

Plan B

Electoral Program

Party for the Animals

Parliamentary elections 2017

Hold fast to your ideals

**Partij voor
de Dieren**



Introduction – Plan B

The Party for the Animals is the only political party whose fundamental principle is to serve the interests of all species, human and animal alike. Our vision is planet-wide. That position is unique.

The earth can provide to fulfill everyone's need, but not everyone's greed. The greatest challenge we face today is to keep the planet livable for future generations. A world with clean air, clean water, species wealth and diversity, with fertile soil and life in harmony with all the other inhabitants of our earth. To foster a society in which people look after one another, where the most vulnerable are taken care of. A world with a sound educational system and meaningful work for all. A society in which people have the courage to make necessary changes happen.

Idealism is the new realism.

We need a Plan B. Because there is no Planet B. This program is that Plan B. It does not combat the symptoms. Does not offer solutions whose first minor effects will become visible decades from now. It is not 'compromise'. It does present ideals that are achievable and affordable. We are convinced it can be done. And we will do our utmost to make it happen.

In Parliament, we put topics on the agenda to which traditional politics would prefer to turn a blind eye. We actively oppose the single-issue politics of parties that predominantly serve the interests of the people of the western world and the interests of their money. Traditional thinking is still founded on the conviction that making money comes first, before we can pay any serious attention to the truly important matters. Matters such as human and animal rights, the preservation of nature and the environment. These basic prerequisites of our very existence are deemed luxuries. We have grown to consider money as an objective in its own right. As though what we can afford is related to monetary value instead of to what the earth can provide, how that should be distributed and what (moral) decisions that entails. Our current economy is primarily focused on transforming everything our earth can provide into quick cash. We want an economy that serves everything that makes life worth living. Such as fighting poverty and promoting equality, safety and the livability of the earth.

For generations, children faced brighter futures than their parents. Until our generation, that is. We are the

first with genuine concerns about our children's future well-being, both in a material and immaterial sense. We appear to be the first generation to be confronted with nearly impossible to control changes, demanding the most of our ingenuity to ensure that life on earth will remain sustainable.

Plan B. The solutions are many.

The economic crisis was not the result of a shortage of products and services, but due to faults in the economic system. We live in an age where increasingly less manpower is required to produce and organize everything we need. This presents a wonderful opportunity to spend more time on caring for one another and for nature. And on personal development, innovation, sports, the arts, etcetera. However, the way we have currently structured the economy makes this impossible: instead of being able to work less, people are forced to work more, and until later in life. Many people are left on the sidelines. The young find it difficult to find long-term employment, and are predominantly offered flex contracts. There is an obsession with production and consumption growth, regardless of whether people want it or not. The cost of labor remains steep due to high taxation, despite its abundant availability. Yet resources are dirt cheap, despite the fact that they are scarce, often exhaustible and their mining disturbs nature's balance.

The current economic system elicits a growth and debt addition that causes total deadlock. We will have to find a different way.

And we can! We should not levy taxes on labor, but on the use of resources instead. Particularly on non-sustainable resources. In effect, the cost of sustainable products will fall. We will pay more for polluting products. In turn, it will become possible to win back the jobs we have lost to low-wage countries: in the textile sector and other production and repair industries for instance. There will be more jobs across the board because of substantially lower labor costs. Education and healthcare will certainly benefit. We can spend our time, energy and creativity to make all our activities and products greener, applying smart innovations that serve sustainability. That serve each other. We

must give serious thought to an unconditional basic income for all. It would allow us to take up many of the tasks and activities that we now leave undone, because we do not have the time, or because they are too expensive.

There are many more solutions. When we reassign the fields that are currently used to cultivate animal feed for the meat industry, and use them instead to grow crops meant for immediate human consumption, those same fields will feed three times as many people as they do today, and we could even return fields to nature.

When we start using our buildings to generate energy instead of wasting it, it would make a world of difference. When we curb and end the use of animals for entertainment, food, clothing and experimentation, we will achieve a society that does not focus exclusively on the interests of humans, but on those of all living creatures.

Life will be more meaningful, less stressful and we will know greater solidarity, with more security, compassion and sustainability. We will give the earth the chance to recover. Society will become sustainable.

A sustainable society where everyone can feel at ease will come within reach when we let go of our blind fixation on the growth of the gross domestic product as the yardstick for prosperity. We should instead be guided by indicators such as the measure of safety in our society, our sense of community, the health and welfare of humans, animals and nature and our environmental footprint. We must end our obsession with the one-sided growth models used by the Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis, which fail to, or hardly, take into account what the consequences of our actions are for other countries.

We are all concerned about the enormous number of conflicts raging in the world. Millions are fleeing their homes. These conflicts are often exacerbated by water and food shortages and climate change. We can make our world safer and more peaceful when we are willing to take a close look at how our own actions have promoted the development of those conflicts. Such as our wasteful use of resources; fossil fuels, fresh water, phosphate. But also our aggressive export strategy, which comes at the expense of local economies in poor countries, and our arms industry which worsens conflicts.

Eradicating hunger and poverty in the world begins with the fair distribution of what the earth has to offer.

Hold fast to your ideals.

According to polls, 19% of voters is considering casting their vote for the Party for the Animals. You are one of

them, or you would not have come this far. This program is meant to introduce you to the planet-wide vision of the Party for the Animals. A vision founded on our four basic principles; compassion, sustainability, personal freedom and personal responsibility. Our Plan B is not expensive in terms of money, but it does require the courage of enough brave civilians to turn the tide. That courage is also needed on March 15th, 2017.

Your vote will go toward achieving the following:

1. Economy and work

Your money or your life?

2. Animal rights

Animals have the right to live according to their natural dispositions.

3. Agriculture and food

A sound agricultural system is a prerequisite to sustainable food production.

4. Nature

Naturally: put what is most valuable first.

5. Environment, climate and energy

Protect all that is valuable. Distribute all that is scarce fairly.

6. Housing, healthcare, education, science and culture

A society where everyone can feel at ease.

7. Security, privacy, civil rights and trustworthy government

A government that listens to the wishes of its citizens (without wiretapping them).

8. Europe, development cooperation, refugees and defense

A defendable worldview, planet-wide!

