

## Press release

### *VNO-NCW donates 45,000 euros to Stichting Lezen & Schrijven*

THE HAGUE, 12 JANUARY 2005 – The [Confederation of Netherlands Industry and Employers](#), VNO-NCW, has donated 45,300 euros to *Stichting Lezen & Schrijven*. On Wednesday, the chair of the Foundation, H.R.H. Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands accepted the donation from the chairman of the VNO-NCW, Jacques Schraven. The donation originates from the Fund '100 years VNO-NCW'. *Stichting Lezen & Schrijven* intends to use this donation for the development and distribution of a 'tool kit' which companies will be able to use to tackle low literacy skills on the work floor.

During the presentation of the donation, Jacques Schraven said that he was shocked by the extent to which low literacy skills were a problem in the Netherlands. "In a developed and prosperous country like the Netherlands, no-one should be allowed to be handicapped by being unable to read and write. In our civilisation, we should feel obliged to ensure that everyone is fully able to participate in society. Having a good command of the language, both verbal and written, is an important precondition for this."

The Fund '100 years VNO-NCW' was established by its members in 1999 on the occasion of its hundred year anniversary. Twice a year the Fund gives a donation of 45,300 euros (previously 100,000 guilders). One donation is given to an activity which promotes entrepreneurship in the broadest sense of the word. The other donation is given to an activity which aims to be of social benefit to the whole of society.

The objective of *Stichting Lezen & Schrijven* is to embed literacy teaching in an innovative and targeted way throughout society. The Foundation hopes to prevent and reduce illiteracy and semi-literacy by initiating concrete projects and bringing public and private organisations together.

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