



General Intelligence and  
Security Service  
*Ministry of the Interior and  
Kingdom Relations*



Our everyday lives are increasingly moving over to the digital realm. Threats to our national security have also taken on a different dynamic as a result of the digitalisation of the world. In 2017 the AIVD's work was set against a backdrop of turbulent international developments.

---

Please visit our website [english.aivd.nl/annualreport2017](http://english.aivd.nl/annualreport2017) for more information on the AIVD's investigations and activities in 2017.

# The belt of instability

---

The most direct impact on our security and the security of Western Europe as a whole is still coming from the 'belt of instability'. In Libya, jihadist groups continue to enjoy a certain freedom of movement. In late November 2017 in Egypt a large terrorist attack resulted in the deaths of 300 persons. Erdogan consolidates his position of power with a narrow victory in the referendum on the constitution. Iran and Saudi Arabia are in conflict with each other, a conflict that has repercussions for the entire region. With the help of foreign allies ISIS has been driven out of its territory in Syria and Iraq, but ISIS is still inspiring and encouraging its supporters. Lebanon tries to remain neutral, but it is hampered by Hezbollah. Russia uses any means necessary in order to strengthen its own position.

A map of Europe and the Mediterranean region. A blue line is drawn across the map, starting from the Atlantic Ocean at the north-western tip of Africa, passing through North Africa and the Middle East, and ending at the Barents Sea. The line is labeled as the 'Belt of Instability'.

**THE 'BELT OF INSTABILITY'**

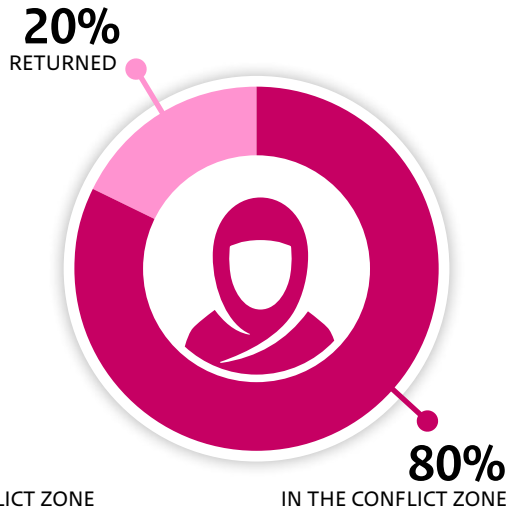
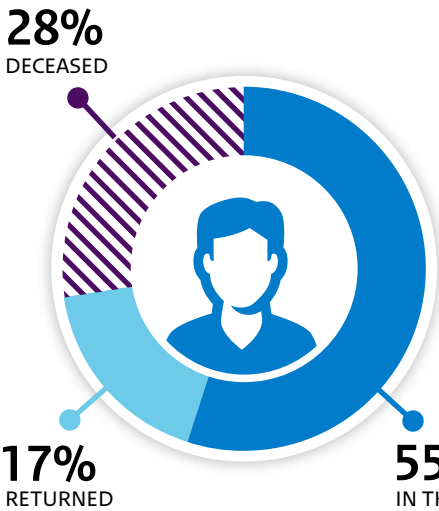
**runs from the Atlantic Ocean at the  
north-western tip of Africa across  
North Africa and the Middle East  
all the way to the Barents Sea.**

---

# Jihadist threat

---

The year 2017 saw almost no returnees from the conflict zone. We expect more returnees now that ISIS has lost nearly all of its territory. In all likelihood these will be mostly women and children, and they are expected to return fairly gradually. ISIS uses digital channels to inspire and encourage supporters and sympathisers to carry out attacks, to show that the organisation is still a force to be reckoned with.



**175 children**  
in the conflict zone

There are at least 175 minors with a link to the Netherlands in Syria and Iraq. More than two thirds were born there and are under four years old. Almost 10 per cent of these minors is older than 9, the age at which children with ISIS could have had combat training.

---

# The Netherlands as target for espionage

---

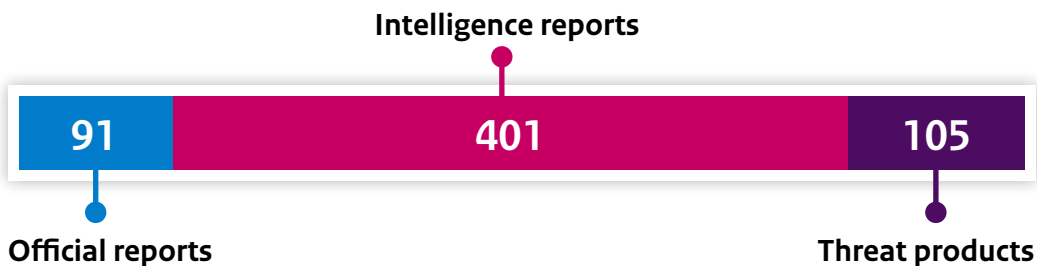
The Netherlands is a member of various international alliances, such as NATO and the EU, and in 2018 it will also take a seat on the UN Security Council. Our country is also host to various international organisations. Consequently the Netherlands is an attractive target for covert political influencing and espionage. Also the transportation hubs of Schiphol Airport and the Port of Rotterdam, and our sophisticated high-tech industry make our country an interesting object for economic espionage by other countries.



# AIVD products

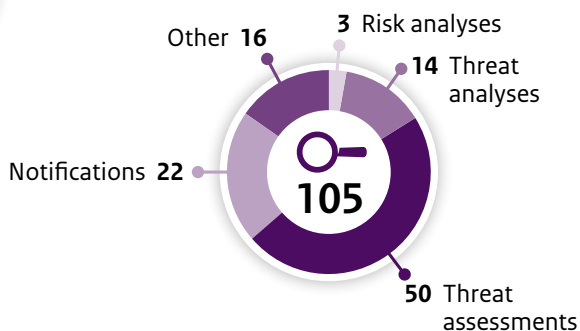
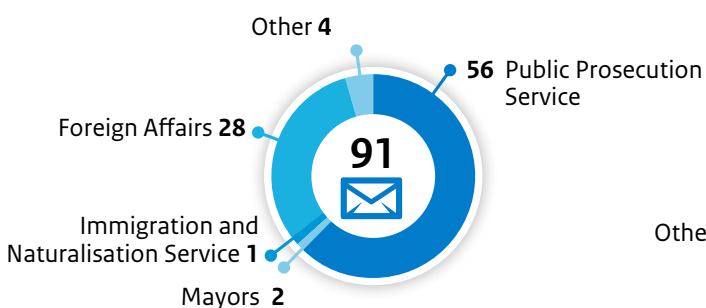
---

The AIVD investigates so that other national partners can take the appropriate steps to act and intervene. We offer perspective for action. We issued over 200 classified intelligence reports on worldwide topics with an impact on Dutch foreign policy, mostly for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2017 we informed various national partners with a total of 91 official reports. The National Coordinator for Counterterrorism and Security (NCTV) received from us over 100 written reports concerning threats to specific persons or events, or to vital sectors.



---

## Official reports in detail



## Threat products in detail

---

## 211 new employees

---

In 2017, 211 new employees joined the AIVD, so that at the end of last year the workforce stood at 1796 FTE. The majority of the newcomers are operational employees and ICT specialists. We have also invested in innovation in the areas of operations and processes.



## Over 45,000 security screenings

---

In 2017 the AIVD, together with its mandated partners the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee, the National Police Service, and the Surveillance and Protection Department, carried out over 45,000 security screenings. This is an increase of almost 30 per cent when compared to 2016, mainly as a result of a greater number of B-level screenings.

