

COR

THE COR ABOUT...

Ask someone to state an advantage of working in the Netherlands and the chances are that, besides mentioning 'lots of holiday', they will answer 'employee representation'. Yet for many employees it is



Mark Boneschanscher

not always so obvious that they have a works council available to them. Do you actually know what a works council is and what it does? Perhaps you think it is a sort of trade union that you need to be a member of?

A works council is not a trade union. The works council (acronym OR in Dutch) is made up of 'ordinary' employees who represent all other colleagues. FOM also has a central works council (acronym COR in Dutch), which unites the works councils of the FOM Institutes with representatives from the university workgroups.

In May 2012 we took leave of two members of the COR of FOM, Wenda Hetem and Astrid van der Horst. Astrid chaired the council for 18 months and was interviewed last year by FOM

expres. Vice-chair Mark Boneschanscher will succeed her as chair. Leo Wiggers (from Nikhef) is the new vice-chair.

Who is the new chair and how does he view the OR work?
Mark Boneschanscher is a PhD student in a FOM workgroup at Utrecht University and has been a member of the COR since 2010. Until the appointment of the new OR - in December 2012 - he will chair the COR. What does he still want to achieve as chair?
"Over the past year we have worked hard on strengthening the visibility of the COR among temporary personnel at universities.

I want to develop this further, especially with the forthcoming elections in sight."

Mark emphasises the diversity of tasks with which the council supports the FOM organisation and its staff. "A COR committee is busy investigating how to make the PhD process more effective with the aim of enabling more people to successfully acquire their PhD within the duration of the employment contract. I am a member of the committee that is concerned with personnel issues," says Mark. "We are examining the influence of FOM policy on the staff and are coming up with new proposals, some of which are based on ideas from colleagues! For example, the negotiations about secondary employment benefits are coming up soon." (In other words: not the 'primary' employment benefits that apply to the entire research institute sector and that are being agreed upon with the trade unions, but the employment benefits specific to FOM, ed.) "We would very much like to hear the wishes of colleagues because in these negotiations we might indeed be able realise these!"

"Furthermore, the COR is busy with FOM's position in the wider scientific arena. Many colleagues have questions about the influence of the top sectors policy on physics research or, more recently, about what the consequences of the fall of the Dutch government are for FOM and NWO. We keep well informed about political developments," says Mark.

If you have a question for Mark or for your direct representative in the COR then please contact them! You can find out who your representative is at www.fom.nl/cor, and e-mail him or her or simply approach them at work. (PC) ■