

Press release

The Hague, September 2007

Presentation Leeslicht (Reading light) to minister Plasterk

Signing session by Marjan Berk

On Friday 14th September, the festive public presentation of the new book series *Leeslicht* will take place. Writer Marjan Berk will present the first books officially to Ronald Plasterk of Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschap (Education, Culture and Science) and to the *Literacy Ambassadors* (these are former low-literate people who have attended a course in reading and writing).

The series contains easy-to-read books for people who have difficulty with reading and writing. The new books have been written by reputed authors. Marjan Berk and Yvonne Kroonenberg have simplified their own work. The existing stories by Kader Abdolah have been revised in simple Dutch.

The public presentation will take place at a quarter past eight in the central hall of the NS station Utrecht Centraal. Marjan Berk will then sign her new book 'Een goeie truc'. The gathering is hosted by Catherine Keyl.

Leeslicht is a publication of Uitgeverij Eenvoudig Communiceren (Simply Communicating Publishing) in collaboration with Stichting Lezen & Schrijven and various sponsors and is presented at the occasion of *Literacy Week*, which takes place from 8th until 14th September 2007.

Writing for people who have difficulty with reading is a profession as such. Uitgeverij Eenvoudig Communiceren has ample experience in this field. The revision of the book by was done in collaboration with De Stiep Educatief, which has revised stories by Abdolah before.

Signing sessions

The first three books in the series *Leeslicht* were presented to the press during Manuscripta in Amsterdam, the festive opening of the book season. Director Margreet de Vries of Stichting Lezen en Schrijven has interviewed Yvonne Kroonenberg about her book 'Een echte man'.

On the first day of Manuscripta on Sunday 2nd September, Marjan Berk and Kader Abdolah have signed their books 'Een goeie truc' and 'Voetstappen'.

The following publications of *Leeslicht* will appear in 2008 – in the context of Amsterdam World Book Capital. New titles will appear in this series every half year. The books are also accessible in price and cost 8,00 euro a piece.

The *Leeslicht* series can be obtained via bol.com.

More information can be read on www.leeslicht.nl.

Friday 14th September 2007

NS station Utrecht CS, Central Hall

08.15 – 09.00 a.m.

Public presentation *Leeslicht* with minister Plasterk of OCW and signing session by Marjan Berk 'Een goeie truc'

Hosted by Catherine Keyl.

Approximately 1.5 million people in the Netherlands are low literate. They have so much difficulty with reading and writing, that they are hindered by it in daily life, at home, at school and at work. Of these 1.5 million people, 1 million were born and bred in the Netherlands and 500.000 have a foreign background.

Stichting Lezen & Schrijven was launched in May 2004 and has as goal to embed literacy in an innovative and purposive manner in society.

The foundation wants to help prevent and reduce low literacy by initiating concrete projects and by uniting public and private organisations.

H.R.H. Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands is chairwoman of Stichting Lezen & Schrijven.

Note for the editors – not for publication:

More information about the public presentation on 14th September:

Stichting Lezen & Schrijven, [REDACTED]
www.lezenenschrijven.nl