1. Economy and Work

Your money or your life?

The economic crisis was not the result of a shortage of products and services, but was due to ingrained faults in the economic system. We live in an age where increasingly less manpower is required to produce and organize everything we need. Potentially, this presents a wonderful opportunity to spend more time on other matters, such as caring for one another and for nature, on personal development, innovation, sports, the arts, etcetera. However, the manner in which we have currently structured the economy impedes these opportunities: people are forced to work harder and longer, instead of less. Or they cannot work at all, once the economy has written them off, which seems to be the case at an increasingly lower age. Production and consumption are constantly pushed to grow, regardless of whether people want them to. Labor remains costly due to high taxation, despite its being abundantly available. And yet, resources are dirt cheap, despite the fact that they are scarce and often exhaustible.

The current economic system elicits a growth and debt addition with serious ramifications for the livability of the earth, and subsequently spirals into a complete deadlock. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has calculated that private, commercial and government debts have reached the mind-blowing amount of 135,000,000,000,000 (135 trillion) euro. An irresponsible advance on an uncertain future. We will have to organize things differently. And we can! By working on a sustainable, real economy, we will create green, real jobs.

Measure prosperity differently.

At present, the government is too focused on raising income in the Netherlands: the gross domestic product (GDP). However, GDP growth does not necessarily mean that society is flourishing or that its population is happy. Volunteer work and informal care are not included as positive contributions to our prosperity in the calculation of the GDP. Activities that harm the environment, public health or animal welfare, such as factory farming, coal-fired power plants and gas extraction, are. That does not make sense. The Party for the Animals wants better instruments to determine the course of the economy.

- In order to determine and steer policies, the government will use the existing Monitor for General Prosperity. Further instruments that provide an impression of the welfare of humans and animals, of a clean living environment, biodiversity, innovative strength, the sense of community, availability of healthcare, etcetera. This provides a clear survey of the positive and negative impacts on society of government measures

and economic activities, and will allow us to determine the appropriate course in order to accomplish a sustainable and inclusive economy.

Balanced budgets.

For years, the government has focused on lowering the financial budget deficit. In doing so, it has forgotten to take into account the natural resource deficit that is the consequence of our lifestyles. Every year, we expend more natural resources than the earth can provide. The shortage of fresh water, timber and other 'services' that the earth is capable of supplying annually, increases every single year. In 2016, globally, we already spent all renewable resources available for that year on August 8th. This Earth Overshoot Day arrives earlier every year. Consequently, the ecological deficit is already in excess of 30%. These resources are much needed, also by people in developing nations and for future generations. Caring for animals, the environment and nature is by no means a luxury that we cannot afford just now, but is crucial to sustainable economic development.

- We will establish a tenable budget for government finances.
- We will furthermore establish a green state balance sheet: a profit and loss account that presents the effects of policy on humans, animals, nature, climate and the environment.

Regionalization of the economy.

It would be preferable to produce many products regionally rather than far away. Examples include food

and power. Since quite some time, the Netherlands has hardly manufactured products such as clothing, shoes and furniture itself. We also repair and restore goods less frequently and are not at the vanguard of the development and production of sustainable products such as solar panels. This is a wasted opportunity; entrepreneurial and creative spirit among the Dutch population is strong. Let's put that to good use!

- The Netherlands will shift its focus to becoming a genuine production and repair economy. We will produce sustainable products and increase the repair and repurposing of products.
- The agricultural sector will no longer concentrate on mass production and will abandon its aggressive export strategy. Instead, the Netherlands will focus on sustainable production for the regional market.
- The Dutch government spends over 60 billion euro on products and services every year. That is nearly 10% of the gross domestic product (GDP). This is a powerful instrument for government and semi-governmental bodies to promote sustainability, innovation and strengthening of SMEs. Tender procedures will be modified in order to ensure that all procurements are sustainable, beneficial to animal welfare and socially responsible. This should particularly offer SMEs an advantage.

More jobs, lower resource consumption: a new, green tax system.

When we start levying taxes on natural resources and unsustainable products, we can lower taxes on labor substantially. This will make it easier for businesses to hire people, will retain jobs in the Netherlands and increase disposable income. Lower resource consumption and more recycling will become rewarding.

- Taxes on labor will be lowered and taxes on natural resources will be increased.
- We can save billions of euro every year by abolishing (indirect) subsidies that are harmful to the environment. This includes abandoning tax discounts for producers and (mass) consumers of fossil fuels.
- Nederland will apply a zero tax rate for sustainable products, such as (organic) fruit and vegetables and a high tax rate for products that are harmful to humans, animals, nature and the environment.
- The Party for the Animals advocates pricing for scarce natural resources and products with a major negative impact on the environment, such as timber, coal and phosphate.
- An unnecessary amount of plastic packaging is currently used. In order to reduce this amount, manufacturers will be charged for the production of packaging materials.
- Building in developed areas will become more fiscally

attractive. This will include renovation, building on one's own privately owned plot, tiny houses (small, mobile houses), etcetera. Building on previously undeveloped plots will become more expensive.

- Energy taxes will be differentiated: power from coal will become more expensive than natural gas, green energy will be subject to lower taxes. Privately generated energy will remain exempt from taxation.
- The tax exemption for employer compensations for travel expenses by public transportation will be maintained.
- The tax stimulus for bicycle use will be maintained.
- There will be a time and location related kilometer-based charge for automobile traffic. User privacy will be guaranteed.
- There will be a 15-cent kilometer-based charge for freight traffic.
- The negative environmental effects of air transportation will be incorporated in the price of airline tickets. The Netherlands will impose this tax itself and will also advocate such a tax in the European Union.
- The Netherlands will cease the facilitation of massive tax evasion by multinational companies, and will make all existing deals (tax rulings) with companies public.

A better distribution of work.

Many people are in uncertain circumstances and wonder whether they will ever be able to find a job or a long-term contract. Meanwhile, the increased work pace rates and the pressure to perform lead to a stressed and rushed society. There are more people left along the sidelines. Furthermore, for many people, the rewards of working are no longer sufficient. Particularly for those with lower level educations. Wage and income development has stagnated while the profits and reserves of multinationals continue to break records. 'Flexwork' has proven to predominantly consist of a sequence of short-term jobs. It is becoming more and more difficult for older and younger employees to make ends meet due to the lack of sufficient work hours.

