



# Nieuwsbrief / Newsletter 2023-2

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Dear NVR members,

The summer is almost over, and the NVR activities are in full swing again. Time for a new newsletter!

In this newsletter you will receive information about the General Assembly held on 26 June. We would also like to inform you about the new composition of the board, a new contact person at the secretariat for the membership administration and we will give you an update of the work at all committees.

If you have any questions, please contact the secretariat.

Happy reading!

## 1. General Assembly

On 26 June, the General Assembly took place at Cosine, in Sassenheim. The NVR thanks Cosine for the hospitality, the introduction presentation of director Marco Beijersbergen, and the facilitation of the interesting tour.

The new NVR board, which was previously determined during the Special General Members' Meeting on 26 January 2023, presented the outlines of the new NVR policy plan for 2024-2026. Various reactions have come from the members present, which the board will consider in the further elaboration of the policy plan. In addition to the policy plan, the secretarial and financial annual report of 2022 was also presented, and all committees have given an update on the current activities at the association, which will also be further explained in this newsletter.

The board is pleased to announce that **Coen Martinus** has joined the board as treasurer. He replaces **Mischa Brouwer** who has decided to resign his position as board member and treasurer after more than two terms of 3 years. **Frits Overtoom** also resigned as a board member and committee member of the communication / social media committee. We like to thank Mischa and Frits for their enthusiastic contribution in recent years and wish Coen every success in his new position.

Our previous chairman Ton Marée was also put in the spotlight because that hadn't been possible before. The chairman thanked Ton very warmly for his efforts during his period as NVR chairman, especially considering the period related to the corona problems (2020 – 2022).

The chairmanship of Pieter van Beekhuizen, approved at the meeting of 26 January 2023 for the period until 30 June 2023, was extended for a further term of 3 years until 30 June 2026.

During the meeting, a call was made for the replacement of Frits Overtoom as board member responsible for communication / social media. The board subsequently found Alexandra Sokolowski willing to fulfil a role as 'communication advisor' until the next general assembly. The intention is to formally nominate Alexandra as a board member during the general assembly in 2024.

The general assembly was also the last meeting in which Richelle Scheffers was present, the chairman elaborated on the very important role that Richelle has fulfilled for the NVR for more than 12.5 years (see below).

With Richelle's departure, the board initiated a solicitation procedure, and asked our honorary members Gerard Blaauw and Tanja Masson-Zwaan to do the application interviews and to give the board a recommendation for the replacement.

The documents of the general assembly of Leiden of 26 June are published on the [website](#).

For the sake of completeness, we list the entire board again below.

Chairman:	Pieter van Beekhuizen
Vice-president:	Peter Buist
Secretary:	Raj Thilak Rajan
Treasurer:	Coen Martinus
Board member:	Peter Batenburg (General Affairs)
Board member:	Wendy Mensink (Young Professionals)
Board member:	Kim Regnery (Events)
Board member:	Egor Tamarin (Web & IT)
Board member:	Dimitra Stefoudi (Legal Affairs)
Advisor:	Alexandra Sokolowski (Communication & Social Media)



*Pieter van Beekhuizen & Ton Marée (current and former chairman)*

The biographies of all board members can be found on our [website](#).



*Presentation Cosine, Marco Beijersbergen*



*Farewell Mischa de Brouwer, treasurer*



*Farewell Richelle Scheffers, secretary*

## 2. Update Secretariat

After 13 years, the NVR had to say goodbye to Richelle Scheffers, who has fulfilled both board secretary duties as well as member administration during her term. Richelle has decided to go back to training, and to continue and expand her self-employed work. The NVR is extremely grateful for her efforts in recent years and wishes her every success in the rest of her career. The membership administration has been taken over by Eveline van Beekhuizen, who will now be the first point of contact for our members.



Bye Richelle      Hello Eveline

Eveline has worked in the events industry since 2010 and has worked as a conference organizer/project manager, and temporary manager, at the ESA Conference Bureau at ESTEC between 2013 – 2019. In addition, she has been involved in the organization of the Space Event 2022.

The e-mail address you can contact for questions or comments is unchanged: [secretariaat@ruimtevaart-nvr.nl](mailto:secretariaat@ruimtevaart-nvr.nl)

## 3. Communication

### ***Elevating Communications: New Leadership and Strategic Insights***

Navigating the ever-shifting landscape of space exploration demands effective communication. The Communications Committee at Netherlands Space Society is proactively adapting to this dynamic environment with changes in leadership and strategy.

