDAM**

TCC Board meeting in Amsterdam Todd Huizinga and Henk Jan van Schothorst.

**JULY**

**JULY 2 AND 3: ATTENDED AND ADDRESSED OSCE MEETING ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ON IN VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

[HTTP://WWW.OSCE.ORG/ODIHR/SHDМ_2_2015 (SHDM CIO.GAL/82/15)]
The right to Freedom of Religion or Belief has been under increasing pressure in various parts of the OSCE area in recent years. In order to fostering mutual respect and understanding the Serbian Presidency of the OSCE brought together a variety of actor’s, including OSCE participating States, OSCE institutions and executive structures, as well as other international organizations, civil society organizations, representatives of religious and belief communities and experts to a Supplementary Human Rights Dimension Meeting (SHDM). TCC also participated and strongly recommended OSCE Member states ‘to respect civil society organizations impartially, (not secular more than Christian organizations) and by doing so to create an enabling, conducive and effective environment for dialogue and cooperation on an equal basis, with respect for diversity and freedom of religion, which the very concept of a functioning democracy entails.’

Type of activity:

1. Develop networks in and between Europe and America
9. Contributions to debates via newspaper, radio, television, conferences
13. Participate in (international) conferences (on invitation and when relevant for our objectives)
17. Lobby and advocacy

Objectives reached:

3. Act: To discuss the best applications in the various countries and to deploy and advocate them in public debates in other countries.

**JULY 14: ATTENDED MEETING ON THE 'RIGHT TO LIFE' THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL OF THE UN IN GENEVA**

[http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CCPR/Pages/GC36-Article6Righttolife.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CCPR/Pages/GC36-Article6Righttolife.aspx)

On the occasion of its 114th session, hold in Geneva from 29 June to 24 July 2015, the Human Rights Committee held a half day (July 14) of general discussion in preparation for a General Comment on Article 6 (Right to Life) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
The purpose of the general discussion is to commence the Committee’s process of developing a General Comment on article 6, expanding upon its earlier general comments No. 6 and 14 (from 1982 and 1984), in light of later experience obtained in the review of State reports and communications and in the adoption of General Comments on related issues. The purpose of the general comment is to provide appropriate and authoritative guidance to States Parties and other actors on the measures to be adopted to ensure full compliance with the rights protected under this provision.

TCC qualified as civil society organization and participated in the meeting. TCC was one of the few organizations emphasizing the sanctity of human life, where many others argued for inclusion of various forms of abortion and euthanasia.

Type of activity:

2 Develop networks in and between Europe and America
10 Contributions to debates via newspaper, radio, television, conferences
14 Participate in (international) conferences (on invitation and when relevant for our objectives)
17 Lobby and advocacy

Objectives reached:

3.Act: To discuss the best applications in the various countries and to deploy and advocate them in public debates in other countries.

SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 12-15: AGENDA EUROPE SUMMIT, INCLUDING TCC BOARD MEETING AT ALL HALLOWS COLLEGE, DUBLIN

Agenda Europe is an important European Network dedicated to bringing the main European NGO’s together to design a common strategy to advance an authentic human rights agenda. Since its establishment in Munich in 2014 it has grown to include the key pro-life and pro-family leaders in every European country.

Agenda Europe has proven to be a valuable means of giving mutual support and assistance, and sharing useful information. It has also become a unique source of encouragement to its members, a constant reminder that, no matter what challenges we face, we have a network of good friends and colleagues to whom we can turn for advice and help.

The first Summit, held in October 2014 in Munich, was a significant milestone in the development of a coordinated strategic agenda for the furtherance of our shared objectives.
This year’s Summit in Dublin, Ireland, was an important and productive event on the European pro-life pro-family calendar. Critical strategies have been presented covering areas including surrogacy, religious freedom, euthanasia, marriage and the rights of the unborn.

During this Summit TCC was able to hold a Board meeting with all three Board members physically present.

Type of activity:

1. Develop networks in and between Europe and America
13. Participate in (international) conferences (on invitation and when relevant for our objectives)

Objectives reached:

1. **Connect**: To connect and mutually reinforce networks of Christians from European countries and the U.S. and Canada.
2. **Reflect**: To constitute transatlantic teams of specialists and reflect on several policy areas and come up with concrete recommendations for public policy from a Christian perspective.
3. **Act**: To discuss the best applications in the various countries and to deploy and advocate them in public debates in other countries.
4. **Building of strategic networks**: To build strategic and connecting networks with target groups and organizations mainly in Europe and North America.
5. **Building local capacity**: To establish offices both in Europe and America.

**SEPTEMBER 22-26: WASHINGTON D.C.: SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH ORGANIZATIONS AND WITH CONGRESSMAN AT CAPITOL HILL WHERE WE ALSO SAW POPE FRANCIS AND THE CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING.**

On September 25th TCC participated in the Regional Summit of the Political Network for Values for the Americas in Washington DC, which brought together more than 70 policy makers from Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, Guatemala, Venezuela, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Lucia, Spain, Hungary, Kenya and the United States.

Key note speakers were the Minister of Home Affairs and President of the People's Party of Panama, Milton Enriquez, the Minister of State for Family and Youth of Hungary, Katalin Novák, US Congressmen Jeff Fortenberry and Chris Smith and US Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler. The session took place at the Capitol Hill and was closed at the headquarters of the Organization of American States.

In addition to the plenary session, three working groups took place, where experts from the academia and civil society worked together with legislators in three specific areas: 1 Human dignity and the value of life and motherhood; 2 Redefinition of marriage and the family - a challenge to fundamental freedoms; 3 The protection of fundamental freedoms: conscientious objection in the context of education.

Type of activity:

2. Develop networks in and between Europe and America
14. Participate in (international) conferences (on invitation and when relevant for our objectives)

Objectives reached:

1. Connect: To connect and mutually reinforce networks of Christians from European countries and the U.S. and Canada.
2. Reflect: To constitute transatlantic teams of specialists and reflect on several policy areas and come up with concrete recommendations for public policy from a Christian perspective.
3. Act: To discuss the best applications in the various countries and to deploy and advocate them in public debates in other countries.
4. Building of strategic networks: To build strategic and connecting networks with target groups and organizations mainly in Europe and North America.

- ATTENDED VALUE FOR VOTERS SUMMIT, OMNI SHOREHAM HOTEL, WASHINGTON D.C. (HTTP://WWW.VALUESVOTERSUMMIT.ORG/)
Values for Voter Summit was created in 2006 to provide a forum to help inform and mobilize citizens across America to preserve the bedrock values of traditional marriage, religious liberty, sanctity of life and limited government that make our nation strong. It has drawn as many as 3,000 plus attendees from around the American nation and foreign countries. Garnering national and international media attention, CNN named it "one of the conservative movement's marquee annual events" and Sean Hannity called it "the premier conservative event now in the country."

Each year, it showcases the America's leading conservatives voices such as all 2008, 2012 and 2016 Republican presidential candidates; Senators Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, Rand Paul, Mike Lee, Tim Scott and Rick Santorum; Representatives Paul Ryan, Michele Bachmann, Steve Scalise, Jim Jordan, Steve King, James Lankford and Allen West; Governors Mike Huckabee and Bobby Jindal; media hosts Sean Hannity, Glenn Beck, Bill O'Reilly, Lou Dobbs, Dr. Bill Bennett, Cal Thomas, Lt. Col. Oliver North and Mark Levin; Dr. Ben Carson; Kirk Cameron, Star Parker, and many more. Mariam Ibraheem, the Sudanese Christian sentenced to death for her faith, was honored with the inaugural Cost of Discipleship Award in 2014.

