

# **Benefit Entitlement (Resident Status) Act**

## **Summary**

The 'Koppelingswet' - Benefit Entitlement (Resident Status) Act -; but literally translated: 'Link Act' -, came into force in the Netherlands in 1998. This Act 'links' the right to numerous benefits, provisions, supplements, exemptions and permits that are granted by the government to the right of a foreigner to reside here. In fact it is not a law, but a group of alterations to 25 laws that govern the collective provisions involved. The Act is going to be evaluated: a report will be published in 2001. It will cover the legitimacy, the effectiveness and the efficiency of the Act. The present report is an interim report; attention was paid primarily to the implementation of the law during the first year of the evaluation. The departments involved have, each in their own field, carried out an investigation. The present text is a summary of these investigations, based upon which a number of conclusions have been formulated. The most important conclusion could be that the Act - in spite of the complex organisation that it necessitated - has indeed been carried out and is being carried out in accordance to its goal. The problems surrounding its initiation and implementation that arose in the first year turned out to be solvable. No cause has been found for radical adjustments to the Act and the legislation in this field. There are, however, a number of limited, practical adjustments desirable.