

## **Committee appointed to evaluate Dutch restitution policy on Nazi-looted art**

**A committee chaired by Jacob Kohnstamm is to evaluate Dutch restitution policy in respect of artworks and cultural objects looted by the Nazis during the Second World War, mostly from Jewish owners. Set up by the Netherlands Council for Culture at the request of Ingrid Van Engelshoven, Minister of Education, Culture and Science, this body will take several months to complete its work.**

The committee's formation follows a commitment made to Parliament in 2016 to evaluate the restitution policy in 2020. Alongside Jacob Kohnstamm, its other members are Lennart Booij, Hagar Heijmans, Nina Polak, Rob Polak, Emile Schrijver and Henny Troostwijk. Van Engelshoven announced their appointment today in a letter to the House of Representatives.

The evaluation will focus particularly upon the legal and moral aspects of Dutch restitution policy. The minister has asked the committee to compare this with the situation in other countries, and especially to look at the relationship between Dutch policy and the international guidelines on the restitution of Nazi-looted art. The committee will also discuss awareness of the policy and its accessibility, bearing in mind the suffering of victims and the dialogue with heirs.

Some of the art looted by the Nazis was returned to the Netherlands by the Allies after the Second World War and is now part of the national collection. The cultural objects may also be in the possession of municipal or provincial institutions, foundations or private individuals. Since 2001 a so-called Restitution Committee has advised on claims based upon internationally established principles. In all, approximately 460 objects have since been returned to their rightful original owners or their next of kin.

The evaluation committee is happy to discuss its work with concerned parties. It can be contacted through its secretary at [evaluatiecommissie@cultuur.nl](mailto:evaluatiecommissie@cultuur.nl).