Shorter working weeks contribute to a better distribution of available work and should be made possible for everyone. They also lower unemployment and our society's impact on the environment. It would also make it easier to combine a paid job with informal care, parenting and volunteer work. It exemplifies our ideal of living in a society where paid work is no longer the only or main goal in life. And in terms of income, it should make no difference where you come from, whether you are a man or a woman, married, cohabitating or single, lesbian or transgender.

An unconditional basic income would allow us to unfold

more social activities that benefit society on the whole. Government benefit recipients are currently given too few opportunities to earn income in addition to their welfare, due to which the rewards of a part time job are often nil. We would like for job seekers to be able to take on volunteer work and internships, even if those positions are not directly geared toward a return to the job market. Lower implementation costs, more clarity for the population.

- Research will be conducted to survey the opportunities for implementing an unconditional basic income (in stages) for every citizen of the Netherlands. Pilots in this field will be stimulated.
- Legislation will be established that links severance compensation to the number of years that the employee was employed, according to the familiar cantonal court formula methodology.
- Retraining and reskilling courses are encouraged and facilitated by the government, this includes offering internships and restructuring of a sound adult education system: education should no longer be a matter primarily reserved for the young.
- The government will take a more active course of action in order to combat poverty, including measures such as easier access to debt counselling and tailored solutions for urban and rural areas. Many farmers are finding it hard to keep their heads above water due to fierce competition as a result of upscaling and intensification: the government must provide assistance in organizing easily accessible (psychosocial) aid and where necessary, transitional support.
- Unemployed youths can improve their chances on the job market by participating in employability projects in sectors such as healthcare and organic farming.
- Instead of an income assessment per household, welfare grants will be granted based on the individual.
- The fallback for youths with disabilities (Wajong) will be maintained. They will be given the opportunity to unfold meaningful and useful daily activities with the perspective of paid employment.
- Sheltered workshop schemes will be maintained and will be organized so that people can undertake meaningful work close to home, at their own particular level, with sufficient assistance and for reasonable compensation.
- Child benefits will be awarded relative to family income.
- Three months' paid parental leave for fathers will be made available, in order to facilitate the successful reconciliation of parenting and work.
- An assessment will be made whether professional childcare can become a standard component of elementary schooling provided by the government,

similar to the Scandinavian model.

- The implementation of a simple and fraud-proof Declaration of Independent Contractor Status (VAR). This will result in greater security for both self-employed persons and their clients.
- It will become easier for the self-employed to voluntarily save up for their pension or to take out insurance. The self-employed will be given access to (collective) disability and pension insurance.
- The hour criterion will be replaced by a progressive profit box system, so that taxes will depend on income, making it more rewarding to work part-time as a self-employed worker.
- The model contract system will be revisited as soon as possible. A simple and fraud-resistant Declaration of Independent Contractor Status (VAR) will be introduced without delay in order to ensure a secure position and status for both self-employed workers and their clients.

Secure golden years.

The Party for the Animals wants to treat the old and the young fairly.

- A society in which a large constituent of its older population is looking for paid work cannot continue to raise the state pension (AOW) age. A flexible state pension age is called for, which is based on the number of years worked. Those who have worked for 40 years will receive their state pension from the age of 65. People who receive welfare benefits at the age of 65, will subsequently receive their state pension from that moment on. There will be an option to choose for early retirement, in exchange for a proportionally adjusted state pension.
- Considering the unemployment rates and the lack of job openings for those over the age of 60, the job search obligation for this group will be lifted.
- Where disposable income for the age group below 30 and senior citizens has decreased relative to other population groups, this will be corrected.
- The consequences of poorly performing stock exchanges and low interest rates may not be for the senior citizens alone.
- The levy on the return on financial assets based on fictitious returns will be cancelled. The average of the actual returns over the past five years will become the new tax base.
- The informal care penalty will be abandoned.
- Clarity will be provided on all pension fund costs. Pension funds will be democratized, so that employees will have control over the compensation and provision policies and over what pension funds do with their money.

- The 1,300 billion-euro investment scope of pension funds presents a wonderful opportunity to stimulate and reward socially responsible companies. The policy of pension funds to invest in unsustainable sectors such as the livestock industry, fossil fuels and in the arms industry will be dealt with. Pension funds will not be permitted to engage in new investments in these sectors without a binding referendum among its members.
- Employees will have the freedom and flexibility of making choices concerning their own pension accrual. They can allocate their pension to a green investment fund, where this is not possible under the terms of their current pension fund. They can also opt for a flexible retirement age or a part time pension.

Restrictions on banks.

The irresponsible behavior of many banks, characterized by a purely profit-driven approach, sky-high bonuses and investments in unsustainable industries, have driven the world into deep crisis. Governance of banks has failed spectacularly. Regulation of the banking sector is pertinent. Banks that are 'too big to fail' must be disbanded.

- Banks will be categorized as either consumer banks, for payment transactions, savings and local credit provision, or commercial. In the event of disasters, this will make it easier for the public activities to remain operational, without necessitating the salvaging of commercial banks with taxpayer money.
- The Netherlands must ensure that it maintains its power within the EU to impose stricter regulations on banks than required by international agreements.
- The capital buffers (equity capital expressed as the percentage of the total outstanding loan amounts) of Dutch banks must be much higher than is currently the case: four percent is too low, the target percentage should be fifteen.
- A green investment bank will be established, controlled by the government. In cooperation with private green banks, this will allow for investments in a sustainable and inclusive economy. the green investment bank will make it easier for SMEs and green start-ups to acquire capital.
- Banks will be obligated to provide transparent information concerning investments, ventures and speculations.
- Based on its platform tasks, the EU will promote a coordinated implementation of bank taxes and taxes on financial transactions in its member states.
- Banks will be banned from taking risks that are not in the interest of its clients. Trade for its own account will be prohibited. We want to prevent complex financial products.
- No bonuses in the financial sector. This does not suit

its social task. Any potential efforts to circumvent the discontinuation of bonuses by substitutional compensation will be monitored and banned.