Since its inception, the Summit's primary sponsor has been FRC Action, the legislative affiliate arm of Family Research Council. Through the years, FRC Action has had the privilege of partnering with other like-minded sponsors including The Heritage Foundation, American Family Association Action, Alliance Defending Freedom, American Values, Liberty Institute, Liberty Counsel, Liberty Counsel Action, Liberty University, Family Research Council and, for the first time this year, Ohio Christian University. Other partnering organizations have also included Media Research Center, Young America's Foundation, National Religious Broadcasters, National Organization for Marriage, Patriot Voices, Students for Life, The Timothy Plan, Vision America and Susan B. Anthony List.


The Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) of OSCE participating States is Europe's largest annual human rights and democracy conference. It is organized every year by the OSCE Office for Democratic
Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) as a platform for 57 OSCE participating States, Partners for Co-
operation, OSCE structures, civil society, international organizations and other relevant actors to take stock of
the implementation of the OSCE human dimension commitments, discuss associated challenges, share good
practices and make recommendations for further improvement.

The 2015 meeting had 18 sessions and lasted two weeks from September 21-October 2. Especially because of
the topics discussed on Working Sessions 14 and 15 on Wednesday, September 30, 2015, TCC attended this
human rights implementation meeting. With State representatives and civil society present the following topics
were discusses:

**Working session 14, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.**: Tolerance and non-discrimination II, including: – Combating racism,
xenophobia and discrimination, also focusing on intolerance and discrimination against Christians and
members of other religions – Combating anti-Semitism – Combating intolerance and discrimination against
Muslims.

**Working session 15, 3–6 p.m.**: Fundamental freedoms II (continued), including: – Freedom of thought,
conscience, religion or belief.

**Side Events:**
The Helsinki Document of 1992(Chapter IV) called for increasing the openness of OSCE activities and expanding
the role of NGOs. In particular in paragraph (15) of Chapter IV the participating States decided to facilitate
during CSCE meetings informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and of
NGOs, and to provide encouragement to NGOs organizing seminars on CSCE-related issues. In line with this
decision, NGOs, governments, and other participants are encouraged to organize side meetings at the Review
Conference on relevant issues of their choice. – So also exclusively TCC, or in conjunction with other
organizations, can organize a side event at its request as being a valid participant in the HDIM. TCC should
seriously consider this option in the future.

**Type of activity:**

- 3 Develop networks in and between Europe and America
- 11 Contributions to debates via newspaper, radio, television, conferences
- 15 Participate in (international) conferences (on invitation and when relevant for our objectives)
- 17 Lobby and advocacy

**Objectives reached:**

3.Act: To discuss the best applications in the various countries and to deploy and advocate them in public
debates in other countries.

**OCTOBER**

**OCTOBER 15: BRUSSELS, MEETING WITH ADF INTERNATIONAL BRUSSELS OFFICE ON
EQUAL TREATMENT DIRECTIVE**

**OCTOBER 26: PARTICIPATED IN FAMILY RIGHTS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT (FRLS) IN SALT LAKE CITY**
This Summit was convened by Family Watch International, the UN Family Rights Caucus and the Foundation for African Culture and Heritage, supported by co-sponsors, on Monday October 26, prior to the following World Congress of Families Meeting there. TCC was also offered a speaking position. With about 100 participants the following topics were discussed: Protection of the family at the UN and at home, Exposing and stopping comprehensive sexuality education, Understanding sexual orientation and Exposing and defunding Planned Parenthood.

Type of activity:

3 Develop networks in and between Europe and America
16 Participate in (international) conferences (on invitation and when relevant for our objectives)

Objectives reached:

1. **Connect:** To connect and mutually reinforce networks of Christians from European countries and the U.S. and Canada.
2. **Reflect:** To constitute transatlantic teams of specialists and reflect on several policy areas and come up with concrete recommendations for public policy from a Christian perspective.
3. **Act:** To discuss the best applications in the various countries and to deploy and advocate them in public debates in other countries.
4. **Building of strategic networks:** To build strategic and connecting networks with target groups and organizations mainly in Europe and North America.

**OCTOBER 27-29: WORLD CONGRESS OF FAMILIES**

The World Congress of Families (WCF) IX welcomed friends and people of goodwill from all nations to Salt Lake City, Utah, **October 27-30, 2015**, for the premier global gathering of parents, youth, lawmakers, scholars, religious leaders, and advocates united to affirm, celebrate, and encourage the natural family. WCF is the largest gathering of pro-family advocates in the world – and for the first time in history, the global gathering came to the United States last fall. With hundreds of speakers and thousands of participants it was a very instructive event with lots of networking opportunities.

**FRIDAY OCTOBER 30: UNITED NATIONS NEW YORK**
During a short stopover in Manhattan, New York, the state of affairs was checked of TCCs application for consultative status at ECOSOC. The application has been sent before the deadline of June 1, 2015. TCC is awaiting an invitation to defend the application in the first half of 2016.

Type of activity:

1. Develop networks in and between Europe and America

Objective reached:

4 Building of strategic networks: To build strategic and connecting networks with target groups and organizations mainly in Europe and North America

**November**

**November 5: Meeting with Mr. Bolkestein, Amsterdam**

On November 5 we met with Mr. Bolkestein, former leader of the Dutch liberal party VVD and former Euro Commissioner in Amsterdam. Our discussion included the Equal Treatment Directive (ETD). In 2008 the European Commission came on own initiative with this legislative proposal to become EU-wide binding law in all 28 EU Member States. It was amended in the European Parliament and adopted a year later. A unanimous vote in the European Council, the EU body composed of Member State’s governments, is required to make it EU law. For already six years no agreement could be reached on this highly controversial directive. The intention of the ETD is to stop discrimination in the provision of goods and services. The reality is that the ETD would turn freedom of contract from the rule to the exception. It would impose excessive bureaucratic burden and legal uncertainty. It would privilege few protected groups at the price of reducing freedom for all other groups. (More info on www.respectfreedom.eu). The issue was dragged up again since Euro Commissioner Timmermans has prioritized reaching agreement on the ETD in the 2016 program of the European Commission.

Type of activity:

4. Develop networks in and between Europe and America
17. Lobby and advocacy
Objectives reached:

3. Act: To discuss the best applications in the various countries and to deploy and advocate them in public debates in other countries.

**NOVEMBER 20 AND 21: TRAINING TBLISI, GEORGIA**

On Saturday a Training workshop was organized on recruiting new members and on planning an election campaign for Christian Democrats (YCD) of Georgia in Tblisi, Caucasus. Being invited in the capacity of Board member of another organization we were asked to also present an introduction of Transatlantic Christian Council.

Type of activity:

1. Develop networks in and between Europe and America
2. Participate in (international) conferences (on invitation and when relevant for our objectives)

Objectives reached:

1. **Connect:** To connect and mutually reinforce networks of Christians from European countries and the U.S. and Canada.
2. **Reflect:** To constitute transatlantic teams of specialists and reflect on several policy areas and come up with concrete recommendations for public policy from a Christian perspective.

**NOVEMBER 26: FUNDRAISING EVENT/CAMPAIGN IN FISHERS’ VILLAGE TCC, URK, NETHERLANDS**

End November a fundraising event was held in a small fisher’s village Urk, in the northern part of the Netherlands. Together with three Dutch senators of 3 different Christian political parties (Sophie van
Bijsterveld - CDA, Roel Kuiper - Christian Union and Diederik van Dijk - SGP) we launched a campaign for raising funds for TCC.

