

# Questionnaire to Dutch interest groups

## 1. Is it important for your organization to exert influence on the following areas?

Check one item per line

	To a large degree	To some degree	A little	Not at all
Public opinion (N=630)	36.5	44.6	16.7	2.2
The media agenda (N=625)	15.4	48.3	29.9	6.4
The political agenda (N=629)	52.0	36.4	9.5	2.1
Legislation or parliamentary decisions (N=625)	57.9	28.8	10.7	2.6
Administrative orders or circulars (N=624)	20.2	37.8	33.3	8.7
Decisions by the public administration (N=625)	30.9	41.1	21.9	6.1

## 2. Number of members of your organization

Please indicate approximately how many types of members are in the group

Number of individuals .....	Avg.= 19,428 (N=514)
Number of businesses .....	Avg.= 4811 (N=452)
Number of institutions (e.g. schools or museums).....	Avg.= 89 (N=438)
Number of national organizations.....	Avg.= 132 (N=439)
Number of regional, municipal or other geographically defined organizations.....	Avg.= 38 (N=431)
Number of other types of members .....	Avg.= 6,131 (N=434)

## 3. To which extent does the following statement fit your group? Row percentages

Check one item per line

	To a large degree	To some degree	A little	Not at all
The maximum number of possible members have joined the group (N=502)	9.8	11.6	18.1	60.6
Our group is the sole representative of certain interests (N=507)	35.9	22.1	24.5	17.6
Our membership varies from year to year (N=500)	8.4	20.2	31.6	39.8
Other groups compete for the same members (N=502)	6.8	14.1	32.9	46.2
The members participate actively in the group's political work (N=502)	13.9	27.1	35.9	23.1
The members have influence on the group's political work (N=498)	24.7	40.6	22.1	12.7
The group holds meetings where the members can influence the group's policy (N=501)	43.3	34.7	11.8	10.2
The group holds contested elections at the central level for honorary office (e.g. board or chairman) (N=503)	30.4	18.9	11.7	39.0

#### 4. How often does the following happen to the group? Row percentages

Check one item per line

	Very often	Fairly often	Occasionally	Never
The group receives draft legislation, draft orders etc. for hearing (N=564)	19.7	28.9	29.6	21.8
The group is represented in public councils, boards, committees etc. (N=563)	14.9	31.4	35.9	17.8
The group is included when mandates for public boards, councils, committees etc. are defined (N=562)	6.0	10.0	31.1	52.8
The group is included when members of public boards, councils, committees etc. are chosen (N=559)	4.3	5.5	29.0	61.2
The group is contacted by public servants (N=563)	34.6	24.7	27.4	13.3

#### 5. How active is the group in the following policy areas? Row percentages

Check one item per line

	Very	Somewhat	A little	Not at all
Labor market (N=544)	10.7	12.5	23.2	53.7
Urban and housing (N=539)	3.7	7.6	15.8	72.9
Research, technology and communication (N=539)	10.4	29.1	28.6	31.9
Defense and security (N=535)	2.2	2.6	5.8	89.3
Industrial and consumer (N=536)	5.0	12.1	20.5	62.3
EU (N=542)	7.6	23.6	27.3	41.5
Refugees and immigrants (N=540)	2.4	3.5	10.0	84.1
Church (N=541)	2.6	3.7	11.6	82.1
Municipal and regional (N=535)	11.2	24.1	23.7	40.9
Culture and sports (N=538)	6.5	9.7	14.3	69.5
Agriculture, fishery and food (N=541)	11.6	8.7	8.7	71.0
Environment and energy (N=539)	11.5	11.5	14.5	62.5
Monetary, fiscal and tax (N=537)	6.7	14.9	17.1	61.3
Law and order/justice (N=535)	9.7	11.2	16.1	63.0
Social affairs and families (N=537)	10.4	13.8	20.1	55.7
Health (N=537)	21.4	10.8	16.2	51.6
Traffic and infrastructure (N=537)	6.7	8.6	11.0	73.7
Education (N=535)	17.6	12.3	23.0	47.1
Foreign affairs (excluding EU) (N=535)	5.0	6.9	14.2	73.8