- Commercial banks have excessive power over the creation of money and sustain the debt economy. An assessment must be made of how a new, democratic, transparent system of money creation can be implemented.

2. Animal Rights

Animals have the right to live according to their natural dispositions.

The Party for the Animals believes that we should aspire to a society in which the use of animals by humans should be minimized. Animals deserve to be properly protected and to live in accordance with their nature and their needs. Animal rights should be incorporated in the constitution. The welfare of animals is in peril due to the manner in which they are bred, traded, held and slaughtered. Any abuse or neglect of animals by humans calls for immediate and strong action.

Stop animal testing.

Experiments on animals are unethical and must be put to a stop without delay. The tests and the manner in which the animals are kept inflict pain, cause anxiety and stress. Moreover, the majority of the drugs - if they work on animals at all - do not have the same effect in humans. There is an urgent need for better methods that do not include animal testing. Methods that are more effective to fight and prevent diseases and medical conditions in humans and animals.

- Investing in alternatives to animal testing will be given the highest priority.
- The Netherlands will promote an acceleration of the international recognition and application of non-animal testing and research methods.
- Research involving primates (including great apes) will be prohibited without delay. A plan (and subsequent implementation schedule) will be drafted to close the ape research center BPRC as soon as possible.
- Applications for animal testing will be subject to stricter assessment. Applications may exclusively be made after extensive literature research. As long as animal research is still conducted, international data-sharing (through a public databank) will be mandatory in order to prevent repeat animal testing.
- The breeding and killing of laboratory stock animals will be put to an end.
- Biotechnology in animals - including genetic manipulation and cloning - will be prohibited.
- Judges will be able to assess compliance with the Act on Animal Testing. Civilians and social organisations will have the opportunity to file objections to proposed animal tests.

No fur animals or animals for the production of down, no such products in stores.

Fur and down are completely unnecessary products. The use of fur or down does not justify animal suffering in any

way, shape or form. Although breeding mink for fur will be prohibited in the Netherlands as of 2024, some mink breeders are still attempting to expand their farms. Fur from animals such as raccoon dogs, foxes and coyotes is imported on a large scale and sold as coat collars.

- Fur farm expansion will not be permitted.
- Import, export, transit and sale of all fur will be prohibited.
- As long as fur is still allowed to be sold, clear labeling of fur products will be mandatory, with information about the origin and the number of animals that were killed for the product.
- The origin of the leather for leather products must also be given. Import and sale of leather from animals that were specifically bred for the leather industry, such as crocodiles, snakes and certain species of lizards, will be prohibited.

Animals are not for human entertainment.

Many animals that are held in captivity, such as elephants, lions, bears and tigers, display disturbed, stereotypical behavior. Breeding programs in zoos have proven to be of negligible benefit to the preservation of endangered species. Animal breeding in zoos is predominantly driven by other motives: newborn animals are welcome visitor magnets. The Party for the Animals feels that the present form taken by zoos and all manners of entertainment involving animals are not appropriate to modern times.

- Zoos will be converted into temporary shelters for animals that are unable to survive in their original habitats, or cannot be released into these habitats. Breeding animals for the stock of other zoos will be stopped immediately.
- As long as zoos continue to operate, they will be subject to stricter accommodation requirements, which must be as close as possible to the natural habitats of the animals in question.

- Stricter legislation concerning the welfare of animals in petting zoos is necessary, where the natural behavior of the animals will be taken as the norm.
- A stricter breeding policy will be adopted; animals born in (petting) zoos may not be killed.
- Dolphinariums and aquariums will be closed. Some locations may serve as temporary shelters for stranded or illegally traded sea mammals. The prohibition on the use of wild animals for public entertainment, as seen in circuses and wildlife parks, will be extended to include (sea) mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds. No animal belongs in a circus.
- All practices and traditions that are detrimental to animals, such as live nativity scenes, swan tag ('zwientje tikken'), 'Kalle mooi' with live roosters, goose pulling ('ganstrekken') and the collection of lapwing eggs will be prohibited. Animals may not be rented for events.
- A code of conduct will be established for the use of animals in art and media.
- Angling ('sport fishing') must be abandoned and in the run-up to a prohibition, must be strongly discouraged. No more 'fishing lessons' at schools.
- Flying competitions with pigeons will no longer be permitted.
- Markets at which animals are sold, such as horse markets or bird markets, will be prohibited.
- Stricter regulations must guarantee the welfare of horses. Their accommodation should provide sufficient room for their natural and social behavior. Harmful training instruments and methods will be prohibited and a minimum carrying age for ponies and horses will be adopted.

Welfare as the focal point for the breeding and sale of pets.

The breeding of pedigree animals is primarily concerned with their appearance, not on their health or welfare. Furthermore, in the Netherlands and abroad, tens of thousands of dogs are bred in enormous barns by rogue and malicious profit-driven breeders. This calls for firm and unequivocal action. The government should also take measures to prevent impulsive purchases, as these are a major source of animal suffering.

- A brief 'positive list' will be composed, listing animals that are suitable, based on their natural behavior and needs, to be kept as pets. Other animals may not be kept or traded.
- Mandatory permits will be instated for breeders and traders.
- Breeding of pets on the basis of extreme physical characteristics will no longer be permitted, nor will inbreeding.

- The import of foreign puppies will be subject to stricter monitoring, in cooperation with our neighboring countries.
- The mandatory chipping for dogs will be extended to cats, in order to facilitate quicker reunification of owners with their missing pets.
- In order to prevent impulsive purchases, the sale of animals via the internet, garden centers and market will be prohibited. A respite period will be adopted for the purchase of animals.
- Animal fairs will no longer be permitted.
- Pet stores will be encouraged to abandon the sale of animals. Instead, they can refer their customers to animals shelters or rescue centers.
- Minimum standards for animal supplies such as cages and kennels. Isolated accommodation of social animals, such as rabbits, will be prohibited, as will the sale of fish bowls and cramped kennels and cages.

Care for pets, shelter and emergency services.

Every year, many tens of thousands of animals end up in shelters. The rescue of found or surrendered animals is a legal responsibility of municipalities, but these often fail to fulfill these tasks. Animals shelters and rescue centers are predominantly kept afloat by hardworking volunteers.

