

Law Enforcement Council



Annual plan and Budget 2026

1. Introduction

A safe and just society means, among other things, that citizens can live together in freedom regardless of their lifestyle, background, and beliefs. The justice organizations which the Council supervises play an important role in this. Within the justice domain, there are always risks that impact citizens or society as a whole. The citizen's perspective therefore plays a major role. The executing organizations must, of course, make every effort to keep the risks in law enforcement acceptable. As an independent supervisory body, the Council identifies bottlenecks, risks, and opportunities for improvement so that the organizations can learn from them (e.g., *best practices*), mitigate risks, and continue to develop, as well as implement improvements for the benefit of citizens:

The Council signals, assesses and stimulates.

This annual plan explains how the Council does this. Since 2025, the Council has been organizing its activities on the basis of overarching themes, which are determined annually on the basis of available information and risk analysis. Examples of these themes are integrity and youth. In 2024 and 2025, the Council also worked on an internal multi-year plan for 2026-2030, which includes a number of objectives. The Council will translate its multi-year plan into its annual plans. In this annual plan, the Council describes how it will do the above through its activities and by identifying overarching themes and the specific inspections that fit within them.

In addition to its core tasks, the Council also focused on its internal organization and operational management in 2025. This included work on an organizational plan. At the time of preparing this annual plan, it was still in the draft phase.

2. Activities 2026

2.1. General

The supervisory field is constantly evolving. It also focuses on the intended effect of supervision and its significance for the organizations involved and society. In this context, in 2024 and 2025, the Council worked on the multi-year plan for the next five years (2026-2030). In this plan, the Council formulates five objectives:

1. Insight into task execution and management organizations;
2. Internal quality assurance organizations;
3. Citizen perspective;
4. Promoting chain cooperation/effective chains;
5. Insight into cooperation between the three countries.

The Council's activities therefore focus on the effectiveness and quality of law enforcement in general, as well as on improving the management, quality of task performance, and effectiveness of organizations and cooperation.

The Council pays attention to the individual organizations themselves, as well as the functioning and cooperation within the justice chain as a whole and cooperation between the countries. In doing so, it takes into account, among other things, the needs and requirements within the organizations and cooperation within the chain, as well as the social perspective within which the field operates. Furthermore, the internal quality assurance of organizations is also important. The Council coordinates its activities accordingly.

2.2 Signaling, assessing and stimulating

The Council signals issues by, among other things, following current events, maintaining contact with the field and the organizations, holding consultations, monitoring internal quality assurance, and conducting risk analyses. The Council assesses effectiveness, quality, and management on the basis of a protocol for conducting research. In its stimulation efforts, the Council focuses, among other things, on the ownership of the executing organizations in following up on findings and recommendations, as well as on internal quality assurance.

2.3. Method and research

Method

The focus on overarching themes and the implementation of the 2026-2030 multi-year plan requires a constructive approach to the planning of activities over a longer period in the annual plan.

The themes selected by the Council for supervision are determined on the one hand by the above and on the other by social relevance and identified risks. The policy agendas of the countries also play a role in this decision-making process. In its inspection reports, the Council aims to focus (even) more attention on the causes of bottlenecks within organizations and the concrete consequences of these for citizens and society.

2.3.1 Inspections and overarching themes

In its 2025 annual plan, the Council opted for a number of overarching themes that allow multiple aspects to be the subject of inspection. These themes included: integrity, youth and morals, tasks and responsibilities, the prison system, public safety, and enforcement.

Working with overarching themes, continuing to engage in dialogue, and utilizing the available interventions have enabled the Council to be more effective and to take a broader view of the field, which in turn has contributed to a broader view of law enforcement as a whole. For 2026, the Council has therefore opted to continue working with overarching themes. In the context of what the Council inspected in 2025 in the course of these activities and based on its information position, multi-year planning, and risk analysis, this has led to the following five overarching themes for 2026:¹

- Integrity;
- Youth and morals;
- Management;
- Detention system;
- Integral security and enforcement.

