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individual applicants were informed by letter that their residence permits have been extended.

She expects that the remainder of the delays vis-a-vis the extension caseload will be tackled by the end of this summer.

Regarding the issuance of so-called return visas, a temporary extra facility has been opened in Hoofddorp where return visas can be obtained free of charge.

As far as the IND Infolijn (the central IND phone service) goes, Verdonk states that the IND has allocated more staff to it, and that the services of a call-center were hired to ensure the IND is better equipped to handle calls from the general public.

Currently the IND has approximately 18,000 appeal cases pending, of which more than 12,000 appeal cases are older than six months. The IND intends to properly address the delays and aims to have most delays squared away by the end of this 2004.

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As far as the kennismigrant (knowledge migrant) is concerned. In my last column I described the possible implementation of a completely new residence permit category (five-year validity, no work permit requirement) for knowledge migrants.

To my knowledge , De Tweede kamer did not raise any major objections to the Cabinet's plans. The House of Representatives is now on summer recess and may attack the plans later this year.

Furthermore, the new regulations will have to be studied by the Raad van State, the highest legal advisory committee of the Netherlands, and that usually takes a while. As always, I will keep you up to speed on all developments.

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*This column is for informative purposes only, is general in nature, and is not intended to be a substitute for competent legal and professional advice. Dutch and European rules and regulations regarding foreigners, policies, procedures, work permits, visas, residence permits etc. are continuously subject to change.*

Write to [Patrick Rovers and Hans van Velzen](#)

Subject: Dutch residence permits + living in the Netherlands + working in

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