

COMMITTEE TILBURG CHROMIUM-6

Bulletin Information Meeting Chromium-6

An additional information meeting was held on 11 July 2017 for (former) beneficiaries who have worked at tROM between the year 2004 and mid-2012. This meeting was organised by the municipality Tilburg in collaboration with the independent committee Tilburg Chromium-6. The speakers were alderman Marcelle Hendrickx, Yvonne van Mierlo, Vice Chairman of the independent investigation committee, Dick Spreeuwiers, director IKA-Ned and Natascha van de Put of the Stichting Lotgenoten (Foundation for Fellow Sufferers), currently being established. The RIVM (Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment) has provided an explanation on the investigation by means of a video message.

Information was provided on the structure of the investigation on the health effects of working at tROM. After the collective part of the meeting ended, the opportunity was given to ask questions, to register at the information and contact point Chromium-6 of the CAOP (Centre for Labour Relations of Government Personnel) and at the Stichting Lotgenoten, currently being established. The attendees were also able to apply for the financial compensation the municipality Tilburg has made available.

Committee has started

The independent investigation committee started the investigation in September. The committee has ordered an investigation – commissioned by the municipality Tilburg – on the risks for the health due to possible exposure to chromium-6. The latter as a possible result of working at tROM during the period 2004-mid-2012.

What is the purpose of the investigation?

The municipality Tilburg opts for diligence. She wants the committee to render an opinion on the situation at tROM. That means all interests are carefully considered and the situation at tROM will be looked at in an as objective as possible manner.

The committee particularly reviews:

- the working conditions;
- the measures taken for protection;
- whether the work is performed in accordance with the Work and Social Assistance Act (WWB);
- the agreements made between tROM, the NS/NedTrain (National Railways) and the NSM (Dutch Railway Museum).

Questions you have as (former) beneficiary about working at tROM between the year 2004 and mid-2012 will also be investigated.

Who are the members of the committee?

Chairman of the committee is Peter van der Velden, former mayor of Breda and acting mayor of Dordrecht.

The other members are:

- Yvonne van Mierlo, chairman of the board of directors of Movisie
- Marius de Jong, experienced lawyer from Tilburg
- Marian Schaapman, director Bureau Beroepsziekten FNV (Office for Occupational Illness)
- Wilfried Notten, emeritus professor toxicology

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Attendees are:

- Hannine van de Grift, department manager Work & Income of the municipality Tilburg
- Freek van Huijgevoort, Works Council of the municipality Tilburg

Who is conducting the investigation?

The committee has asked the RIVM (Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment) to conduct the investigation. The RIVM is specialised in this type of investigation and also conducts the investigation on behalf of the Ministry of Defence.

What could be your contribution to the investigation?

In order to be able to conduct the investigation properly, the researchers of the RIVM have to know the way in which the work was performed at tROM in the period 2004 until mid-2012. They first study all the documents available on the situation at tROM. The researchers also have conversations with persons involved who have worked at tROM to obtain a comprehensive view. The members of the committee will also enter into a dialogue with (former) employees and (former) beneficiaries. Should you want to cooperate with the investigation, you can indicate your interest at the information and contact point Chromium-6.

Would you like to know more about Chromium-6?

The committee has its own website: <http://tilburg.onderzoekscommissiechrom6.nl>

The municipality Tilburg also provides information on the investigation on her website: www.tilburg.nl/chroom6.

Information on the investigation can also be found on the website of the RIVM:

http://www.rivm.nl/Onderwerpen/C/Chroom_6_en_CARC/Gezondheidsonderzoek_chroom_6_bij_de_gemeente_Tilburg

When will the investigation be completed?

You are mainly interested to know when there will be more clarity on your (health)situation. The committee understands that very well. However, it is a complicated question that can only be answered when all the results are known. The committee has ongoing conversations with the RIVM at the moment to obtain more clarity on the timeframe in which all the results will be disclosed.

Information and contact point Chromium-6?

It is important for you to be known at this information point for a rapid progress of the investigation. This is also convenient for you. You are able to ask all your questions to this information and contact point. The employees will explain to you whom you can approach. The committee may invite you for a conversation about your experiences. Once you register, we are able to inform you directly on the developments and the investigation.

You can register at the independent information and contact point of the CAOP (Centre for Labour Relations of Government Personnel). The centre can be reached from Monday up to and including Friday from 9.00 to 17.00 o'clock at telephone number 06-20448194 or through email: tilburg-chroom6@caop.nl.

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What should I do in case of health issues?

Do you have any health issues? Go to your general practitioner and mention that you have worked at tROM in the past. The general practitioner/ company doctor will – should that be necessary – refer you to a specialist. But you are also able to use the services of IKA-Ned. IKA-Ned is a specialised office that is conducting independent research on occupational illnesses (illness incurred during certain work activities). This examination is free of charge. You can register at the information and contact point Chromium-6 to make an appointment: tilburg-chroom6@caop.nl.

Financial compensation

The municipality understands that persons involved who have worked at tROM between the year 2004 and mid-2012 at the site of NS-NedTrain in Tilburg may perhaps be worried about their health. The municipality is unable to eliminate these worries at the moment. In order to support these former employees during this uncertain period of time, the municipality offers a compensation of 385 euro. This amount corresponds to the level of the statutory excess for healthcare costs. The municipality is of opinion that persons involved should be able to receive all the care they may be needing right now. The persons involved will receive this amount twice; one time for the year 2016 and one time for the year 2017. People were able to register during the meeting in order to be eligible for this compensation. You are still able to register should you not have done so yet, by contacting the municipality Tilburg (013-5428979 or chroom6@tilburg.nl).

Stichting Lotgenoten (Foundation for Fellow Sufferers)

A foundation for fellow sufferers will be established that wants to represent the interests of the (former) employees and (former) beneficiaries who have worked at tROM between the year 2004 and mid-2012. More information can be obtained from Natascha van de Put through telephone number 06 – 47094142 or email address: info@nextadvocaten.nl.

Do you have complaints about the procedure, the investigation or any other aspects?

You can turn to the special confidential and complaints committee Chromium-6 Tilburg should you have any complaints about the municipality, the committee or the RIVM. This committee can be reached through:

klachtencommissieTilburg@caop.nl,

through telephone number: 070-3765746 or

by mail:

Confidential and complaints committee Chromium-6 Tilburg

Attn. Secretariat

Postbus 556

2501 CN The Hague

Do you have any questions? Please contact the independent information and contact point of the CAOP for all your questions. At the CAOP, you can:

- ask your question;
- register your name and address data so you will be kept informed on Chromium-6.

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The CAOP can be reached from Monday up to and including Friday from 9.00 to 17.00 o'clock through telephone number 06-2044 8194 and through email address: tilburg-chroom6@caop.nl

Peter van der Velden, Chairman

On behalf of the independent Committee Tilburg Chromium-6