Type of activity:

2. Shape a support base and liaise with them, including fundraising
   8 Opinion articles in newspapers
   9 Contributions to debates via newspaper, radio, television, conferences
   16 Organization of targeted study, information, education, communication meetings on location for the support base and other target groups

Objective reached:

1. **Connect**: To connect and mutually reinforce networks of Christians from European countries and the U.S. and Canada.


This conference brought together more than 400 Project Presenters, Investors, NGO’s and governmental representatives. The conference was a unique opportunity to interact with people from all over the world. Among others, TCC discussed with a Minister of the Cabinet of Republique de Guinee the importance of having implemented and enforced a well working rule of law. This is a prerequisite for starting doing business for many investors. ([W: www.government.nl/backtogrowth2015](http://www.government.nl/backtogrowth2015))

Type of activity:

13. Participate in (international) conferences (on invitation and when relevant for our objectives)

Objective reached:

4. **Building of strategic networks**: To build strategic and connecting networks with target groups and organizations mainly in Europe and North America.

**December**

**December 1 and 2: Attending European Prayer Breakfast and Conference, European Parliament, Brussels**
The annually organized European Prayer Breakfast (EPB) provides an excellent opportunity for networking with people from TCCs target groups involved in public policy. It started with a reception on the evening of December 1 in a building of the European Commission. The next morning the breakfast was held in the building of the European Parliament.

Around the EPB several organizations organized various meetings. TCC was present in the afternoon of December 1 at the ‘Schuman Symposium on Spirituality and Politics’ of the Schuman Centre for European Studies. TCC also attended a conference organized after the breakfast by the European Christian Political Movement (ECPM). Theme was ‘The banking sector and the need for morality above legality’, hosted by MEP Peter van Dalen and with key note speaker Joris Luyendijk, who wrote a critical book on British bankers: ‘Swimming with Sharks: My journey into the world of bankers’.

Late afternoon TCC participated in a meeting in the Humanity House in The Hague. This was the launch in the Netherlands of a petition to the European Politics of the European Federation for Life and Human Dignity ‘One of Us’. This initiative was taken because the European Commission disregarded a citizen initiative, undersigned by more than 2 million people, which called for a stop on research resulting in the elimination of embryo’s.

Type of activity:

1. Develop networks in and between Europe and America
13. Participate in (international) conferences (on invitation and when relevant for our objectives)

Objectives reached:

1. **Connect**: To connect and mutually reinforce networks of Christians from European countries and the U.S. and Canada

4. **Building of strategic networks**: To build strategic and connecting networks with target groups and organizations mainly in Europe and North America.

The worrying Equal Treatment Directive (ETD), recently prioritized in the 2016 program of the European Commission by Euro Commissioner Timmermans, was also discussed in the parliamentary debate on the Dutch EU Presidency. A critical opinion article on the ETD from the hand of Mr. Bolkestein was published on Monday morning December 7 in the Volkskrant, the 3rd biggest newspaper in the Netherlands. The timing couldn’t be better: the debate in Dutch Parliament on the EU and the Dutch Presidency started the same day at 12:30 - 19:00. With Prime Minister Rutte, Foreign Minister Koenders and several Members of the European Parliament as well. Furthermore, the article has been translated in English and went through the European institutions and countries. (http://www.respectfreedom.eu/former-commissioner-bolkestein-etd-is-an-absurd-legislative-proposal/).

Mr. Omtzigt (CDA) brought the opinion article of Mr. Bolkestein in the debate. He asked Prime Minister Rutte if he shared the concerns of his fellow member of the VVD party and if he was prepared to help drop the ETD from the agenda. Such a step backwards would be in line with the stated objective of Euro Commissioner Timmermans to concentrate on main issues, so not on far reaching and highly controversial and divisive issues. It was remarkable that not Mr. Rutte, but Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Koenders (successor on this Ministry of his fellow labour (PvdA) party member Timmermans) answered the question. He said that he had read the article of Mr. Bolkestein. But at the same time that, despite of the persistent debate on the ETD, the Dutch government would continue the discussions in the European Council on the ETD. He didn’t expect that unanimity could be reached on this subject during the Dutch Presidency of the EU. TCC will continue to follow the process with (prepared) questions as what especially VVD Prime Minister but also others will do with and think of this topic. Important questions include what the consequences of the ETD will be for entrepreneurs, why pressing for the contentious directive with so much and long lasting disagreement among Member States, how they see the ETD in light of the subsidiarity principle, the reversal of proof, etc.

Type of activity:

5. Develop networks in and between Europe and America
9. Contributions to debates via newspaper, radio, television, conferences
13. Participate in (international) conferences (on invitation and when relevant for our objectives)
17. Lobby and advocacy

Objectives reached:

3. Act: To discuss the best applications in the various countries and to deploy and advocate them in public debates in other countries.

**DECEMBER 17: APPOINTMENT WITH FORMER CANDIDATE EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER ROCCO BUTTIGLIONE, ROME**
On December 17 TCC had a meeting with Hon. Rocco Buttiglione in Rome. We checked his availability for a speaking position on an event which can be organized in the Netherlands during the Dutch EU-Presidency on a theme related to the content of the Equal Treatment Directive (ETD). Mr. Bolkestein can also be considered as one of the speakers. This can be a follow-up of the (inter)national attention which the newspaper articles of TCC and Mr. Bolkestein got on this topic. ADF has made a translation in English for which we got the authorization of Bolkestein. They have published it on a website and spread it to all kind of players involved. (http://www.respectfreedom.eu/former-commissioner-bolkestein-etd-is-an-absurd-legislative-proposal/).

Type of activity:

1. Develop networks in and between Europe and America

Objective reached:

1. **Connect**: To connect and mutually reinforce networks of Christians from European countries and the U.S. and Canada.
4 INTERNAL ORGANIZATION AND EXTERNAL CONTACT

Chair: Mr. H.J. van Schothorst (the Netherlands), former assistant in the European Parliament, director TCC Europe office:

Secretary/Treasurer: Mr. T.M. Huizinga (US), former US diplomat in Brussels, director TCC U.S. office:

Board member: Ms. Lexmann (Slovakia), Head International Republican Institute (IRI), Office Brussels, former diplomat Slovakia:

During the year 2015 the Board consisted of three persons: Chair: Mr. H.J. van Schothorst (the Netherlands), Secretary/Treasurer: Mr. T.M. Huizinga (US) and Board member: Ms. Lexmann (Slovakia). Via skype and personal meetings they had regular contact. Especially the executives, Mr. van Schothorst on behalf of TCC Europe Office and Mr. Huizinga on behalf of TCC US Office had frequent contact on the implementation of the plans and objectives of TCC. Mr. Huizinga also accepted a job as International Affairs Director at the Acton Institute in Grand Rapids, Michigan, per February 2014. He remained active for TCC US Office. The board members executed their duties unpaid. Per December 31, 2015 Mr. Huizinga and Ms. Lexmann resigned from the board after 3 years of serving the objectives of the organization. TCC has been able to build a transatlantic network with many organizations and persons of the target groups in the transatlantic societies.
5 FINANCE

Stichting Transatlantic Christian Council
Krooslaan 11
2411 ZP Bodegraven
(The Netherlands)

Report concerning the annual account (Financial Statement) 2015
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To the board of
Stichting Transatlantic Christian Council
Krooslaan 11
2411 ZP Bodegraven

Doorn, January 27, 2016
Covered by: A. Hoogenboom

Dear Board,
Hereewith you receive the audit report on the financial year 2014, which includes the financial statement of your stichting. Because of your assignment to us and on the basis of our performed duties we can deposit the following declaration to you.

