

Erik Akerboom appointed Commissioner of the Netherlands Police

On Friday 15 January the cabinet approved the appointment of Erik Akerboom as Commissioner of the Netherlands Police. Akerboom was proposed by Minister of Security and Justice, Ard van der Steur. Akerboom will take over from the present Commissioner, Gerard Bouman, on 1 March 2016.

Erik Akerboom (54) has been Secretary General of the Ministry of Defence since 2012. Prior to that, he held the senior civil service positions of National Coordinator for Security and Counterterrorism (NCTV), and Director for the Democratic Rule of Law with the General Intelligence and Security Service (AIVD).

Police experience

From 2003 to 2009, Akerboom was Chief Constable of the Brabant-Noord Regional Police, in the south of the Netherlands. Before that, he held various positions with the Utrecht Regional Police, including District Commander and Head of the Regional Criminal Investigations Support Unit. The new Commissioner graduated from the Police Academy of the Netherlands in 1986. He also completed the Police Leadership Programme. In addition, he studied Economics and Business Administration at the University of Groningen and holds a Master's degree in Political Science from VU University Amsterdam.

An honour and a challenge

Erik Akerboom views his appointment as Commissioner as an honour and a challenge: 'I started my career with the police at the age of twenty-one. In the meantime, my various leadership positions have allowed me to familiarize myself with a wide range of aspects of policing. I have always found police work a wonderful area. The police organization has so much to offer. I am now returning to the police, enriched by my experiences in other related institutions, and will wholeheartedly dedicate myself to the police organization and all police officers. It is fantastic to have this opportunity to contribute to building up the National Police. I am looking forward to working together with everyone engaged in this endeavour.'

Blue blood

The Force Command is delighted with Akerboom's appointment, as First Deputy Commissioner Ruud Bik commented in his first response to the news: 'He has blue blood in his veins. Erik Akerboom knows the field of policing inside out and is familiar with all the issues we encounter in our decision-making. It goes without saying that his experience with the AIVD and the NCTV, as well as his present position with the Ministry of Defence, will be of enormous value to him as Commissioner. We have every confidence in our future cooperation with him and in the way he will lead and shape the further formation of our national police force. The members of the Force Command wish him every success with the demanding and responsible task that lies ahead.'