

## CONSUL CORNER

by Max Peeters Honorary consul in Denver  
Tel. 303-592-5362 e-mail: [consulate.wtcdenver@att.net](mailto:consulate.wtcdenver@att.net)

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I am grateful for the space on this website, and hope that it will facilitate communication within the Dutch community. I intend from time to time to provide information important for Dutch people living in the USA. Four issues for this box :

1. **Queen's birthday (Koninginnedag) celebrations planned for Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> of April at the Mount Vernon club (2-5 p.m.). Further details and personal invitations will come later.**
2. Passport photos.
3. Feedback from honorary consuls conference in The Hague May 2006,
4. Foundation of Dutch Caucus in congress.

Digitally recorded photos of applicants will be required from 26 August 2006. Passports issued from that date onwards will contain a remotely readable chip that contains a digital scan of the face of the holder. Not later than 2009 the finger prints of the holder will also be recorded. The recording of a digital photo will impose strict rules on color, and position of the head and mouth. I refer for further instructions to the website:

[www.paspoortinformatie.nl/](http://www.paspoortinformatie.nl/).

Robert Waxman Camera & Video, 1545 California St., Denver, CO 80202-4214 tel. 303 8939974 is familiar with the requirements, but quite expensive \$30+, so you might want to make your own arrangements.

Till mid-2008 the consulate in Denver can probably still handle passport applications, but after that fingerprints and photos have to be taken by professional staff in a secure room. This implies that applicants have to go in person to a Consulate General, such as our mission in LA. However, the ministry is still looking for alternatives e.g. by sharing facilities with other European countries. It is expected that American customs will accept valid passports without biometrics after 2008. There is however no guarantee that this will be the case.

The consul conference was very well organized with as highpoints the reception by Her Majesty Queen Beatrix, and a very informative presentation by Dr. Paul Schnabel : **An update on The Netherlands 2001 – 2006**, available for downloading on : <http://www.scp.nl/publicaties/lezingen/AnupdateontheNetherlands2.shtml>.

The executive director Ms. Joan C. Kuyper of the The Netherland-America Foundation (NAF), announced that congress man **Peter Hoekstra** has founded The **DUTCH CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS**. The caucus aims at strengthening the relations between The Netherlands and the USA. The NAF can be reached at (212) 8251221 [Kuyper@TheNAF.org](mailto:Kuyper@TheNAF.org), and the causes via Dave Yonkman, the Communications Director of Congressman Peter Hoekstra, Tel: (202) 225-4401 [dave.yonkman@mail.house.gov](mailto:dave.yonkman@mail.house.gov).

<p>This information is given on "personal title". For authorized information one is referred to websites of the Consulate General in Los Angeles <a href="http://www.ncla.org/homepage.asp">http://www.ncla.org/homepage.asp</a>, the Embassy in Washington <a href="http://www.netherlands-embassy.org/homepage.asp">http://www.netherlands-embassy.org/homepage.asp</a>, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague <a href="http://www.minbuza.nl/">http://www.minbuza.nl/</a>.</p>
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