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Sommario/riassunto	During the period under scrutiny (2000-2003), migration motivated by considerations of family reunification or family formation accounted for approximately 45% of total immigration in the Netherlands. Family (re)unification has thereby overtaken asylum as primary motivation for immigration in the Netherlands. As part of a wider and highly politicized debate around integration and immigration, family migration has been a controversial and regularly discussed issue in the Dutch public realm since at least the mid-nineties.