Within these themes, the Council conducts its inspections according to the issues relevant to the country or island in question. The Council expects this to create greater coherence between its inspections, thereby enabling it to monitor cooperation between countries and the effectiveness of that cooperation. In addition, this may offer added value in terms of mutual comparability. Within a number of themes, the subject of the inspection is already known (see 2.2.1 below). For the rest, the specific subjects will be determined on the basis of current developments within the countries and the consultations per office. In addition to these thematic inspections, the Council will also be able to carry out unannounced inspections if the need or necessity arises.

2.3.2 Themes 2026

Integrity

¹ Instead of the themes *Tasks and Responsibilities* and *Public Order and Safety*, in 2026 the Council opted for two other themes that provide a broader view of the identified risks and bottlenecks: Management, Integral Safety, and Enforcement.

Integrity is an important prerequisite for the proper functioning of the foundations of the rule of law. Public confidence is largely based on this. In recent years, the Council has published several reports on integrity-related topics. This is because the basis for its proper functioning is not yet in place. In 2026, the Council will focus on this theme. With regard to the Caribbean Netherlands, the Council will focus on the infrastructure for combating corruption. Since the Council's second follow-up inspection in 2023, much has been done in terms of following up on the recommendations, which are conditional. It is now possible to assess the status of implementation. The inspection into the screening of justice personnel also shows that more attention needs to be paid to this topic. Combating corruption and the functioning of the National Detectives are of great importance in this respect. With regard to the Sint Maarten office, the Council is conducting a follow-up inspection into the implementation of the recommendations included in its 2021 report on the National Detectives. This is because the National Detectives play a major role in this area and must be able to carry out their work properly. Based on the Council's risk analysis, this does not yet appear to be the case. In Curaçao, an inspection is being conducted into border control. This inspection focuses on both integrity and integrated security & enforcement. An inspection of the (air)port is of great importance because it is the main gateway to Curaçao and therefore a vulnerable point for illegal migration, human trafficking, drug transport, and other forms of cross-border crime. It is precisely at this location that it is essential that cooperation between the services involved is effective and that the integrity of employees is guaranteed.

Youth and morals

The theme of youth and morals covers a broad area that requires ongoing attention. It concerns both the prevention of youth crime and the protection of young people against domestic violence. It also concerns the protection of everyone's physical integrity, including relational violence. The theme often requires an integrated approach and the involvement of all those responsible (in part) for a successful approach. In 2026, the Council will focus on this theme because, based on its information position and risk analysis, there are concerns and risks in the areas of prevention, response, and aftercare, which often require an integrated approach. This includes the approach to youth and/or sexual offenses and, in that context, the Victim Support Bureau and the HALT program. The Sint Maarten office will conduct an inspection into the approach of the youth and morals department of the Sint Maarten Police Force. In doing so, the Council will also pay specific attention to the Victim Support Bureau. In 2026, the Curaçao office will conduct an inspection into school safety. In this context, the Council will focus on the approach and implementation of HALT programs for young people. Furthermore, the Curaçao office will conduct an inspection into domestic violence. The Caribbean Netherlands office will also inspect the current state of affairs regarding HALT, now that attention has been paid to this in recent times after a faltering start since the introduction of the juvenile criminal law in 2020.

Management

Based on Article 3 of the Kingdom Act Law Enforcement Council, the Council carries out inspections with regard to management, among other things. The aspect of management is highlighted in virtually all of the Council's reports. As already stated in 2.2, the Council will focus more intensively on specific management aspects. The concept of management is broad. To clarify this, the Council uses a detailed definition: (as the party with final responsibility) taking care of the structure and maintenance of an organization, linked to the objectives and quality of that organization's performance.² The Council will also focus on this theme in 2026. All offices will address the subject of management in their consultations and/or inspections.

Prison system

The subject of the prison system is a recurring topic in the annual plan. In 2026, the Council will continue to monitor the follow-up to the recommendations formulated by the Council and the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment (CPT).³ In 2026, the offices will focus on a follow-up inspection of the recommendations in the report on mutual agreements in the detention system (ORD). At the request of the Ministers of Justice (& Security), the Council conducted an inspection of the ORD and published an inspection report on this in 2021. Now, several years later, the Council will review the status of the follow-up to the ORD recommendations. This is partly because recommendations have been made in the context of the human rights of detainees and the Council is responsible for monitoring these.