**7. In the following list of activities that interest groups can perform to gain political influence, please indicate how often the group has performed the activities and how important the activities are to the group. Row percentages**

Check one item per line

	How often within the past year has the group performed the activities?			
	Very often	Fairly often	Occasionally	Never
Civil disobedience and illegal activities (N=530)	0.9	0.6	7.4	91.1
Legal actions, demonstrations and happenings (N=532)	4.1	10.2	41.2	44.5
Encourage members and others to write letters to the editor (N=532)	3.9	15.4	44.5	36.1
Encourage members and others to contact decision makers (N=531)	10.5	35.0	38.6	15.8
Arrange petitions (N=529)	4.3	13.4	43.1	39.1
Arrange debate meetings and conferences (N=534)	13.5	31.8	36.7	18.0
Place ads in e.g. newspapers (N=530)	2.5	9.4	28.9	59.2
Write contributions to the debate and feature articles (N=533)	18.4	34.5	37.0	10.1
Issue press releases and hold press conferences (N=536)	20.5	33.2	32.8	13.4
Contact journalists (N=535)	20.4	34.2	35.7	9.7
Publish analyses and studies (N=530)	11.1	33.8	34.7	20.4
Contact the parliamentary committee (N=536)	22.9	33.0	31.7	12.3
Contact the political parties' spokespersons (N=536)	23.5	30.4	30.8	15.3
Contact other MPs (N=534)	18.7	27.9	39.5	13.9
Contact party organizations (N=531)	7.7	18.3	45.0	29.0
Contact ministers (N=534)	13.3	24.2	43.6	18.9
Contact public servants (N=537)	35.9	30.0	24.2	9.9
Submit hearing statements (N=535)	12.1	29.5	35.3	23.0
Use membership of board, councils and committees (N=532)	9.4	22.9	31.6	36.1
Contact EU institutions (N=535)	7.1	13.5	34.0	45.4
File suits in court (N=535)	4.3	6.9	28.4	60.4

**8. How well do the following statements fit the political areas in which the group is active?**

**Row percentages**

Check one item per line

	To a large degree	To some degree	A little	Not at all
The areas attract broad media attention (N=537)	16.9	33.0	30.5	19.6
The areas attract broad attention among politicians (N=537)	13.0	31.5	35.8	19.7
The areas attract broad attention among civil servants (N=536)	13.6	33.0	32.5	20.9
The areas attract great public attention (N=536)	12.1	25.4	40.1	22.4
The areas attract great attention from other interest groups (N=536)	12.3	35.8	39.7	12.1

**9. How well do the following statements fit the group’s political work? Row percentages**

Check one item per line

	To a large degree	To some degree	A little	Not at all
There are other groups with whom we agree (N=526)	22.4	53.8	20.7	3.0
We cooperate politically with other groups (N=526)	24.1	45.2	18.6	12.0
Other groups work with the same issues as we do (N=525)	17.9	42.1	33.5	6.5
Our views differ from the views of other groups (N=525)	12.0	29.1	45.9	13.0
We experience political conflicts with other groups (N=526)	5.1	16.3	33.8	44.7
There are other groups with whom we disagree (N=525)	17.9	38.5	31.2	12.4

**10. How often does your group have contacts with the following? Row percentages**

Check one item per line

	Daily	At least once a week	At least once a month	At least once a year	Less/never
Parliament (N=527)	2.8	10.8	25.6	37.6	23.1
Parliamentary committees (N=530)	1.5	7.2	24.2	42.8	24.3
The political parties in parliament (N=526)	1.9	8.9	20.9	44.3	24.0
Individual MPs (N=529)	2.1	11.3	26.5	43.7	16.4
Ministry departments (N=528)	7.8	19.3	25.4	32.2	15.3
Ministry boards and directorates (N=523)	2.1	6.1	18.9	32.3	40.5
EU institutions (N=527)	1.7	4.0	13.3	24.7	56.4
Media and journalists (N=530)	8.5	14.7	33.4	34.5	8.9