Accountant’s compilation report
To: client
The financial statements of Stichting Transatlantic Christian Council have been compiled by us using the information provided by you. The financial statements comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December 2015 and the profit and loss account for the year 2015 with the accompanying explanatory notes. These notes include a summary of the accounting policies which have been applied. This compilation engagement has been performed by us in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standard 4410, “Compilation engagements”, which is applicable to accountants. The standard requires us to assist you in the preparation and presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Part 9 of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code. To this end we have applied our professional expertise in accounting and financial reporting.

In a compilation engagement, you are responsible for ensuring that you provide us with all relevant information and that this information is correct. Therefore, we have conducted our work, in accordance with the applicable regulations, on the assumption that you have fulfilled your responsibility. To conclude our work, we have read the financial statements as a whole to consider whether the financial statements as presented correspond with our understanding of Stichting Transatlantic Christian Council. We have not performed any audit or review procedures which would enable us to express an opinion or a conclusion as to the fair presentation of the financial statements.

During this engagement we have complied with the relevant ethical requirements prescribed by the “Verordening Gedrags- en Beroepsregels Accountants” (VGBA). You and other users of these financial statements may therefore assume that we have conducted the engagement in a professional, competent and objective manner and with due care and integrity and that we will treat all information provided to us as confidential.

For further information on the nature and scope of a compilation engagement and the VGBA we refer you to www.nba.nl/uitleg-samenstellingsverklaring.
General

Definition of objectives

About the objective of the stichting the following is defined in article 2 of the statutes:

The Mission Statement of the stichting is:

a. to develop a transatlantic public policy network of European and North American Christians and conservatives in order to promote the civic good, as understood within the Judeo-Christian tradition on which our societies are largely based;

b. to influence public policy on both sides of the Atlantic from a Christian and politically conservative perspective, with the broad objective of fostering and protecting the greatest achievements of our political systems: limited government, the free market and individual liberty, especially religious freedom and freedom of education, with the family as the foundational building block of society; c. to carry out all further activities, which are connected in the broadest sense with the aforementioned or which are useful for that purpose.

The stichting aims to reach its objective by (Means):

a. bringing together Christians and conservatives and to function as a transatlantic actor and connector and initiator for analyzing public policies and social trends;

b. promotion and facilitating of both reflection and action among a wide variety of like-minded people involved in public life;

c. all other lawful means, which can be useful for bringing to fruition of the foundations objective.

Establishment foundation

According to the act d.d. January 28, 2013, done before notary mr. Willem van Leussen, the foundation was established per the date mentioned.

Statutory data

Stichting Transatlantic Christian Council is statutory based in Bodegraven and registered at the Chamber of Commerce (KvK) under number: 57090181 (RSIN (Fiscal Number): 8524 33 979).

Board and management in 2015

Chair: H.J. van Schothorst (the Netherlands)
Secretary/Treasurer: T.M. Huizinga (United States of America)
Member: M. Lexmann (Slovak Republic)

Huizinga and Lexmann have resigned from the Board per December 31, 2015.
Multiannual overview

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<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
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<td>1,333</td>
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<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital of the Stichting</td>
<td>-3,455</td>
<td>-7,168</td>
<td>-21,730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long term-debts</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-term debts</td>
<td>3,455</td>
<td>5,501</td>
<td>22,240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>1,333</td>
<td>510</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Benefits</strong></td>
<td>23,441</td>
<td>43,345</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net result</strong></td>
<td>3,713</td>
<td>14,562</td>
<td>-21,730</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We trust that we have served you well and are will be glad to provide you with further explanation.

Sincerely,
Van Ree Accountants and Taxadvisors BV (BV = Limited Liability Company)

Drs. A.H.J. Kraaij
Chartered legal executive
Management Report

Objective - The mission of TCC is the development of a transatlantic network of mainly American and European people involved in public policy with the aim to further Christian principles in our societies and in public policy. TCC influences public policy mainly on international level at international organizations from a Christian perspective. Subsidiarity, where a higher authoritative source should not do which can be done by lower authoritative sources, is a leading principle. With the approach of core task oriented governments TCC aims to protect Christian freedoms such as freedom of religion and education and free enterprise and markets with the family as the foundational building block of society. Protection of the position of Christians is an important goal.

Strategy - TCC connects Christians in a transatlantic network, reflects on public policy and brings the best practices in the public debate and in the process of the shaping of directives and polices by governments and at international organizations. It develops strategic networks with partners on both sides of the ocean and builds local capacity. TCC exists three years now and has made a good start. Important milestones were the inaugural conference in Brussels on December 4, 2013 and the events in the Library of Congress and the Capitol in Washington DC from 10-12 September 2014. In 2015 TCC has concentrated on research and accreditation at international organizations as the United Nations (UN) in New York and Geneva, European Institutions as the European Union (EU) in Brussels and Strasbourg, the Organization for Security and Cooperation (OSCE) in Vienna and Warsaw and the Organization for American States (OAS) in Washington D.C.

Results - By invitation and on own initiative TCC has actively spread its ideas in Europe and North America. In Christian circles and beyond, to politicians, academics, diplomats, government officials, businessmen, NGOs, journalists, think tanks and supporters. TCC focused on pressurized freedoms like freedom of education and religion, the family and security. It appeared that TCC was a welcome transatlantic connector of Christians involved in public life and effective networks were built. With further action through media and input to politicians etc, public policy from a Christian perspective was protected and promoted. For a list of concrete and implemented activities and publicity we refer to the Annual Report 2015 below, which is also published on our website.

Evaluation - In 2015 the focus of TCCs activities extended, next to vision development, to advocacy and lobby. With this a more complete and targeted application was given to the statutory objectives, in particular in giving more specific substance to the verbs: develop, promote, influence, encourage and protect. This will lead to an update of the type of activities as mentioned in the multi-annual policy plan 2014-2016. Advocacy and lobbying activities are added. These types of activities do already exist, but with specifically mention and embody them the transatlantic network can work in an even more practical and effective way on the implementation of its objectives. So a main niche area of work develops in the direction of international organizations with focus on areas as life, family and freedoms as freedom of religion and education.

ANBI (tax exempt status obtained) - A significant part of the start-up capital has been used for the 2.5 year judicial process with the tax authority to get tax exempt status. This summer the Court of Second Appeal found hundred percent in favor of TCC. The main issue was whether TCC in strengthening the democratic Rule of Law from a Christian perspective did serve the common good (position TCC) or the particular interests of a particular group of society, namely Christians (position Tax Authority). As opposed to TCC the Tax Authority put in place Amnesty International (an organization acting from a secular perspective) as norm and example. In their view Amnesty International promoted the democratic rule of law impartially, and thereby, as opposed to TCC, did serve the common good pre-eminently. With this the court case became a clash of worldviews and basic rights and got national media attention. We are happy, also for other organizations with a Christian or another worldview, that the three-headed Court of Second Appeal found fully in favor of the position of TCC. Following the verdict TCC completely aims for the common good in all its objectives, finances and actual activities.

Outlook for 2016 - Now, released from the chokehold of the condemned tax authority which hold TCC hostage from its establishment, TCC aims to develop further and will march on with the further implementation of its objectives. Special attention will also be given to fundraising. The result of January 2016, in which TCC received €6.000, is a promising start of a new period for TCC.