- Animal shelters and animal ambulance services should be supported in their professional development.
- The network of shelters and animal ambulance services will be sufficient to cover the entire country. The government will provide adequate funding.
- Similar to other emergency services, animal ambulances will be permitted to drive in bus lanes and over tram rails in order to ensure timely arrival to provide emergency aid to animals.
- Animals will be given a defined role in emergency service and disaster plan protocols and disaster plans..
- The pet industry will contribute financially to the shelter and care of surrendered and abandoned animals. A contribution will be deposited in a shelter fund for every animal sold.
- The re-homing of animals will be subject to the low VAT rate.
- In the event that people need home care, additional help will be ensured for the household animals. It will become easier for people to bring their pets to care facilities.
- Animal care is not a luxury good: veterinary services will be subject to the low VAT rate.
- Veterinary care should also be accessible for the pets of people with minimum incomes.
- Shelters for victims of domestic abuse should also accommodate pets where necessary. Where required, shelter in foster homes will be arranged.

Firmer action against animal abuse.

The Party for the Animals wants firmer action against animal abuse and neglect. For perpetrators of animal cruelty, the odds of getting caught is low, as are sanctions. There is currently insufficient room to prosecute perpetrators.

- There will be a larger animal police force with adequate authority to investigate and arrest perpetrators of animal cruelty.
- The law will be amended in order to facilitate easier seizure of abused animals.
- Law enforcement and judicial authorities will prioritize animal abuse and neglect and a Prosecutor for Animal Affairs will be appointed.
- Animal abuse and neglect will be subject to higher sanctions and fines. Whomever abuses animals will no longer be allowed to keep animals. Imposing a lifelong prohibition on keeping animals will be instated for people who repeatedly abuse or neglect animals.
- Resale of seized animals for trade or for slaughter will be prohibited.
- Domestic violence aid workers will be educated to recognize animal abuse and neglect.

Room for animals, not hunters.

The Party for the Animals wants animals in the wild to be left as undisturbed as possible. In our small country, the natural habitats available to animals are shrinking. Now that wild animals are forced to live closer to humans, we often hear the simplistic assertion that they cause nuisance. The animals are combatted with the most forceful of methods, the only result of which is often the deaths of countless animals.

Recreational hunting, which frequently takes place under the guise of population control, has to stop. Every year, two million animals are shot to death and many more are maimed and wounded. Young animals are orphaned, mated couples are cruelly disturbed and group hierarchies and population dynamics are literally shot to bits. Hunting causes overpopulation, because the loss of large numbers of animals leads to higher birthrates the following year due to compensation. Supplementary feeding and the introduction of animals to the wild disturbs the balance of nature.

- The intrinsic value and protection of animals living in the wild will become the point of departure for policies.
- Animals living in the wild will not be killed. Only under urgent circumstances, for instance in the event of severe suffering or a threat to public health, can exceptions be made. That decision will be made by the government, following consultation with independent experts. This also applies to the responsibility for the proper, professional execution. The killing of animals

living in the wild by hobbyists will be prohibited.

- Catching and trapping animals in the wild and illegal hunting will be addressed with greater monitoring in the field and more severe sanctions.
- Special investigating officers and other hunting supervisors may not be employed by the hunters they are to supervise and monitor.
- The organization of domestic and foreign recreational hunts will be prohibited, as will advertising for these events.
- Wildlife management units will be abolished.
- Animals may not be disturbed during vulnerable periods, such as mating, breeding and nursing season and the molt period.
- The government will arrange for wounded wildlife. The government will provide financial support to wildlife shelters and help these organizations enhance their professionalism.

Prevention methods instead of extermination methods.

Every year, tens of millions of euros are spent on the pointless and cruel extermination of so-called 'pests', including geese, foxes and muskrats. Geese are gassed on a massive scale and every year approximately 100,000 muskrats die a senseless and gruesome death in a spring foothold trap or drowning cage trap. We must develop and apply smart, effective, and animal-friendly methods to prevent damage.

- Shooting permits will only be issued by the national government, not by provincial authorities.
- The gassing of wildlife, including geese, will be prohibited.
- No more subsidies for the killing of wintering birds such as geese and widgeons. Instead, non-lethal methods will be used to repel the animals from production grass and winter wheat fields and lured to areas that have been made appealing for them, such as water-rich natural areas, dikes sown with clover and unused strips of land alongside unpaved roads.
- There will be no cultivation of agricultural crops that attract geese in the vicinity of airports, this land will instead be used for solar panels or to grow crops that are unappealing to geese.
- Farmers will only be compensated for damages and losses if they have used animal-friendly techniques to limit their damage, which methods subsequently proved inadequate.
- Extermination of muskrats will be stopped. The money that will subsequently become available will be used for prevention and increased dike monitoring.
- Adequate swine and deer fencing will be put in place along roads and town centers. A nighttime speed limit will be introduced for roads in and around nature areas.

- Waste attracts animals. Litter and illegally disposed of waste will be actively combatted.
- Alternative nesting accommodation for seagulls and pigeons will be made available in order to prevent nuisance in populated areas.
- Feral cats will not be killed, but caught, spayed or neutered and released. This is an animal-friendly way to prevent an increase in feral cat populations.

Protection of animals in the wild, globally.

The trade in endangered animals is a ruthless form of crime and a substantial source of income for terrorists. The Netherlands serves as a major transit country for this illegal trade. The practice of hunting whales, dolphins and seals has still not been eradicated completely.

- An import and trade ban will be introduced for all animals caught in the wild.
- Bird markets will be abolished.
- Investigation and law enforcement concerning illegal trade in endangered species will be intensified.
- The Netherlands will take an active stance against whaling and seal hunting, no matter under what flag and where this takes place.
- The Netherlands will make an appeal to the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to adopt a hunting ban for cetaceans, in order to also prohibit the hunt on dolphins. The Netherlands will actively oppose the dolphin slaughter on the Faroe Islands and in Japan.
- The Netherlands will actively pursue an overall ban on (bluefin) tuna fishing and the de-finning of sharks.

3. Agriculture and Food

A sound agricultural system is a prerequisite to sustainable food production.