## 11. Which type of contact does your group consider most important? Row percentages

Check one item per line

	Important	Somewhat important	Not important	Don't know
Dutch political parties (N=531)	54.0	34.5	8.3	3.2
MP's of government coalition (N=531)	69.3	22.4	5.5	2.8
MP's of opposition (N=528)	62.5	28.0	6.3	3.2
Parliamentary party leaders (N=527)	27.5	42.1	25.6	4.7
Ministers (N=529)	57.1	29.7	9.8	3.4
Civil servants (N=525)	64.4	23.6	7.6	4.4
Other Dutch interest groups (N=530)	48.7	42.3	6.2	2.8
Other foreign interest groups (N=532)	16.2	41.9	34.6	7.3
Own European interest group (N=528)	25.2	29.4	31.8	13.6
Other interest groups on European level (N=524)	9.4	33.6	44.8	12.2
Dutch members of European Parliament (N=528)	15.3	36.7	38.3	9.7
Other members of European Parliament (N=527)	7.6	27.7	54.3	10.4
European political parties / party groups (N=526)	5.5	31.6	51.3	11.6
European Commission (N=527)	18.2	33.2	38.3	10.2
Country presiding EU Council of Min. (N=526)	4.6	16.0	65.0	14.4

## 12. To which extent do you cooperate with the following Dutch political parties? Row percentages.

Check one item per line

	Intensive	Regular	Minimal	Never	Don't know
People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) (N=527)	8.7	33.4	29.2	25.0	3.6
Labour Party (PvdA) (N=526)	10.1	38.8	28.9	18.6	3.6
Party for Freedom (PVV) (N=525)	1.3	9.9	23.8	59.0	5.9
Socialist Party (SP) (N=528)	7.8	30.9	27.1	28.8	5.5
Christian Democrats (CDA) (N=526)	8.2	35.9	28.5	23.4	4.0
Democrats 66 (D66) (N=528)	7.2	33.9	29.2	25.0	4.7
ChristianUnion (N=523)	5.9	24.1	28.7	35.8	5.5
GreenLeft (N=526)	5.9	27.6	31.0	31.2	4.4
Reformed Political Party (N=524)	2.9	14.7	28.2	47.5	6.7
Party for Animals (PvdD) (N=525)	1.1	9.7	25.9	56.2	7.0
50PLUS (N=524)	0.4	5.9	22.5	61.6	9.5

**13. How often did your organization, according to your estimate, have a significant influence on the following events? Row percentages.**

Check one item per line

	Very often	Fairly often	Occasionally	Never
Changes in public opinion (N=526)	5.5	17.9	56.1	20.5
The media have taken up an issue (N=525)	12.6	33.1	46.5	7.8
Other organizations have taken up an issue (N=523)	9.2	33.3	48.8	8.8
Public servants have taken up an issue (N=524)	13.7	33.8	38.5	13.9
EU institutions have taken up an issue (N=523)	2.3	10.3	33.1	54.3
Politicians and parties have taken up an issue (N=525)	9.9	27.0	48.0	15.0
The government has launched proposals in parliament (N=520)	3.7	14.8	47.1	34.4
Other parties have launched proposals in parliament (N=522)	3.4	14.2	47.5	34.9
A legislative proposal was changed during the ministry's reading (N=521)	8.4	17.9	40.9	32.8
A legislative proposal was changed during the parliamentary reading (N=521)	4.8	14.6	40.9	39.7
Interpellation debates tabled in parliament or questions to the minister (N=521)	4.6	16.3	37.6	41.5
Changes to orders or circulars (N=521)	3.5	11.7	34.2	50.7
Changes to decisions in the public administration (N=519)	3.3	10.6	43.7	42.4

**16. Income and staff**

Group's approximate income last year	avg.= 9,336,537 EUR (N=343)
Share from membership fees? (approx. percentage)	avg.= 47.7% (N=338)
Share from public subsidies? (approx. percentage)	avg.= 21.5% (N=337)
Number of staff employed at the central level (convert to full time)	avg.= 58.4 (N=419)
How many are involved in political work? This includes contacts with civil servants, politicians or journalists and work with e.g. analyses and studies or monitoring the political process (convert to full time)	avg.= 3.7 (N=416)

Thank you for your help. If you would like a resume of the survey, please enter your e-mail address here:

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