Bodegraven, January 27, 2016
H. J. van Schothorst,
Chairman Transatlantic Christian Council
Balance per December 31, 2015
(after result allocation)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31 December 2015</th>
<th>31 December 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>€</td>
<td>€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Liquid assets</em></td>
<td><strong>58</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,333</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>58</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,333</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31 December 2015</td>
<td>31 December 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital of the Stichting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other reserve assets</td>
<td>-3.455</td>
<td>-7.168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long term-debts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other debts</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-term debts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debts to suppliers and trade credits</td>
<td>2.605</td>
<td>2.236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other liabilities</td>
<td>908</td>
<td>3.265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.513</td>
<td>5.501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>1,333</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Account Status of benefits and costs on 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31 December 2015</th>
<th>31 December 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Benefits</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations and benefits from fundraising Benefits</td>
<td>23.441</td>
<td>17.552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transatlantic Christian Council</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>America</td>
<td>:</td>
<td>25.793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23.441</td>
<td>23.441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Costs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project costs</td>
<td>17.404</td>
<td>21.427</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other operational costs</td>
<td>2.324</td>
<td>7.356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sum of operational costs</strong></td>
<td>19.728</td>
<td>28.783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net result</strong></td>
<td>3.713</td>
<td>14.562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Result allocation</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other reserves</td>
<td>3.713</td>
<td>14.562</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Cash flow overview on 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31 December 2015</th>
<th>31 December 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash flow out of operational activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating result</td>
<td>3.713</td>
<td>14.562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Change in operating capital</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-term debts (excluding banks)</td>
<td>-1.988</td>
<td>-16.739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash flow from financing activities</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase long-term debts</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Release long-term debts</td>
<td>-3.000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in funds</td>
<td>-1.275</td>
<td>823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Process change in funds</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance per start financial year</td>
<td>1.333</td>
<td>510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes in financial year</td>
<td>-1.275</td>
<td>823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance per end financial year</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>1.333</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Principles of valuation and determination of results

Principles of valuation of assets and liabilities

General
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the policies set out in RJK-C1, Richtlijn Jaarrekening Kleine Organisaties- zonder-winststreven: Directive Organizations without profit endeavor. The valuation of assets and liabilities are based on historical costs. Unless otherwise stated in the notes on specific balance sheet items, the assets and liabilities are stated at nominal value.

Principles for the determination of results

General
The result is determined as the difference between income (grants and other income) and all connected charges attributable to the year on which is reported. The costs are determined in accordance with the valuation principles set out above. The income and expenses are allocated to the reporting period to which they relate.

Donations and income from fundraising
Donations and fundraising income are attributed to the reporting period to which they relate.

Accounting principles for the cash flow statement
The cash flow statement has been prepared using the indirect method. The funds in the cash flow statement consist of cash. Cash flows in foreign currencies are translated at an estimated average rate. Exchange rate differences, revenue and expenditure under interest and income taxes are included in cash flow from operating activities.
Explanatory note on the Balance sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current assets</th>
<th>31-12-2015</th>
<th>31-12-2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liquid assets</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rabobank</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>1.333</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th>31-12-2015</th>
<th>31-12-2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance per January 1</td>
<td>-7.168</td>
<td>-21.730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From result sharing</td>
<td>3.713</td>
<td>14.562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance per December 31</td>
<td>-3.455</td>
<td>-7.168</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Long-term debts</th>
<th>31-12-2015</th>
<th>31-12-2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other debts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loan Stichting A.</td>
<td></td>
<td>-3.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance per January 1</td>
<td>3.000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absorbed in financial year</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Release in favor of the result</td>
<td>-3.000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance per December 31</td>
<td>3.000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This relates to a loan granted on September 23, 2014 by Stichting A. On the duration and interest are no appointments / provisions.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31-12-2015</th>
<th>31-12-2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short-term debts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>€</td>
<td>€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debts to suppliers and trade credits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creditors</td>
<td>2,605</td>
<td>2,236</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other liabilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accountancy costs</td>
<td>908</td>
<td>606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs for advice</td>
<td>:</td>
<td>2,659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>908</td>
<td>3,265</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Explanation on the statement of income and expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31-12-2015</th>
<th>31-12-2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations and income from fundraising</td>
<td>23.441</td>
<td>17.552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income Transatlantic Council America</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>25.793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>23.441</td>
<td>43.354</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31-12-2015</th>
<th>31-12-2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Donations and income from fundraising</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>23.441</td>
<td>17.552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income Transatlantic Council America</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>25.793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income 2013</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>19.553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income 2014</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6.240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income 2013/14</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>25.793</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31-12-2015</th>
<th>31-12-2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Project expenditure</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various expenditure within the context of the objective</td>
<td>17.404</td>
<td>18.407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs booth ‘Wegwijs’ Familyfair</td>
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<td>-3.020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Project Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>17.404</td>
<td>21.427</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Wages Board

The board members perform their tasks without salary

### Other operational costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31-12-2015</th>
<th>31-12-2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office costs</td>
<td>896</td>
<td>1.693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General costs</td>
<td>1.428</td>
<td>5.663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Office Costs</strong></td>
<td>2.324</td>
<td>7.356</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31-12-2015</th>
<th>31-12-2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Telephone costs</td>
<td>896</td>
<td>1.014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs website</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printed material</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Other Operational Costs</strong></td>
<td>896</td>
<td>1.693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item</td>
<td>31-12-2015</td>
<td>31-12-2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General costs</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs for advice</td>
<td>2.902</td>
<td>4.737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accountancy costs</td>
<td>907</td>
<td>606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various costs</td>
<td>685</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank costs</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fixed restitution tax authority</td>
<td>- 3.259</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1.428</strong></td>
<td><strong>5.663</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PUBLICITY

News coverage

TCC has been mentioned in national newspapers several times:

HTTP://WWW.REFDAG.NL/NIEUWS/POLITIEK/CHRISTELIJKE_ORGANISATIES_VRAGEN_JUNCKER_RICHTLIJN_GELIJKE_BEHANDELING_IN_TE_TREKKEN_1_874056

CHRISTELIJKE ORGANISATIES VRAGEN JUNCKER RICHTLIJN GELIJKE BEHANDELING IN TE TREKKEN

02-12-2014 10:18 | Redactie buitenland

Juncker, beeld AFP

Een groep van honderd voornamelijk christelijke organisaties vraagt de Europese Commissie om een voorgenomen richtlijn voor "gelijke behandeling" in te trekken.

De organisaties uiten hun zorgen vandaag in een open brief aan de nieuwe Commissievoorzitter Juncker. Die had zijn vicevoorzitter Timmermans opdracht gegeven „binnen drie maanden” hangende voorstellen te herzien.

Volgens de groep van organisaties uit de breedte van de Europese Unie komt de richtlijn voor gelijke behandeling in aanmerking voor heroverweging en eigenlijk intrekking. Oorspronkelijk zou het voorstel in 2008 zijn bedoeld om de discriminatie van gehandicapten tegen te gaan. Maar gaandeweg werd de ontwerprichtlijn steeds meer een kapstok om politieke doelen te bereiken.

De auteurs van de open brief waarschuwen vooral voor de bedreiging van de contractvrijheid. Die zou zich voordoen zodra bakkers, bloemisten of drukkers niet meer vrij zijn opdrachten te weigeren. Vooral in Groot-Brittannië hebben zich voorbeelden voorgedaan van middenstanders die door homo-organisaties werden gevraagd promotiemateriaal voor het homohuwelijk te produceren. Zodra ze weigerden kregen ze te maken met juridische klachten.

Volgens de brief zal de uitvoering van de richtlijn onvermijdelijk leiden tot inbreuk op burgerlijke en economische vrijheden.

