



THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20202

NOV 17 2008

SENT BY FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Honorable Ronald Plasterk
Minister of Education, Culture, and Science
P.O. Box 16375
2500 BJ The Hague
The Netherlands

Dear Mr. Minister:

On September 15, 2008, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) met in Washington, D.C., to review, among other items, the report submitted by the Netherlands Flemish Accreditation Organization (NVAO) on behalf of the Netherlands.

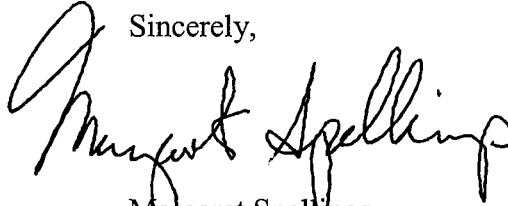
I am pleased to inform you that the NCFMEA formally accepted the report. To keep informed about the Netherlands' medical schools, the NCFMEA requested that the Netherlands submit another report that addresses the current status of their accreditation activities for consideration at the Fall 2010 NCFMEA meeting.

We would appreciate receiving the requested report by *June 15, 2010*, to have sufficient time to review the information prior to the Fall 2010 NCFMEA meeting. If you have any questions regarding the information requested, please contact Nancy Regan, Ph.D., Director, Accreditation and State Liaison, at (202) 219-7011 (telephone), (202) 219-7005 (fax), or Nancy.Regan@ed.gov (e-mail). Also, we hope that the Netherlands will send representatives to the Fall 2010 meeting to respond to the NCFMEA members' inquiries, and, if so, the NCFMEA requests that you designate at least one person who is fluent in English to speak on behalf of the country to be fair to both the country and the committee since not all NCFMEA members are multilingual. The NCFMEA members and I very much appreciate your assistance in this matter.

The NCFMEA Executive Director, Melissa Lewis, will contact you to provide details regarding the September 2010 NCFMEA meeting closer to that time. In the interim, if you have any questions about the meeting, please contact Ms. Lewis at (202) 219-7009 (telephone), (202) 219-7008 (fax), or Melissa.Lewis@ed.gov (e-mail).

I want to thank you for taking the time to respond to our requests for information about your standards and processes for evaluation and accreditation of medical schools. The NCFMEA members and I appreciate your interest in maintaining high quality standards for the accreditation of medical schools.

Sincerely,



Margaret Spellings

Enclosure: Report Request

cc: Mr. Mark Fredericks
Accreditation Organization of the Netherlands and Flanders

Report Requested from the Netherlands
by the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA)

Due Date: June 15, 2010

Submit to: Nancy C. Regan, Ph.D.
Director, Accreditation and State Liaison
U.S. Department of Education
1990 K Street, N.W. – Room 7127
Washington, DC 20006-8509
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Content: The purpose of the report is to provide the NCFMEA with a summary of accreditation activities involving medical schools located in the Netherlands, including the following information (and any applicable supporting documents) for the period covering from September 2008 through May 2010:

- *Current status of medical schools:* A list of the medical schools currently operating in the Netherlands, indicating the most recent date each school has gone through the accreditation review process and the school's current accreditation status (such as fully accredited, provisionally accredited, etc.).
- *Overview of accreditation activities:* A summary of key activities, including the following:
 - accreditation reviews of school campuses and clinical clerkship sites,
 - meetings held and accreditation decisions reached, and
 - accreditation conferences or training sessions held.
- *Laws and regulations:* An indication as to whether there have been any changes in the Netherlands's laws or regulations that affect the accreditation of your medical schools, and, if so, what those changes were.
- *Standards:* An indication as to whether there have been any changes in the accreditation standards that the Netherlands Flemish Accreditation Association (NVAO) uses to evaluate and accredit medical schools in the areas listed below, and, if so, what those changes were:
 - administration,
 - faculty,
 - curriculum,
 - admissions procedures,
 - student services,
 - methods for evaluating student achievement, and
 - facilities.

- *Processes and procedures:* An indication as to whether there have been any changes in the accreditation processes and procedures used by the NVAO for the following:
 - conducting site visits,
 - selecting and training individuals who conduct site evaluations or who make accreditation decisions,
 - periodically reevaluating and regularly monitoring medical schools,
 - reviewing substantive changes reported by medical schools,
 - ensuring the NVAO has effective controls against conflicts of interest and the inconsistent application of accreditation standards, and
 - ensuring that accreditation decisions are based, in part, on the evaluation of student performance after graduation from medical school.

- *Schedule of upcoming accreditation activities:* A listing of upcoming accreditation meetings and on-site visits to medical schools, branch campuses, and clinical clerkship sites.