

25. September 2026

Europe/EDI

German-Dutch Border Talks: A smuggling tour in Dinxperwick

**Walk on 6 October 2026 at 5 pm // Organised by VHS
Bochoolt, the municipality of Aalten and EUROPE DIRECT
Bochoolt // Free event**

Members of the public who are interested are invited to a guided tour of the former border in Dinxperlo and Suderwick on 6 October 2026 at 5 pm. They will visit historic smuggling sites and learn about the "smuggling tricks" once used by the local residents.

During this roughly two-hour "journey through time" - a walk along the German-Dutch border between Dinxperlo and Suderwick - participants are immersed in the eventful history of the border region. An experienced "smuggling guide" weaves together fascinating stories about the border, its origins and the lives of people on both sides of it.

Events during the First and Second World Wars are also part of the programme and illustrate just how profoundly the border has shaped the lives of people in the region. In a united Europe, this border is now barely noticeable.

There is a particular focus on smuggling, which was once part of everyday life in and around Dinxperlo. Many traders refused to comply with the numerous customs regulations and tried to outwit the so-called "Kommiezen%", the border guards of the time. The smuggling guide knows the specific spots where smuggling once took place and immerses participants in that era with colourful and entertaining stories.

Information about the walk

The walk is about four kilometres long and takes around two hours. The pace is correspondingly leisurely and no specific break is planned. The route can be adapted to suit the group if required and is suitable for walkers using a rollator.

Knowledge of Dutch is not essential. Everyone speaks in their own language and translation is provided if required. The meeting point is the VVV tourist office in Dinxperlo, Markt 4.

Registration

Registrations for the event can be made via the VHS at vhs.bochoolt.de or by telephone on (02871) 953 2277, quoting course number BW11132. The event is free of charge.

About EUROPE DIRECT Bocholt

EUROPE DIRECT Bocholt is part of the Mayor's Office and the Executive Board of the City of Bocholt and serves as the local point of contact for questions relating to the European Union. Its role is to provide local residents with information, advice, assistance and answers to questions about Europe. Furthermore, EUROPE DIRECT Bocholt aims to promote engagement with Europe and to keep people informed about current developments in European politics.



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On 6 October 2026, a "smuggling tour" will take place in Dinxperlo