Het voortouw in het schrijven van de brief werd genomen door European Dignity Watch, die zich bij de EU-instellingen inzet voor prolifergerelateerde zaken. De andere organisaties achter de open brief zijn daar veelal aan verwant. Er zitten diverse verenigingen voor gezinsbelangen bij. Vanuit Nederland hebben de VGS, RMU en de Transatlantic Christian Council de brief ondertekend. Ook diverse nationale vertegenwoordigingen van de Evangelische Alliantie staan onder de brief, alsmede de Free Church of Scotland.
Vanuit Duitsland heeft niet één organisatie het pleidooi ondertekenend. Dit is opvallend, omdat juist in de Bondsdag al eerder protest heeft geklonken tegen deze ontwerprichtlijn.

[http://www.digibron.nl/search/detail/e0ba166d6a86e86e7ba3a279ffe50d5/strijd-tussen-fiscus-en-tcc-nadert-zijn-ontknooping](http://www.digibron.nl/search/detail/e0ba166d6a86e86e7ba3a279ffe50d5/strijd-tussen-fiscus-en-tcc-nadert-zijn-ontknooping)

9 mei 2015 Reformatorisch Dagblad:

**STRIJD TUSSEN FICUS EN TCC NADERT ZIJN ONTKNOPING**

**BODEGRAVEN.** Al 820 dagen duurt het steekspel tussen de Belastingdienst en de Transatlantic Christian Council (TCC). Naar verwachting velt de rechter komende week een oordeel over de vraag of de christelijk-conservatieve stichting de fiscaal lucratieve ANBI-status verdient.

Al sinds de Belastingdienst in 2013 de aanvraag van TCC om aangemerkt te worden als een Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling (ANBI) weigerde, probeert oprichter Henk Jan van Schothorst de „onjuiste veronderstellingen“ van de fiscus te weerleggen.


Om de ANBI-status te verkrijgen, waardoor onder meer giften fiscaal aftrekbaar worden, zijn sinds 2010 twee punten van belang. Niet alleen moeten sindsdien de doelstellingen van de aanvrager primair gericht zijn op het algemeen belang, ook de werkzaamheden moeten daaraan voor zeker 90 procent bijdragen.

Hoewel de Belastingdienst TCC op allebei deze punten de ANBI-status had onthouden, oordeelde de Haagse rechter dat de levensbeschouwelijke doelstellingen van de christelijk-conservatieve stichting wel degelijk gericht zijn op het algemeen belang. Maar omdat enkele uitgavenposten de rechter niet geheel duidelijk waren –er ontbrak een enkel bonnetje– bleef de “90-procentseis” niettemin een blokkade om de ANBI-status toe te wijzen.

Zowel TCC als de Belastingdienst ging daarop in hoger beroep, waarover komende week een uitspraak wordt verwacht.

Van Schothorst tekende beroep aan om de rechter ervan te overtuigen dat wel degelijk alle uitgaven van TCC gericht zijn op het algemeen belang en de ANBI-status dus gewoon verleend moet worden.

Volgens Van Schothorst is, met alles wat er nu aan processtukken op tafel ligt, de afgelopen tweeënhalf jaar „een minutieuze röntgenscan” van TCC gemaakt. „En dat is prima, want wij hebben niets te verbergen. Er is geen gaatje, geen lek, geen onrechtmatigheid te vinden. Niet in onze doelstellingen, niet in onze werkzaamheden, niet in onze financiën.”

Van Schothorst voelt zich in zijn positie gesterket nadat prof. Sigrid Hemels de eerdere uitspraak van de rechtbank vorig jaar in het Nederlands Tijdschrift voor Fiscaal Recht „volstrekt onvoldoende gemotiveerd” heeft genoemd. Ook gaf ze aan te hopen dat de rechter met „een goed onderbouwde en uitgebreide motivering” komt.

De Belastingdienst ging echter ook in beroep, omdat hij nog steeds vindt dat TCC, wat betreft haar doelstelling en haar werkzaamheden, het label ANBI niet waardig is. Volgens de fiscus is TCC een „lobbyclub” die het algemeen
belang niet bevordert, maar dit slechts „beïnvloeden wil” door haar opvattingen aan anderen „over te dragen en op te leggen.”

Door haar conservatief-christelijke gedachtegoed te verspreiden en de politiek te beïnvloeden, worden volgens de fiscus door TCC vooral „de particuliere belangen van haar bestuurders en het door hen aangehangen gedachtegoed gediend” en niet het algemeen belang. Ook zet TCC haar gedachtegoed volgens de Belastingdienst onvoldoende om in activiteiten.

Allemaal redenen die TCC in haar jongste verweerschrift verwerpt. Waarom zou het uitdragen van een bepaald gedachtegoed, om daarmee de democratische rechtsorde te bevorderen, opeens niet in het algemeen belang zijn, stelt de stichting. „Politieke partijen doen feitelijk niet anders.”

Hoewel Van Schothorst het wachten beu is, wil hij toch „strijdvaardig” doorgaan. „De Belastingdienst werpt ons voor de voeten niet onpartijdig en onafhankelijk te zijn vanwege ons christelijke perspectief, terwijl het seculier georiënteerde Amnesty International dat volgens hem wel is. Zoiets onderstrept juist het belang van het bestaan van TCC. Als ons op zulke gronden de ANBI-status onthouden wordt, dan ontstaat daarmee mogelijk jurisprudentie om ook de vele andere christelijk georiënteerde stichtingen aan te pakken. Daarmee is deze zaak eigenlijk op zichzelf al een binnen onze doelstellingen passende activiteit geworden.”

HTTP://WWW.REFDAG.NL/NIEUWS/ECONOMIE/CHRISTELIJKE_LOBBYCLUB_EN_DENKTANK_TCC_KRIJGT_ANBI_STATUS_1_915485

CHRISTELIJKE LOBBYCLUB EN DENKTANK TCC KRIJGT ANBI-STATUS

29-05-2015 18:35 | Redactie economie

Het gebouw van de Belastingdienst in Apeldoorn. beeld ANP

Na een gevecht van tweeënhalf jaar moet de Belastingdienst de christelijke lobbyclub en denktank Transatlantic Christian Council (TCC) aanmerken als een Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling (ANBI).

Dat blijkt uit een uitspraak van het gerechtshof van Den Haag deze week. TCC-oprichter Henk Jan van Schothorst uit Bodegraven meldde dit gisteren. Samen met de Amerikaan Todd Huizinga richtte hij in 2012 TCC op om overheidsbeleid vanuit christelijk perspectief te beïnvloeden, met het gezin als hoeksteen van de samenleving.

In de uitspraak van het hof wordt TCC volledig in het gelijk gesteld. De ANBI-status geldt met terugwerkende kracht vanaf 7 februari 2013. Dat betekent dat donateurs alsnog hun giften aan TCC kunnen aftrekken van de belasting.

Hoeveel geld van potentiële gevers TCC heeft gemist, kan Van Schothorst niet zeggen. Het juridische gevecht kostte TCC naar schatting 15.000 à 20.000 euro.

De uitspraak is volgens hem niet alleen van belang voor TCC, maar ook voor allerlei andere christelijke organisaties. „Wij streven de bevordering van de democratische rechtsorde na vanuit een christelijk georiënteerd perspectief. Hetzelfde doet Amnesty International, maar dan vanuit een seculier vertrekpunt. Juist dat de Belastingdienst Amnesty wel en TCC niet ANBI-waardig achtte, moet alarmbellen doen rinkelen in politiek Den Haag en bij andere christelijke organisaties.”

Naar de reden waarom de Belastingdienst zich zo verzette tegen de ANBI-status van TCC, kan Van Schothorst alleen maar gissen. „Ik kan niet uitsluiten dat het vanwege onze christelijke grondslag was.” Mogelijk speelt ook het streven van de dienst om het aantal ANBI’s terug te dringen een rol.