Food is a basic need for our existence. Therefore, is a basic requirement for our very existence. Therefore, the way in which our food is produced deserves our undivided attention. The current Dutch food provision system is seriously off-kilter. At present, it places a major and irresponsible burden on global resources and agricultural land. This is attributable in part to the massive import of cattle feed and the use of chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides in the agricultural sector. The EU has granted billions of euro in agricultural and fishery subsidies. This results in unfair competition and prevents farmers in developing nations, who do not receive such subsidies, from being able to sell their products at realistic prices. These farmers must be given every opportunity to cultivate food crops in a lucrative manner for their own regions.

A healthy, sustainable agricultural sector is only possible if we repair the natural cycles and pay farmers fair prices for their products. We must have full insight into the origin of our food, how it was produced and whether the price covers the costs. The food chain must be short and open, in order to prevent tampering with food. Loss leader pricing of meat is unacceptable and we will fight food waste. And of course, we will put an end to factory farming!

Our country's intensive farming practices claim numerous victims. Every year in the Netherlands, over 500 million animals are slaughtered after living short and miserable lives. The widespread use of agricultural toxins is causing the loss of species such as bees and butterflies, and people who live near farmland and flower bulb fields become ill. The emission of greenhouse gases and ammonia by our enormous livestock population comes at the expense of nature and contributes to global warming. Knife and fork are our most important weapons in the fight against climate change, poverty, hunger, animal suffering and the loss of biodiversity.

Many farmers in the Netherlands are struggling to keep their heads above water: every week, five farming businesses are forced to close because their earnings are no longer sufficient and they cannot or will not join in on the trend of increasing the number of animals they keep and/or implementing intensive farming practices. Examples include mega-stables and millions in loans that these require farmers to close.

Healthy and sustainable food for everyone.

We cannot allow even more of the control of our food supply to be put in hands of monopolists: power must be returned to civilians and farmers.

- Plant and animal species cannot be owned by companies. Patents on any life forms will be banned. We oppose any attempts by companies such as Bayer-Monsanto and BASF to patent plant and animal genes and thereby control the food market.
- The Netherlands will undertake efforts on an international scale to promote strong cultivation rights for farmers and crop enhancers. Substantial investments will be made in the development of organically resistant plant and crop varieties.

Global food production is more than enough to feed the growing world population. However, production is not sustainable and large volumes of food go to waste. The majority of this waste is caused by feeding animals food that is also suitable for human consumption. We must consume fewer animal and more plant products, in the interest of animals, nature and the environment, but also of our own health.

- Over-zealous regulations concerning expiration dates and physical characteristics of food will be altered, as they contribute to food waste. Education about best storage practices and the shelf life of food will result in less food in the waste bin.
- The price of food should incorporate all costs, including the costs for protecting animals, nature and the

environment and the costs for food safety assurance. Cut-price meat will be taken off the shelves. A fair price will be paid for all products.

- Schools will expand their programs for healthy meals and school fruit, and will procure only organic and sustainable products. There will be extensive attention in the curriculum for healthy and sustainable food.
- We will stop subsidized advertising campaigns for meat and dairy. The millions in subsidies for the promotion of agricultural products will be downscaled, and until they are ended altogether, will only be used for organic and plant-based products.
- Development of plant-based meat, dairy and fish substitutes will be supported, and campaigns aimed at the promotion of a plant-based diet will be initiated.
- Government (institution) restaurants will serve organic, locally sourced food and will maintain at least one meat and fish-free day. There is no place for endangered species on the menu.
- Food products will be clearly labelled with information regarding origin, animal welfare, social circumstances, health aspects and the ecological footprint. For meat, dairy and eggs, the label will also specify where the animal was born, raised and slaughtered.
- Urban farming will be encouraged.
- Strict sustainability criteria will be introduced for the import of raw materials, such as palm oil, soy and bio mass.

A healthy food market.

- European Agricultural Policy will be thoroughly reformed. The billions of euro in agricultural and fishery subsidies will be abolished. The budget will temporarily be allocated to help farmers make the transition to ecological farming practices. Subsequently, the subsidy will end.
- Research budgets will exclusively be used for ecological farming systems and the restoration of natural cycles.
- The polluter will pay: products that incur environmental damage and animal suffering, such as meat, dairy and eggs, will be put in the high VAT rate category, starting with animal products from the livestock industry. Healthy, sustainable products such as organic vegetables and fruit will be exempt from VAT.
- Brokers, supermarkets and other retailers will implement a so-called fair price certification. This will demonstrate that the price they pay farmers is sufficient to cover the production costs, including the costs incurred in order to meet the social demands on animal welfare and environmental protection.
- Farmers and horticulturists will have the opportunity to join forces and receive a cost-effective price for their products. Contracts that lead to an obligation to

deliver at a price that does not cover all costs, will be prohibited. This will put a limit on dominant procurement power of supermarket chains and large producers.

- Producing surpluses of meat, egg and dairy is unacceptable. We will therefore abolish government buy-back schemes.

Toxin-free vegetables.

- The use of artificial fertilizer and agricultural toxins will be drastically diminished and replaced with ecological alternatives.
- Preemptive use of agricultural toxins will be banned immediately. Natural field barriers, which promote biodiversity and are appealing to natural enemies of diseases and plagues will be mandatory.
- Chemical pesticides which are a hazard to humans, animals or the environment will be taken off the market immediately. This will certainly include neonicotinoids, glyphosate, soil fumigant metam sodium, a large number of fungicides and all those agricultural chemicals and pesticides with an endocrine disrupting effect.
- As long as the agricultural sector is not completely toxin-free, strict protection measures will be taken for people living in the vicinity of agricultural and horticultural businesses. Broad spray-free zones must be implemented between fields and neighboring homes, schools, office parks, factory sites and recreational areas. These spray-free zones must also be implemented around public roads, bicycle and hiking paths and in the vicinity of areas that accommodate animals, such as meadows.
- All agricultural chemicals that are currently on the market will be subjected to reassessment according to stricter criteria, based on the precautionary principle. Such reassessment will not include animal testing. Only those products that are demonstrably safe for humans, animals and the environment may continue to be sold on the market.
- The institutes that assess the acceptance of pesticides and genetically modified crops will be fully independent and transparent. The close ties with the chemical industry will be broken. Studies conducted by the manufacturers themselves will no longer be sufficient. The recommendations made by the European food safety authority and all underlying studies will be made public, accessible and meet the highest demands on independence. Studies on the basis of which products were allowed on the market, will be made public retroactively in order to allow for review by independent scientists.
- A delta plan will be drafted in order to restore soil fertility.
- Agricultural schools and universities will pay more at-

tention to sustainable, ecological agricultural practices.