In addition, the Council will conduct an inspection into forensic care. This inspection within the criminal justice system started in September 2023 with monitoring of developments and this was continued in 2024 and 2025. Although there have been various developments and steps have been taken in the right direction, the results of these are still difficult to measure. In addition, in the run-up to the planned and upcoming implementation of the plans by the countries, there are concerns and risks regarding the care and treatment of people with mental and/or behavioral disorders who are already in the criminal justice system. The Council will therefore carry out an inspection of all facilities. In Curaçao, the Council will also examine whether the confinement in the Capriles Clinic meets the applicable standards.

Integral security & enforcement

² Depending on the organization under inspection and the applicable laws and regulations, the following management aspects (this list is not exhaustive) may be involved:

- Governance/management (control, internal supervision, accountability): this relates to the process.
- Organizational structure: application of the triangular model.
- Facilities (personnel and equipment).
- Resources: equipping an organization to perform its tasks.
- Automation/information provision.

³ This activity stems from a request made in 2015 by the Judicial Four Party Consultation (JVO), the biannual consultation between the ministers of Justice (& Security) of the various countries within the Kingdom.

In its recent State of Law Enforcement, the Council advocated a more integrated approach to this issue in the interests of law and order and law enforcement. This issue has various dimensions. Integrated security is a broad, collaborative, and multidisciplinary approach to raising the level of security issues in organizations and society by integrating different disciplines. It focuses, for example, on identifying risks and drawing up policies to safeguard various security aspects. These include public and physical safety, the maintenance of public order, and the protection of critical infrastructure. It is important to be prepared and able to respond to internal and external threats and risks. In 2026, the Council will conduct further research into this subject. One of the important topics within this theme is the resilience of the justice chain. In recent years, there have been several targeted cyber-attacks with serious consequences. It is therefore important that (justice) organizations themselves are also well protected against such threats. The risk they run must be minimal, especially if they are expected to protect citizens and society as a whole against such threats. The Council is conducting a specific inspection into this issue for the Caribbean Netherlands and Curaçao. For Sint Maarten, a follow-up inspection will be conducted into the follow-up of previous recommendations in this context. Furthermore, regarding the Caribbean Netherlands and Curaçao, the Council will in any case focus specifically on border control, which for various reasons appears to pose an increasing risk to these islands. The Caribbean Netherlands office will specifically assess border control and the smuggling of (illegal) goods on the three islands. With regard to Bonaire, the approach to human trafficking and human smuggling will also be assessed (again).

2.3.2 The state of law enforcement

The Council reviews the state of law enforcement annually. Each year, the Council publishes a report on the state of law enforcement for each country in accordance with Article 33 of the Kingdom Act. The report on the state of law enforcement provides an overview of the state of law enforcement based on the previous year or years. In 2026, the Council will once again review the State of Law Enforcement for all countries for the year 2025.

2.3.3 Unannounced inspections

The Council is authorized to conduct unannounced inspections. This will (potentially) have consequences for (other inspections from) the annual planning. The periodic consultations will address, among other things, developments, possible points of attention, and any risks that may give rise to an unannounced inspection. In other words, based on the outcomes of the periodic consultations, there may be a need to conduct an unannounced inspection in the country or countries concerned.

2.4 Organization and development

The Council pays systematic attention to the development of its organization, quality, and products. The development of the organization relies on the commitment of its employees. With internal and external guidance, the Council focuses on:

- strategic development of the organization as a whole and the Council's objectives (responding to current developments);
- more effective cooperation between the offices;
- modernization of business operations (safety and security, product development, and ICT);
- continuous professionalization (knowledge building/development);
- external work visits and participation in work-related conferences.

The Council's starting point is that internal expertise should be continuously promoted. The Council does this by focusing on the development of the organization as a whole as well as on individual employees. This is reflected, among other things, in the organization of joint gatherings in combination with training courses in 2026.

In 2025, the Council started drafting an organizational plan. At the time of drafting this annual plan, it is still in the conceptual phase. In any case, for 2026, the Council will focus extra attention on developing a system and indicators for internal and external quality assurance. In addition, the Council will pay extra attention to (public) communication.