Van Schothorst zegt „God dankbaar te zijn” voor de uitspraak van het Haagse gerechtshof. „Ondertussen heeft de Belastingdienst een geweldige draai om de oren gekregen, die hij zichzelf en ons had kunnen besparen.”

- HTTP://WWW.DIGIBRON.NL/SEARCH/DETAIL/ED1A77D703B482D22B9F3885097BFD70/NIETS-DOEN-VOOR-HET-GEZIN-IS-GEEN-OPTIE/726DBA5E-3934-F68E-5EA5-0E31AB20DD5D

30 October 2015 Reformatorisch Dagblad:

„NIETS DOEN VOOR HET GEZIN IS GEEN OPTIE”

Henk Jan van Schothorst. beeld RD, André Dorst

SALT LAKE CITY. Bijbelse gezinswaarden staan wereldwijd onder druk. Tegelijkertijd komen christenen volgens Henk Jan van Schothorst te weinig op voor hun belangen. „We kunnen het ons niet veroorloven om aan de zijlijn te staan.”

Zo’n 3000 christenen uit ruim 50 landen denken deze week in het Amerikaanse Salt Lake City na over de positie van het gezin tijdens het negende World Congress of Families. Veel sprekers roepen op tot actie. Maar tegelijkertijd klinkt ook de klacht over de apathie waarin veel gelovigen verkeren.
Die klacht uit ook Henk Jan van Schothorst. Als vertegenwoordiger van Transatlantic Christian Council (TCC) is hij aanwezig op het congres in Salt Lake City. Zijn organisatie ontwikkelt een trans-Atlantisch netwerk van christenen die betrokken zijn bij overheidsbeleid en probeert dat beleid te beïnvloeden.

„Ik bespeur bij christenen een bepaalde gelatenheid. Een gevoel van: dit overkomt ons nu eenmaal. Als de overstroming komt doen we de deur op slot, in de hoop dat het water wel langs ons huis zal stromen. Dat is fout. We hebben een gezamenlijke verantwoordelijkheid. Die moeten we niet alleen voelen, maar ook nemen.” Dat laatste gebeurt veel te weinig, meent Van Schothorst. „We hebben op dit vlak veel laten liggen. Er heerst te veel defaitisme. Het is volgens velen velen alleen maar vechten tegen de bierkaai. Maar daar ben ik het niet mee eens. Ik geloof in het credo “bid en werk”. Bidden is heel belangrijk, maar werken niet minder.”

Over het World Congress of Families is Van Schothorst positief. „Het is bemoedigend, opbouwend en wederzijdens versterkend. En ook mooi om te zien dat zo veel mensen de drive hebben om voor de belangen van het gezin te komen. De kracht ligt erin deze initiatieven met elkaar te verbinden en te vertalen naar overheidsbeleid.”

Gezien alle bedreigingen die er op het traditionele gezin afkomen is dringende actie geboden, vindt Van Schothorst. „Er staat te veel op het spel. We kunnen het ons niet veroorloven aan de zijlijn te staan. We moeten het speelveld betreden.”

Van Schothorst wijst in het bijzonder op plannen vanuit de Verenigde Naties om breed seksueel onderwijs op scholen te verplichten. „Alle kinderen moeten alle vormen van seksualiteit aangeboden krijgen. Seksuele handelingen die te erg zijn om over te praten worden uitgebreid beschreven. Allemaal bedoeld om de lobby voor het niet-natuurlijke gezin tevreden te stellen. Je kunt wel stellen dat die zijn huiswerk beter heeft gedaan dan wij.

Wat wij als christenen vinden is inmiddels abnormaal geworden. Christelijke normen worden geherformuleerd naar een dwingend opgelegde en seculiere gelijkheidsideologie. Het is de hoogste tijd dat wij de christelijke norm terugvorderen en er op zijn minst voor zorgen dat die weer als gelijkwaardig wordt beschouwd.”

Is dit niet een achterhoedegevecht, of valt er echt nog iets te winnen?

„Niets doen is geen optie. Ik weet niet of we dit gevecht gaan winnen en ook niet hoelang de strijd zal duren. In het Oostblok zijn ouders ook jarenlang de zeggenschap over hun gezin kwijt geweest aan de staat. Daar is ook verandering in gekomen. Dat kan bij ons ook. Ik weiger als ouder akkoord te gaan met een stilzwijgende machtsoverdracht in de opvoeding. Daarvoor is het doel te belangrijk.

Donderdag vindt er op Urk een bijeenkomst plaats met als motto ‘Op de bres’. Het is de start van een actie tegen de invoering van de Europese richtlijn gelijke behandeling. Namens de Transatlantic Christian Council (TCC) trekt Henk Jan van Schothorst de kar.

1 Waarom trekt u ten strijde tegen ‘gelijke behandeling in Europa’?

‘Volgend jaar is Nederland voorzitter van de Europese Unie. Eurocommissaris Frans Timmermans heeft invoering van de Europese richtlijn gelijke behandeling als prioriteit opgenomen in het werkprogramma van de Europese Commissie voor 2016. Dan zal de EU-wetgeving rondom antidiscriminatie ook gelden voor aanbieders van goederen en diensten.’

2 Waarom is die Europese richtlijn gelijke behandeling zo gevaarlijk?

‘De EU-richtlijn stelt gelijkheid boven godsdienst- en gewetensvrijheid. Het is een seculiere norm. We kunnen in het Verenigd Koninkrijk en Amerika zien waartoe dat leidt: naast het verbod op de gewetensbezwaarde ambtenaar treft de beoogde richtlijn nu ook gewone, hardwerkende ondernemers. Bakkers, bloemisten en pensionhouders moeten dan alles leveren waar de klant om vraagt, ook felicitatiekaartjes bij een boeket. En dit is nog maar het topje van de ijsberg met wat komen gaat met de nieuwe EU-richtlijn. Tegenactie is geboden.’

3 Wat is uw persoonlijke insteek bij dit initiatief?

‘Mijn perspectief is dat van een voormalig medewerker in het Europees Parlement. Daar ervaar je aan den lijve de massieve en goed georganiseerde vloedgolf van seculier gedreven ideologische tegenstanders. Ik vind die nieuwe Europese richtlijn uitermate gevaarlijk. Daarom zet ik mij met hart en ziel in voor een lobby die zich daartegen keert. Wij moeten ons als christenen verbinden. Nationaal en internationaal. In de praktijk werk ik aan het ontwikkelen van een netwerk en
mogelijkheden om beleid actief te beïnvloeden bij overheden en internationale organisaties als de Verenigde Naties, de Europese Unie en de Organisatie voor Veiligheid en Samenwerking in Europa. Het gaat om de ruimte om in je beroep, ook als ondernemer, christen te kunnen zijn.'

4 Waarom gaat uw actie donderdag in Urk van start?

‘De christelijke waarden staan in het dorp hoog in het vaandel, ook in het publieke domein. We mogen in Nederland best trots zijn op Urk. Naast hulpverlener Krijn de Jong en ik spreken de senatoren Diederik van Dijk van de SGP, Roel Kuiper van de ChristenUnie en Sophie van Bijsterveld van het CDA. Zij vertellen hoe zij in de politiek met dreigende inperking van vrijheden voor christenen geconfronteerd worden en omgaan.’