- The horticultural sector will eliminate the use of fossil fuels by switching fully to solar and geothermal energy in closed greenhouse systems. Dumping polluted or contaminated water will be prohibited.

GMO-free.

Based on the precautionary principle, the Party for the Animals is strongly opposed to genetic modification of crops. We actively promote a GMO-free Netherlands and Europe. Genetically modified soy and corn have increased the use of toxic pesticides and herbicides. Furthermore, genetic modification is also a threat to conventional and organic cultivation, because the manipulated crops may mix with the non-GMO crops. This effectively robs consumers of making a deliberate and free choice for non-GMO products. The Netherlands will declare itself GMO-free: the cultivation and import of genetically modified crops will be prohibited.

- Pending the effectuation of a full GMO import and cultivation ban, we want European member states and regions to be able to independently prohibit the cultivation of genetically modified crops.
- Mandatory labelling will be adopted for meat, dairy and eggs that originate from animals that were fed genetically modified crops. Products containing GMO ingredients will also be clearly labelled on the front of the product or on the packaging.
- Enhancement of plants may not take place at the expense of humans, animals, nature, health, food safety, freedom of choice or the position of small farmers. Tampering with genes must always be governed by GMO regulations and directives.
- Genetic manipulation and cloning of animals is ethically unacceptable and involves serious animal suffering. The Netherlands will actively advocate an import ban on cloned and genetically manipulated animals, their offspring and the products that were produced using these animals. The Netherlands is actively committed to the effectuation of a global tracking system in order to monitor the trade in cloned animals.

Abolish industrial livestock production.

The current conventional animal farming system is intolerable and untenable. The number of animals we keep for meat, dairy and eggs are such that no environmental, nature or animal welfare directive is sufficient to deal with the problems this incurs. Mega-stables, public health and animal welfare are irreconcilable. Therefore, factory farming must be abandoned. Instead, the focus must shift toward crop farming and horticulture.

- A clear roadmap must enable a rapid transition to an animal-friendly and sustainable agricultural sector.

Livestock numbers must be lowered by 70%.

- Pasturing will be mandatory. Dairy farmers may no longer keep more animals than their fields can sustain for grazing.
- A maximum will be set on the quantity of milk that may be produced per hectare. The effects on animal welfare and the environment will be of central importance in this regard.
- The establishment and development of mega-stables will be prohibited. A distance of no less than 2,000 meters will be maintained between stables and neighboring homes.
- Fire safety regulations for new and existing stables will be made much stricter. Sprinkler systems will be mandatory, and in the event of fire, the animals must be able to escape their stable.
- The Dutch Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority will actively monitor compliance with fire safety regulations in stables and animal accommodations. No later than 2021, all stables and accommodation for animals must meet the new fire safety requirements.

Room for natural behavior.

Anywhere animals are kept, their right to expressing natural behaviors should be warranted by law. Chickens should be able to take dust baths, pigs must be given the opportunity to root and cows and goats belong in meadows and fields.

- All animals in the livestock industry will be given the right to range freely and will be given sufficient shelter options outside.
- In stables, animals will have sufficient living space, straw and diversion materials.
- Cows will be kept in family herds. Calves will no longer be separated from their mothers immediately after birth, but will be allowed to grow up with their mothers in the meadow and drink the milk that is meant for them.
- The production of white veal will be prohibited. It is unacceptable that calves are deliberately made ill for this meat by being fed a low-iron diet.
- Farrowing pens in which pigs stand between bars will be prohibited. Sows will be given the opportunity to nestle and take care of her piglets.
- New stable systems will first be tested in terms of animal welfare and environmental effects before they can be utilized. Existing stables will be tested retroactively.
- An end to procedures such as the castration of piglets, tail docking and dehorning of cows and goats.
- The Netherlands will take an active stance in the EU to implement a prohibition of the production of foie gras (goose or duck liver) and will ban the trade and import of these products.

No factory farm animals.

Many animals have been so thoroughly factory bred that they can be fattened and ready for slaughter within a few weeks. This causes serious welfare problems. A dignified existence also entails that the animals are given the opportunity to mate and reproduce naturally.

- Breeding geared at extremely rapid growth, as is seen in chickens and pigs, and at extreme production, as is evident in current dairy farming practices, will be prohibited. Broiler chickens whose legs cannot hold their weight and double-muscled cows that can no longer give birth naturally are a thing of the past.
- An end to (often painful) reproduction methods in animals such as embryo flushing, embryo transfers and hormone fertility treatments. No permission for the development of new reproductive methods such as these, which have a detrimental effect on the bodily integrity and welfare of animals.
- The (outdated) European identification regulations that prescribe the ear tagging of animals, will be abolished. As long as these rules remain in force, conscientious objectors will be exempt from the ear tag requirement.

Action against suffering in slaughterhouses and during animal transports.

The number of animals that are bred and slaughtered for consumption must be lowered. Animals will be transported as little as possible, and where they are transported and slaughtered, this should involve as little suffering and stress as possible.

- Livestock markets will be abolished.
- Animal transports will not take longer than two hours. On warm days (i.e. 25 degrees Celsius or over), animals may not be transported. Stricter monitoring and enforcement of the Dutch and European transportation regulations will apply.
- Live animal transports to countries outside of the European Union, such as Turkey, are no longer permitted. Import and transit of animals through the EU from the United States and Asia, for instance, will be put to an end.
- Slaughter practices that involve serious suffering, such as the water bath method for chickens and CO2 sedation for pigs, will be abolished immediately.
- The ban on unsedated slaughter will apply without exception. A Dutch and European import and trade ban for meat originating from animals that were slaughtered without sedation. As long as unsedated slaughter persists, labelling of such meat will become mandatory.
- There will be permanent video monitoring of stables and slaughter houses. Animal transport vehicles will be equipped with GPS tracking systems, regardless of transport duration.