We are pleased to introduce Alexandra Sokolowski, who recently started as 'communications advisor' at the NVR and brings a wealth of experience from her background in Communications & Marketing within the space sector. Alongside Mari van Alphen, Alexandra is leading efforts to review our existing communications strategy.



Alexandra Sokolowski

In our commitment to better serve you, our members, we are preparing a survey that will allow us to gain valuable insights into your communication preferences. These insights will be instrumental in refining our strategies. During this process, our presence on social media platforms will continue steadily, even as we concentrate on shaping a more effective communications strategy.

## 4. Web & IT

The Website & IT committee is doing maintenance work on the website to create a better, more welcoming, and more consistent experience for all our members. Close collaboration with other committees of the NVR is also ongoing to support their activities. Furthermore, an evaluation of the current NVR app is in progress to determine how to best make it available to members again.



## 5. Young Professionals

In the first six months of 2023, new parts of the YPC have been created, aimed at enriching, and supporting young professionals in the aerospace industry, or those who aspire to a career in aerospace. An article for the new edition of 'Ruimtevaart' magazine describes the scope of the committee.

In addition, preparations are in full swing for a large, interdisciplinary event on October 12 during The Space Week, focusing on cross-over topics with space being the basis. This is a collaboration with NVR YP, SpaceNed YP and SGAC.

Follow the [NVR LinkedIn-page](#) to stay up to date for more updates and events for young professionals.

## 6.Events

Despite the major board changes, the events committee organized two events during the first half of 2023. In addition, various NRM/NVR lectures took place in the National Space Museum, in Lelystad, which NVR wholeheartedly promotes. In March, the NVR entered into a partnership with ESA and Metropole Orchestra to enthuse its members for the Solar Orbiter Concert, which is an ode to ESA's space mission of the same name to the sun. Since May we have also started The Space Drinks again, a recurring event which has once again proved to be a great success. Every second Thursday of the months May to September, members meet in an informal way, to catch up and get to know each other. The events committee is now working on organizing the Galaxy Gala which will take place on October 13, and is already working on new meetings such as a pub quiz and the Discover Your Space event. More info will follow!

An overview of the NVR events can be found on our [website](#).



*Solar Orbiter Concert*



*Space Drinks*

## 7.Legal Affairs

The legal committee is responsible for managing the legal affairs of NVR. These include the official policies of NVR, collaborative agreements with external organizations, official documents pertaining to the activities of NVR, as well as the NVR statutes and bylaws. Several matters are addressed by the NVR policies, including the designation of honorary members, protocols for handling the passing of members and honorary member, and the criteria for membership termination. These policies are subject to periodic review and are updated as necessary.

The NVR board will deliberate the need for the creation of new policies and any updates will be shared with the members and displayed on the NVR website. The collaborative agreements with external organizations encompass a series of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with space-related entities, both in The Netherlands and abroad. Through these MoUs, NVR engages in partnerships that center around mutual promotion of activities, joint event organization, and mutual support for respective causes. These MoUs are subject to regular review and are executed in adherence to their terms.

NVR members are encouraged to contribute their ideas to the board regarding potential collaboration with organizations of interest. Official documents of NVR mainly include service agreements for events and other matters that require official arrangements. Finally, the statutes and bylaws form the foundation of NVR, outlining its fundamental purpose and operational procedures. The legal committee ensures their ongoing relevance and the adherence by both the board and the NVR members.



## 8. Editor Magazine Aerospace

The editors of the magazine 'Ruimtevaart' have published two beautiful issues this year. Due to circumstances, issue 2022-4 came out in the beginning of 2023. We are currently working the Space 2023-3 edition. The editors are always looking for articles and authors, and invite anyone who would like to write an article to contact them via [redactie@ruimtevaart-nvr.nl](mailto:redactie@ruimtevaart-nvr.nl)



## 9. Increase membership fee

The budget for 2024 and later years was presented during the General Assembly of 26 June 2023. The contribution of the regular NVR membership has remained the same for more than 10 years, namely € 35 per year. In view of the inflation and in particular the increase in the paper and printing costs of our magazine Ruimtevaart, the board has proposed to increase the annual contribution from € 35 to € 40 per year with effect from January 1, 2024. This increase has been approved by the general assembly. In addition, the contribution of the paid student membership (including sending the printed magazine Ruimtevaart) will be increased from € 25 to € 30, and the memberships for members abroad from € 42.50 to € 55.