

Law Enforcement Council



Annual plan and 2025 budget

1. Introduction

The Law Enforcement Council (Council) conducts independent and objective inspections leading to the production of relevant, usable and practical inspection reports.

In 2025, the Council will inspect several current issues on the basis of five (joint) themes. As in previous years, the diversity of the inspection topics is taken into account. The aim is to give the Council a broader view of the current state of affairs, including any bottlenecks. This will enable the Council to contribute to the quality and effectiveness of the performance of tasks and the management of the judicial chain.

The Council has included a number of extensive and complex inspections in its previous 2024 annual plan. A number of these inspections are ongoing in 2025, including the joint inspection 'requests for legal assistance'.

The Council will prioritize internal management in 2025, in addition to its core tasks. In addition to continuous attention to communication, the Council will focus in 2025 on internal organisation to ensure the quality of work.

2. Activities 2025

2.1. General

The field of supervision is constantly evolving. It also covers the intended impact of supervision and its significance for the organizations and society concerned. Among other things, greater account is taken of the need and requirements within the organizations and the chain cooperation and the social perspective within which the field operates. The Council will also coordinate its activities accordingly. One of the activities carried out by the Council as part of its supervisory function are the periodic meetings.¹ These meetings are held with stakeholders about, amongst others, the organisation and follow-up of the recommendations. In this way, current and accurate information can be used to respond to potential (acute) risks. The Council stresses the added value of this. Since 2022, these meetings have been part of the annual plan.

2.2. Inspections

Introduction

The Council has already carried out numerous inspections on a wide range of specific issues. In the context of the above (point 2.1), the Council will focus in 2025 on several issues:

- integrity;
- youth and morals;
- mission and responsibilities;
- detention system;
- public safety and enforcement.

Within these themes, the Council will carry out its inspections as appropriate for the (island) country concerned. The Council expects to be able to ensure greater coherence between its inspections and thus to help implement the monitoring of cooperation between countries and their effectiveness within them. Within a number of themes, the topic of inspection is already known (see below under 2.2.1). For the rest, the specific topics will be determined based on current developments within the countries and regular meetings per office. In addition to these thematic inspections, the Council will carry out unannounced inspections if necessary or required.

2.2.1 Themes 2025

Integrity

The integrity of the state is one of the foundations of the rule of law. The confidence of citizens is largely based on this. In recent years, the Council has issued several reports on integrity-related issues. Examples include the fight against corruption in Curaçao and the fight against corruption in Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba. Given

¹ Kingdom Act Law Enforcement Council, *Explanatory Memorandum* p.5

the field of justice, the often-sensitive information involved and the principle of behaving with integrity that is indispensable in this regard, screening individuals who want to work within the justice system is important. In 2025, the Council will focus on this issue.

Youth and morals

The topic of youth and morals is a broad domain, which requires sustained efforts. It concerns both (prevention) of youth crime and protection of young people against domestic violence. It also concerns the protection of everyone's physical integrity. This includes relational violence. The theme often requires an integrated approach and the involvement of all (in parts) responsible for a successful approach. The Council has published several reports on this subject. Examples include the prevention of juvenile delinquency, the approach to juvenile delinquency as well as the juvenile criminal justice system BES and the approach to domestic violence in Sint Maarten. In 2024, the Council also inspected the judicial approach to relational violence in the Caribbean Netherlands, the Judicial Youth Institute in Curaçao and the Youth rehabilitation center Miss Lalie Center in Sint Maarten. In 2025, the Council will focus on this issue.

Tasks and responsibilities

On the basis of Article 3 Kingdom Act Law Enforcement Council, the Council carries out inspections, among other things, with regard to management. Almost all the Council reports address this aspect, since good management is an important precondition for the proper performance of tasks. The tasks and responsibilities of judicial officials are based on the laws and regulations. The law attaches powers to the execution thereof. It must be ensured that exercising these powers is done within that legal framework. It is important to have a clear picture of this and to be able to see whether this is being acted upon accordingly. In 2025, the Council will focus on this issue.

Detention system

In the Council's planning, the subject of detention is an annual one. As in the past, the Council will continue to monitor in 2025 the follow-up to the recommendations made by the Council and the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT). This activity is the result of a request from 2015 of the Judicial Four-Party Consultation (JVO), the bi-annual consultations of the Ministers of Justice (&Security) of the various countries within the Kingdom. In 2025, the Council will also focus on a specific topic within this theme for all offices, in addition to monitoring.

Public Safety & Enforcement

This theme has different dimensions. These include public security, the maintenance of public order and the protection of vital infrastructure. It is important to be prepared and able to deal with hazards and risks from inside and outside. In the past, the Council has inspected the maintenance of public order and security of authority figures and

the surveillance of persons and objects. In 2025, the Council will further inspect this theme.

2.2.2 State of law enforcement

The Council reviews the state of law enforcement annually. Each year the Council issues a state of law enforcement per country in accordance with Article 33 of the Kingdom Act. The state of law enforcement shall provide an overarching picture of the state of enforcement on the basis of the previous year or years. In 2025, the Council will again reflect on the state of law enforcement for all countries.

2.2.3 Unannounced inspections

Unannounced inspections

The Council is authorised to carry out unannounced inspections. The Council will take this into account in the annual planning.² The periodic meetings mentioned above will cover, among others, the developments, possible concerns and possible risks that may give rise to an unannounced inspection. In other words, based on the results of the periodic meetings, the need to carry out an unannounced inspection in the relevant (island) country or countries may arise.

2.3 Organisation and development

The Council shall pay structural attention to the development of its organisation, quality and products. Development of the organization calls on the commitment of the employees. This also applies in 2025. The Council, including through internal and external guidance, shall address:

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

The Council takes as its starting point the continuous promotion of internal expertise. This is done by the Council, which is committed to developing the organisation as a whole as well as to individual staff. This can be seen in the organisation of joint meetings in combination with training in 2025, cooperation in (the preparation of) inspections and refinement of topics of an organisational nature. This will also be a priority for the Council in 2025.

² Explanatory Memorandum Kingdom Act Law Enforcement Council, p.9