

To the president of KNAW and the directorate of CPB

Concerning: Supplement to my letter of May 17 2016

<http://thomascool.eu/Papers/Math/2016-04-15-Letter-to-NRO.pdf>

<http://thomascool.eu/Papers/Math/2016-05-09-Letter-to-VOR-and-Trainers-of-teachers.pdf>

<http://thomascool.eu/Thomas/English/Science/Letters/2016-05-17-Letter-to-KNAW-and-CPB.pdf>

May 25 2016

Dear prof. Van Dijck, dra. Van Geest, prof. Ter Weel and prof. Kool,  
Beste Laura, Bas en Clemens,

The following is a supplement to my letter of May 17 2016, referred to above.

W.r.t. the KNAW 2009 report on arithmetic education (letter, Evidence 4), I already gave evidence on content that this report must be withdrawn, as it is deficient and misleading for the minister of Education and Parliament. The report better remains at the KNAW website but with a clear "withdrawn" notice included.

W.r.t. the authors of this KNAW 2009 report, my letter (page 8 point (J)) contained an appraisal of qualifications w.r.t. mathematics education research (MER). No author appears to be qualified for MER. This information (additional to content) helps to understand how the failure came about, and how the authors themselves apparently are incompetent to acknowledge the failure even when it is explained to them. One must mention also the incompetence of acknowledging their own and each other's lack of qualification.

In the past I had already communicated with some authors. The May 17 2016 letter caused me to look at the qualifications of some other authors whom I hadn't communicated with before. These are mathematician prof. Rob Tijdeman (Leiden, KNAW) and "realistic mathematics education" ideologues dr. Marjolein Kool (HU) and drs. Anneke Noteboom (SLO). Since this appraisal of their qualifications involves their professional positions, I have informed them about my letter of May 17 to you, and allowed them to correct me if I was wrong.

The subsequent email exchange gives no reason to change the appraisal, see here:

<http://thomascool.eu/Papers/Math/2016-05-25-Email-exchange-with-Kool-Noteboom-Tijdeman.pdf>

NB. I do not intend to keep you informed about "new developments". The above is a proper supplement. However, now that I am writing you, let me put two new developments in the Appendix below.

Kind regards,

Thomas Cool / Thomas Colignatus  
Econometrician (Groningen 1982) and teacher of mathematics (Leiden 2008)  
Scheveningen

## Appendix.

(1) My letter of May 17, Evidence 6 on page 9, refers to a meeting at Parliament of June 8 on arithmetic tests in highschool. The Parliamentarian commission has cancelled that meeting. It would be wrong to conclude that the RM-ME-MER community has now correctly informed Parliament. Cancelling a meeting with a high risk of becoming a circus might be okay, but the reasons for organising and cancelling still are not sound. See <http://www.wiskundebrief.nl/740.htm#3>

(2) I observed that Lieven Verschaffel, co-author of the KNAW 2009 report, wrote this review: "Verschaffel, L. (2010). Sacha La Bastide-Van Gemert (2006). Elke positieve actie begint met critiek. Hans Freudenthal en de didactiek van de wiskunde. *Bi-logical*, 3 (1), 7." This journal apparently has no website where its editors can be reached or perhaps it even no longer exists. I have asked Verschaffel on May 16 whether he could send me a preprint, but **I have not received a reply till now**. Allow me to ask the president of KNAW to acquire a copy of this review and send it to me. If Verschaffel would have a background in MER, then he should have spotted the inconsistency in this thesis by La Bastide-Van Gemert. I already diagnosed that he didn't have this background but I would still be interested in his review. See

- <http://www.wiskundebrief.nl/718.htm#7>
- <https://boycottholland.wordpress.com/2015/10/20/hans-freudenthal-petty-crook-no-demon-1>
- <http://thomascool.eu/Papers/AardigeGetallen/2015-10-23-Malconduct-UMCG-emails-Colignatus-LaBastide-Vertrouwenspersoon.pdf>
- <http://thomascool.eu/Papers/BHRM/2015-10-28-Malconduct-VanBerkel-VanMaanen-Goedhart-LB-VG.pdf>