

Goodevening ladies and gentlemen

I want to thank you for the opportunity to talk to you on this meeting. I hope it is not a problem I do this in English, because I don't speak Dutch.

My name is Witek Wywrot. I come from Polen and I am married to Alicia and have three girls. The oldest is Amelia and she is 13 years old. The youngest are twins. Their names are Martina and Alexandra and they are 9 years old. My wife and I decided that we want to raise our children in Polen, but it is very hard to get a job in our village. That is why I go to Holland to earn money for my family.

Since 4 years I live and work in the summer on the broccolifarm of René and Sabine Verdonk. The work is hard, but I earn good money and the atmosphere on the company is very good. Last year we heard that René and Sabine want to build a new hall to process the broccoli. We thought this was a good idea, because the workspace was really small. This hall had to be built on the site where our accommodation was. We asked them where we would go to live. They said they want to make a nice new accommodation and asked us what we thought was important for this accommodation.

We discussed about this and came to the conclusion that there were 2 things most important. It would be very nice to have a private room for everybody. Now we sleep with 2 persons on a room and this is sometimes very hard, because we never have a moment of privacy (besides on the toilet). We also would really like it if we could go to the bathroom and kitchen indoors. Now we have to go outside everytime and especially in the autumn this is really not nice. Everytime we have to put on shoes and a coat.

René and Sabine said they would do their best to make this happen for us. We all were very happy.

At the end of last season we saw the drawings of the new accommodation on the inside. Again we loved the way René and Sabine had thought of all our wishes.

In January I started to work in the tulips by Niels Kreuk. Niels doesn't have accommodation for us so we sleep in the cabins by René and Sabine. Sabine came to me and she was really sad and ashamed. She told me that maybe the plans we have with the accommodation are not going to happen. She said that the board decided that 400 m² til 600 m² is enough for 30 persons to live on. I really don't understand this.

The new hall to work in is 2000 m². To get a permit for it was totally no problem. Nobody asks if the space is really needed. But now the company want to make an accommodation for the workers the council has the opinion that we don't need more than 13 til 20 m² per person.

In the newspaper somebody from the council said that polish standards for living are different and we don't want to pay for more space. He even says we are going to get a friend or colleague to stay on our room, so we earn money from them. Together with my colleagues overthere who also work at the farm we want to convince you that the Polish standard of living is just as good as in Holland. Also we want to tell you that we don't mind to pay €20,- more per week if we get a really nice room and we would never let somebody else stay in the room just for the money. If we only work for 3 or 4 weeks it is no problem to stay with another person on the room, but we are here for almost 7 month. And then privacy is very important.

René and Sabine already have 10 years of experience with providing accommodation to their polish workers. They make strict rules for living on the farm, but they also help us with every problem we have. If we have to go to the doctor, if we have problems with papers, they always help us. We feel at home on the farm.

So we ask the council to please give us the 800 m² space to live in and please come to visit us and talk to us so you know how it is like to live on the farm.