

## **Panel 15:**

Panel: Two decades of reregulating infrastructures; taking stock and moving forward.

Panel organizers:

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Around two decades ago, New Public Management inspired a new direction for the regulation and governance of many Dutch infrastructure sectors. After years developing the new regulatory regime and implementation and alteration of the governance of the sectors, it is time to take stock. The energy sector, the public transport sector, the water sector, the telecommunications sector, even the road sector, all have taken their own path towards a different role of government entities.

The public values perspective made explicit how these sectors were still expected to contribute to governmental goals, even in a different relation. For some sectors, aspirations of deregulation turned into reregulation. The expectation that government would withdraw has proven false in many sectors. Governmental and private players have established new roles.

New challenges have emerged. A key theme is fragmentation: the introduction of the market developed new layers and players. A key challenge has proven to link operational excellence to decision-making on managerial and governmental levels. In addition, where competition was introduced, it has not always provided the expected benefits. The balance between coordination and competition is still not found in some sectors.

The panel looks at the current state of affairs of regulation and governance in infrastructure sectors. It evaluates the changes that were made and looks at current challenges. It will look at possibilities to extend multi-level governance questions into infrastructure operating and managing companies, both in private hands and government owned. The discussion will be aimed at the next step needed in the regulation and governance of infrastructure sectors in the Netherlands, both in research as well as in practice.