5 In Nederland hebben we toch ook al decennialang de Wet Gelijke Behandeling?

‘Zeker. Net als in andere landen hebben wij een op de Nederlandse situatie toegesneden regelgeving, maar waarbij vrijheid van geweten nog meetelt. Niemand is erin geslaagd ook maar de minste noodzaak van invoering van de nieuwe Europese richtlijn aan te tonen. Unanimiteit onder de EU-lidstaten is nodig om deze richtlijn aangenomen te krijgen. Maar er is ook unanimiteit nodig om de richtlijn weer te wijzigen. We hebben maar één lidstaat nodig die tegenstemt en de richtlijn is van de baan. Laten we er met elkaar voor zorgen dat ook Nederland tegenstemt.’

6 Waarom zou je als christelijke bakker geen huwelijkstaart voor een homostel bakken? Je bent daarmee toch niet voor die manier van samenleven?

‘Het gaat erom dat je niet gedwongen wordt goederen of diensten aan te bieden die tegen je geloof of geweten indruisen. Zoals het nu vaak gebeurt, is dat de anti-natuurlijk-gezin-lobby ondernemers opzettelijk in een situatie brengt waarvan zij weten dat de ondernemers de opdracht niet met hun geweten kunnen overeenkomen, en hen dan aanklagen. Met de nieuwe richtlijn zijn die ondernemers dan schuldig, tenzij ze hun onschuld kunnen aantonen.’

7 Moet een christelijke pompbediende een lesbisch echtpaar niet laten tanken?


Henk Jan van Schothorst: ‘In de Verenigde Staten, maar ook in het Verenigd Koninkrijk, woeden al jaren rechtszaken tegen bijvoorbeeld christelijke bakkerijen die geen bruidstaarten wilden maken voor homostellen.’
APELDOORN. Als het aan de Nederlandse Eurocommissaris Timmermans ligt, voeren de EU-lidstaten de richtlijn gelijke behandeling in. De Transatlantic Christian Council (TCC) waarschuwt. „Door de vage bewoordingen zou het kunnen gebeuren dat een islamitische slager straks varkens moet slachten.


De EU-richtlijn zal de opvolger zijn van de Nederlandse Algemene wet gelijke behandeling. „De regel wordt van kracht zodra de Europese Raad (de bijeenkomst van regeringsleiders, EvV) deze anneemt”, aldus Van Schothorst.

Maar zover is het nog niet. „De richtlijn vereist instemming van alle 28 lidstaten. Omdat er weerstand is, ligt hij al sinds 2009 bij de Raad. Maar Timmermans heeft in het programma van de Europese Commissie gesteld dat dit een prioriteit voor 2016 is.”

Wat is uw bezwaar tegen gelijke behandeling?


Er is ook gewetensdwang, omdat ondernemers worden gedwongen tegen hun geweten in te gaan. In Noorderland is een bakker veroordeeld omdat hij geen taart wilde maken met reclame voor het homohuwelijk.

Officieel verbiedt de EU-richtlijn discriminatie op vier punten: handicap, godsdienst, leeftijd en seksuele voorkeur. In de praktijk in Amerika en Groot-Brittannië zie je dat rechters alle punten nuanceren, behalve seksuele geaardheid. De lobby tegen het natuurlijke gezin is machtig.”

Maar het doel van de EU is toch de diversiteit te beschermen?

„Ervaringen in Amerika en Groot-Brittannië leren dat zulke regels de diversiteit juist bedreigen. ”

Past dit voorstel in de opdracht aan Timmermans, om alles te schrappen wat niet noodzakelijk op Europees niveau hoeft te gebeuren?
“Dat moet hijzelf beantwoorden. Maar elke weidenkende Nederlander snapt natuurlijk dat dit niet bij zijn opdracht past.”

GEZINSGIDS, AUGUSTUS 2015: EVEN BELLEN MET ... HENK JAN VAN SCHOOTHORST — ‘WE MOGEN NOOIT HET HOOFD IN DE SCHOOT LEGGEN.’

HTTP://WWW.TCCOUNCIL.ORG/SITES/DEFAULT/FILES/DEFINITIEF%20ARTIKEL%20GEZINSGIS.DS.PDF

Aanzet – In het nieuws | Transatlantic Christian Council – tekst: A.P. Proos

Thema's TCC:


Belastingdienst – Ook is er verschil van mening met de belastingdienst over de ANBI-status (door deze regeling worden giften voor goede doelen fiscaal aftrekbaar). De Belastingdienst wordt steeds strenger in het toekennen van die status. Dat hebben Bijbelschool de Wittenberg en het Katholiek Nieuwsblad ook ondervonden..

Even bellen met ... Henk Jan van Schothorst

“We mogen nooit het hoofd in de schoot leggen”

Zeven jaar werkte Henk Jan van Schothorst als beleidsmedewerker in het Europees Parlement. Tot zijn verbijstering zag hij de links-liberale (seculiere) groeperingen daar het ene na het andere winstpunt boeken. Als reactie daarop richtte hij samen met Todd Huizinga de Transatlantic Christian Council (TCC) op.

Hoe kwam het dat veel seculiere wetsvoorstellen een meerderheid haalden?
„Ik ontdekte dat de lobbyclubs uit hun geledingen goed georganiseerd waren en overal invloed uitoefenden. De liberale en progressieve belangen werden dus goed geregeld door allerlei organisaties. Christelijke partijen doen goed hun werk, maar zijn internationaal veel minder verbonden en georganiseerd. Samen met Todd Huizinga richtte ik daarom de Transatlantic Christian Council op. Dat leverde een felle strijd op met de Belastingdienst, die tot het hoogste niveau bestreed dat de TCC een goed doel was. De financiële positie en het voortbestaan van de organisatie hingen aan een zijden draad. Vorige maand werd de TCC op alle punten in het gelijk gesteld en kwam toch de erkenning.”
U bent vast blij met de uitspraak van de rechter?
„Mijn belangrijkste gevoel is toch vooral dankbaarheid. Als je begint met een organisatie om christelijke waarden te verdedigen, moet je rekenen op tegenstand. Maar dat die tegenstand vanuit de Nederlandse overheid (Belastingdienst) zou komen, had ik niet verwacht. Tweeënhalf jaar zijn alle doelstellingen, activiteiten en financiële stukken doorgeplaatst. Dat er na die tijd geen enkel foutje is gevonden, maakt me wel dankbaar. Ook voor mensen die ons willen steunen, geeft dit vertrouwen voor de toekomst. We kunnen nu eindelijk inzetten op fondsenwerving.”

Wat voor activiteiten onderneemt u namens de TCC?
„Wij proberen overal de christelijke grondrechten en vrijheden te verdedigen. Zo was ik onlangs in Genève bij een vergadering van de Verenigde Naties. Daar werd gediscussieerd over het recht op leven en hoe daar binnen de VN over gedacht wordt. Daar ging het ook over het recht op abortus en euthanasie. Internationale organisaties mochten daar het woord voeren. Ik heb daar een pleidooi gevoerd voor de beschermwaardigheid van het leven. Dan ontdekte je dat bij de VN ook christenen uit andere landen werken die blij zijn dat dit geluid óók klinkt.”

Hoe ziet u de toekomst van uw organisatie voor u?
„Wij strijden voor de erkenning van onze organisatie als gesprekspartner van overheden en internationale organisaties, zodat we overal kunnen opkomen voor de goede, christelijke waarden. Ook willen we internationaal de krachten tussen christenen en christelijke organisaties bundelen. Als christenen hebben we de taak het goede te bevorderen en het slechte tegen te gaan. We mogen nooit het hoofd in de schoot leggen en zeggen ‘het wordt allemaal slechter’. We moeten daadkrachtig en zeker staan voor ons christelijke verhaal. Het is toch bidden én werken?”