

Enforcement of alcohol regulation: The United States as a role model?

Handhaving van alcoholwetgeving: de VS als voorbeeld?

Het informatieve debat is interessant voor politiefunctionarissen, burgemeesters, ambtenaren en anderen die betrokken zijn bij de handhaving van de Drank- en Horecawetgeving. Het programma bevat een inleiding over de Amerikaanse aanpak en een korte introductie van de Nederlandse aanpak. Daarna worden de aanwezigen uitgenodigd met elkaar in debat te gaan.

The informative debate is interesting for police officers, superintendents, mayors, civil servants and others involved in the enforcement of the Alcohol and Catering Law (Drank- en Horecawet). The programme will have an introduction by two American police officers and a short explanation of the Dutch way of working. After that the attending are invited to start the debate.

Chaired by America expert Willem Post

Experts from the United States of America:

- Bob Reynolds, Former Director Alcohol Policy Initiatives, Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE)
- Chris Curtis, Southeast Regional Director National Center for Alcohol Law Enforcement
- Dave Reitz, Western Regional Director National Center for Alcohol Law Enforcement
- Rebecca Ramirez, Director National Center for Alcohol Law Enforcement



Willem Post

Experts from the Netherlands:

- Boudewijn Kustner, Food and Commodities Authority
- Henk Achten, Superintendent of police, Process owner of Enforcement, Eindhoven
- Ivoline van Erpecum, Policy employee Crime prevention, Ministry of Justice
- Joost Mulder, Head of Unit Local Alcohol Policy, STAP
- Jos Wienen, mayor of Katwijk

The informative debate is supported by

Stichting Volksbond Rotterdam
ASSEMBLEE sprekersbureau Maastricht - www.assemblee.nl

Background

In 2005 fifteen Dutch experts have elaborately encountered the way Americans enforce their alcohol regulations during a study trip in the US. In the US sophisticated methods are used, often going beyond the boundaries of what is possible within Dutch legislation.

The Americans work by the rule: *'without well organised and equipped enforcement, regulation has no use'*. The legal age limit of 21 years for buying alcohol is strictly enforced by large teams of police officers (Alcohol Beverage Control). The Dutch situation is different in many aspects. The VWA-inspectors (Food and Commodities Authority) have less authority and are smaller in number (80 inspectors) than the ABC-officers in the US.

The Dutch delegates returned from their study trip with mixed feelings: *"The US approaches the issue consistently and with expertise ...but is the American situation comparable to the Dutch situation? To what extent do they manage to decrease the alcohol problem among young people?"* Could the American approach rather encourage the Dutch youth to drink? On the other hand the Americans are right when they stress that rules without good enforcement are inconsistent and ineffective.

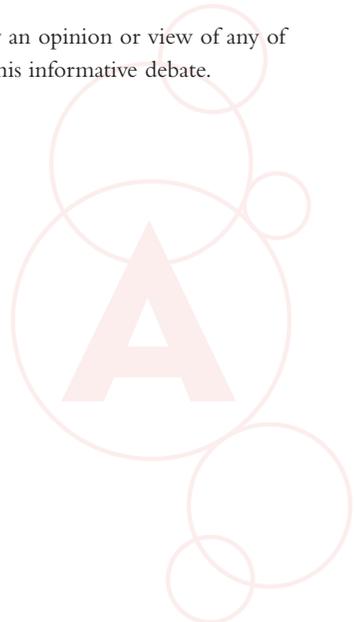
Programme of the evening

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- 19:15 Coffee & cake
19:45 Start
Introduction by host Wim van Dalen (Director STAP)
Alcohol law enforcement in the US (police officers from the US).
20:45 Break
21:05 Short explanation about alcohol law enforcement in the Netherlands (inspecting officer from the Netherlands).
Discussion with the audience, chaired by Willem Post, America expert.
22:00 End

Statements for discussion*

1. The legal age limits are not taken seriously by sellers of alcohol nor by the Dutch government.
2. The Dutch Alcohol and Catering Law is basically effective, but more inspectors are needed to enforce it.
3. The Dutch inspectors of the Food and Commodities Authority (VWA) should be given the status of a police officer, as is the case in the US.
4. Mystery shoppers should be used to enforce the age limits for sale in the Netherlands.
5. The possibilities to arrest and fine people who are drunk in public or who sell to intoxicated patrons should be used more commonly by police and alcohol inspectors.
6. The legal age limit for the sale of alcohol in the US is too high (21 years). The Dutch legal age limit of 16 is too low.
7. Revoking licences should be used more frequently as an instrument by local governments to enforce the Alcohol and Catering Law.
8. The 'alcohol culture' in the US is a result of the strict US alcohol laws. By increasing our enforcement practices we will end up with the same 'alcohol culture'.

* These statements are not necessarily an opinion or view of any of the speakers or organisers related to this informative debate.



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Discussion leader: America expert Willem Post

Date: Tuesday night, May 30th 2006
 Time: 19:45 – 22:00 p.m.
 Location: Maastricht, Crowne Plaza (www.crowneplazamaastricht.com)
 Costs: free of charge, but registration is requested
 Language: English
 Organisation: STAP (the Netherlands); www.alcoholpreventie.nl
 Information: For more information you can contact Monique Kuunders at mkuunders@alcoholpreventie.nl or +(0)30 6565041

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Aanmeldingsformulier* **Registration form***

First Name: _____
 Family Name: _____
 Organisation: _____
 Address: _____
 Postal code: _____
 City: _____
 Country: _____
 Telnr.: _____
 Email: _____

Zenden naar / Send to: Before May 22nd 2006 send to the following address, fax or e-mail address:



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 3503 RD Utrecht
 the Netherlands
 F +31 (0)30 656 5043
 E aanmelding@alcoholpreventie.nl

*If you are also attending the study conference ‘Minder drank met meer beleid’ the next day, you can use the application form of the conference: www.alcoholpreventie.nl/projecten.