

## Press release

The Hague, 9th August 2006

### **Dolf de Vries opens Taal Centraal (Language Central) at Schiphol Plaza**

**On Thursday 10th August, writer and actor Dolf de Vries will open the photographic exhibition Taal Centraal by Stichting Lezen & Schrijven at Schiphol Plaza. He does this together with Herman de Boorder, who has learnt how to read and write at a later age. Taal Centraal is a photographic exhibition on daily forms of reading. Goal of the exhibition is drawing attention to low literacy in the Netherlands.**

The photographs show various situations. One person at home with a book on the couch, the other one reading at a bus stop, or simply with a newspaper on the train, off to work. It is special that such an exhibition can be seen at the busily frequented Schiphol Plaza. Some 75.000 people pass by every day.

Approximately 1.5 million people are low literate in the Netherlands. This large group has difficulty with reading, writing and often also arithmetic. They sometimes have no command whatsoever of these skills.

Low-literate people cannot participate in a fully-fledged manner in our knowledge and information society. This becomes clear in various manners. They do not only experience difficulty with reading a newspaper or a book, but also with using an ATA machine, voting computers during elections, arrival and departure times of aeroplanes, subtitles, filling out forms, buying a train ticket from a machine or reading to (grand)children.

Companies can make various contributions to tackle low literacy. Not only training employees, but awareness also matters. Communicating about the fact that there are a great deal of people in the Netherlands who have difficulty with reading and writing. Schiphol Group contributes, amongst others, with this exhibition at Schiphol Plaza.

The travelling exhibition was opened on 8th September, International Literacy Day 2005 by the chairwoman of Stichting Lezen & Schrijven, H.R.H. Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands. In the past year, Taal Centraal has featured on various NS stations throughout the Netherlands. On 8<sup>th</sup> September 2006, the exhibition will be presented to the library. The exhibition is the result of collaboration with NS, PCM Uitgevers and photographer Chantal Spieard @ Foto Formation.

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#### **Note for the editors, not for publication:**

For more information:  
Stichting Lezen & Schrijven, Mischa Vos, [REDACTED]  
Websites: [www.lezenenschrijven.nl](http://www.lezenenschrijven.nl) or [www.taalcentraal.nl](http://www.taalcentraal.nl).  
Dolf de Vries [www.dolfdevries.nl](http://www.dolfdevries.nl).