



Benelux
Chapter

2025 Fall Meeting

OCTOBER 8 & 9, 2025



**RETHINKING
RESILIENCE**

The colour kitchen
Utrecht



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PRE-EVENT & CHAPTER DINNER

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 08, 2025

- 15:30 Walk-in & welcome
- 16:00 Presentation Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations
- What is the role of the Ministry of the Interior in strengthening the resilience of the Netherlands? Staff from the ministry will share how they work to enhance the country's resilience. Ask them the questions you've always wanted to ask!*
- 18:00 Drinks followed by walking dinner

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FALL MEETING

THURSDAY OCTOBER 9, 2025

08:30	Walk-in
09:00	Welcome by ASIS International Benelux Chapter Chair
09:05	Update ASIS EU
09:15	Student Talent Award - Presentation #1
09:30	Strength Through Resilience: Securing Society and Government - by Paul van Tigchelt, Federal Member of Parliament for Open Vld
10:30	Coffee break
11:00	Building Resilient Communities: From Local Safety to National Strength - by Jaap Donker, General Director Safety Region Utrecht
12:00	Student Talent Award - Presentation #2
12:15	Lunch
13:15	Update ASIS Benelux chapter & Student Talent Award
13:30	Living Together in Diversity: Fiction or Reality? - by Khalid Benhaddou, Directeur CIRRA
16:00	Closing ceremony & drinks

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FALL MEETING

SPEAKERS



Paul Van Tigchelt is a Belgian politician for Open VLD and a former magistrate. He studied law at KU Leuven and began his career as a public prosecutor's clerk in Antwerp. He worked in the cabinet of Patrick Dewael and later specialized in the fight against drug-related crime. For many years, he served as Director of OCAD, where he played a key role in counterterrorism. He later became Deputy Chief of Staff to Minister Van Quickenborne. After Van Quickenborne's resignation, Van Tigchelt succeeded him as Minister of Justice and Deputy Prime Minister. In the elections, he was elected as a Member of Parliament and as a municipal councilor in Zoersel. He is known for his tough stance on organized crime.

In his session, **Strength through Resilience: Securing Society and Government**, Paul gives a behind-the-scenes perspective from a civil servant who has served as a magistrate, minister, and member of parliament — offering unique insights into the challenges and resilience of public service and governance.

The logo for "The colour kitchen Utrecht", with "The colour kitchen" in a red, lowercase, sans-serif font and "Utrecht" in a larger, red, lowercase, sans-serif font below it. A red stylized graphic element is on the right.



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FALL MEETING

SPEAKERS



Jaap Donker is General Director of the Veiligheidsregio Utrecht (VRU). As the leader of a collaboration between 26 municipalities in the Utrecht region, Jaap plays a key role in fire services, crisis management, and emergency medical care. He is also the national portfolio holder for 'Resilience' across all Dutch Safety Regions.

In his session, **Building Resilient Communities: From Local Safety to National Strength**, Jaap will share how resilience is being built and strengthened—not just within the Safety Regions, but for all citizens of the Netherlands, today and in the future.

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FALL MEETING

SPEAKERS



Khalid Benhaddou is a Belgian imam, Muslim theologian, and public intellectual, known for his moderate and connecting vision of Islam in Flemish society. He serves as the chief imam of the El Fath Mosque in Ghent and as chairman of the Platform of Flemish Imams. In addition, he heads the expertise center CIRRA and is Commissioner for Diversity at Ghent University. Benhaddou is actively engaged in countering radicalization and promoting interfaith dialogue. He is the author of *Is dit nu de islam?* (Is This Islam?) and *Verdwaald in verlichting* (Lost in Enlightenment), in which he advocates for an interpretation of Islam in harmony with Western values. For his work, he has received several awards, including the Human Rights Prize.

On his session, **Living Together in Diversity: Fiction or Reality?** Khalid explains: “We live in a century where diversity is no longer a marginal phenomenon, but a daily reality. Migration, religion, and cultural differences shape the very fabric of our society. That fabric brings opportunities, but also tensions and questions. How can we live together in a time when the old frameworks have disappeared and everyone claims their own truth? What does it mean, in such a context, to seek a shared frame of reference that does not exclude but connects?”

The core question of our time is how to find direction in a world that increasingly resembles a patchwork. Religion has returned to the public debate, migration introduces new identities and tensions, and uncertainty drives people to search for stability. It is precisely in this context that the resilience of our society and our organizations comes under pressure. For where polarization or discrimination are given space, the very connectedness we need to withstand times of change begins to erode.

Living together is therefore no longer self-evident, but requires vision, courage, and imagination. It means daring to see difference as a source of renewal rather than a threat, and formulating shared values that lift us above the issues of the day. Resilience, in this light, is not a defensive posture but the art of staying connected in the midst of diversity.

The challenge of the 21st century is therefore not only to manage, but to give meaning — and to build a story that does justice to both our plurality and our interconnectedness. Only then can we strengthen the resilience that allows us to live and grow together in a world full of uncertainty”.

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FALL MEETING

OUR MODERATORS



Nele Eykens, CPP

Chief Security Officer bij Tractebel, ASIS International European Board Member and former Chair ASIS International Benelux Chapter



Ruud Hikspoors, APP

Security Manager bij Alliander

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OUR FALL MEETING IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY



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SPECIAL THANKS

This year's Fall Meeting would not have been possible without the dedication of a few key people. The theme and inspiring line-up of speakers came together thanks to the enthusiasm and tireless efforts of chapter members Ric te Vaanholt, CPP CISM, Ruud Hikspoors, APP, and Paul Robrechts.

Your commitment ensures that this event can take place — and we are truly grateful!

Dana Aussems CPP
Chair
ASIS International Benelux Chapter Board

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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Location

The Colour Kitchen
Prinses Christinalaan 1
3554 JL Utrecht
The Netherlands
www.thecolourkitchen.com

Pre-event: Christinazaal
Drinks & dinner: Café and restaurant
Fall Meeting: Christinazaal



Arriving by car?

Attention: please set your navigation to J.M. de Muinck Keizerlaan.

We recommend parking in the designated spaces on J.M. de Muinck Keizerlaan, right in front of the building. However, free parking is available throughout the neighborhood. We kindly ask you to be considerate of our neighbours.

Arriving by public transport?

Nearest train station: Utrecht-Zuilen, approx. 15 minutes on foot
From Utrecht Central Station, approx. 15 minutes by bus
For up-to-date travel information, please check 9292.nl

About The Colour Kitchen

The Colour Kitchen is a socially-driven hospitality venue, committed to creating opportunities for people with a distance to the labour market. Sustainability is a core principle: the kitchen works with local and certified responsible suppliers, including organic and fair trade partners.



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