- Monitoring of all chains in the livestock industry will be intensified and placed in the hands of the government instead of the industry itself. The Dutch Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) will be given an increased budget and more regulatory officers. The NVWA will impose fine immediately upon establishing violations and will make their monitoring data public. The Antibiotics register will also be made public.
- Meat, dairy and eggs will be clearly labelled to specify the origin of the animal; its place of birth, where it was kept and - for meat - where it was slaughtered.

Human and animal health first.

Regionalization, the elimination of long distance transports and downsizing of the livestock industry will lower the risk of animal disease outbreaks.

- In the event of an outbreak of a non-lethal animal, the standard practice will be to let the disease to run its natural course and allow animals to recover. Sick animals may not be killed for purely economic reasons.
- Strict regulations will be adopted for the use of antibiotics in the livestock industry. Preventive antibiotic use will stop.
- The Ministry of Public Health will have control over the approach taken in the event of an outbreak of a disease that may potentially be transmitted to humans (zoonoses).

Restore natural cycles.

In a sustainable agricultural system, the cycles are closed and there is no more waste.

- We will stop the import of soy and corn for animal feed from countries outside of the EU. Instead, sustainable animal feed will be produced by means of regional cultivation.
- The manure production of the animals from the Dutch livestock industry will be aligned to what we can responsibly use on our fields. This will require a drastic reduction of the livestock population.
- Manure injection will be prohibited, the use of artificial fertilizers will become a thing of the past.
- No more subsidies for manure fermentation installations and no new manure fermentation installations. Manure fermentation installations are not animal friendly: the animals have to be confined to their stables in order to collect the manure. They are not sustainable and moreover, are a (public health) risk and cause nuisance to people living nearby.

Restriction on catches.

The Dutch fishery industry is co-responsible for the structural overfishing of European waters. No less than 88% of

all fish species is overfished and 30% will in all likelihood not be able to recover. Dutch fishing vessels plunder - supported with European subsidies - waters beyond European border, such as those before the coast of Africa. The largest trawlers in the world are in Dutch hands. The ships' (beam trawlers) dragnets destroy the seabed.

- Fishery subsidies will be abolished immediately.
- The precautionary principle will be leading in determining fishery policies. This entails that the maximum set on catches (catch quota) will not be higher than deemed responsible by independent marine biologists. Should scientific data be unavailable, there will be no fishing, or substantial safety margins will be incorporated and catch quota will be very low.
- Ecosystems and fish species that are in dire condition, will be given the opportunity to recover by means of a complete fishery ban. For the most vulnerable species, such as eel, cod and tuna, a fishing ban will be adopted immediately.
- Our aim is to stop destructive fishery practices and techniques. Monster trawlers, deep-sea fishery and ships whose dragnets destroy the seabed, will be prohibited under the Dutch flag.
- The Netherlands will move to quickly reduce the overcapacity of its fishing fleet. The catch capacity of the European fishing fleet may be no larger than the ecosystems in European waters can handle.
- There will be strict enforcement of existing agreements against detrimental fishing practices. The ban on dumping caught fish at sea will be subject to strict enforcement, using instruments such as cameras or on-board supervision. Fishing vessels of companies that fail to comply with the regulations will be not be allowed to sail.
- Bycatches will be substantially lowered by means of a prohibition of non-selective fishing methods.

Prevent suffering.

- The Party for the Animals wants a ban on all catch and killing methods that involve extended suffering and end in unsedated slaughter. Fish that are caught in nets or on hooks (longlines) experience a horrifying death struggle.
- We want an end to gill-nets. These upright nets trap species such as porpoises, causing them to drown.
- The live cooking of animals such as lobsters, crabs and shrimp will be prohibited.

No fish farming: factory farming in the water.

Fish farms are a new form of factory farming and moreover do not solve the problem of overfishing: farmed fish are fed with fish caught in the wild. They are not sustainable and far from animal friendly.

- The Party for the Animals wants to stop permits for new fish farms.
- Existing fish farms will be subjected retrospectively to an assessment of animal welfare and sustainability. Fish farms that do not pass this assessment will be remediated.
- The current catch and killing methods in fish farms will be reviewed and assessed in terms of the suffering experienced by the fish. There will be an obligation to use killing methods that cause the least possible suffering.

Sustainable, regional agriculture for a fair world.

The Party for the Animals wants an agricultural policy that does not harm developing nations. We actively promote regionalization of the agricultural sector. The manner in which westerners consume and produce has an immediate effect on the lives of people and animals abroad. Their hounding of cheap food and biofuels have caused western countries to increasingly resort to land grabbing in developing nations.

- European agriculture and fishing subsidies will be downscaled. This will give farmers in developing nations a fair chance.
- Fishery agreements between the European Union and other countries are robbery agreements and will be rejected or terminated.
- Agriculture will be kept out of free trade agreements such as TTIP and CETA.
- The environmental and animal welfare requirements that apply to our farmers, should also be applied to products that are imported from outside the European Union.
- The Netherlands will insist that the World Trade Organization recognize animal welfare as a criterion in order to ward off the import of animal unfriendly products (non-trade concern).
- The Netherlands will stop the stimulation and export of systems and products for industrial agriculture, such as slaughterhouses, mega stables, artificial fertilizer, agricultural toxins and GMOs. Instead, investments will be made in regional, agro-ecological food provision and regional infrastructure.
- All export subsidies and budgets for export promotion will be abandoned. This will help stop the dumping of cheap, subsidized agricultural products on the markets of developing nations.
- Large foreign companies are often given permission by (corrupt) regimes in developing nations to rent or purchase agricultural land. However, this land is often the property of local farming families. The Party for the Animals wants the Netherlands to actively take a stance against such land grabbing. Investments in land should meet the criteria set by the UN human rights

rapporteur for the Right to Food.

- We will stop the import of products that harm living environments abroad or that involve violations of human rights and animal welfare.
- We will pursue the realization of regional production of animal feed, in order to be able to put an end to the mass scale import of soy and corn for animal feed. This will apply the brakes to the felling of rain forests.

4. Nature

Naturally: put what is most valuable first.

Nature, with its diversity of plants, animals and ecosystems, is the most valuable thing there is; biodiversity provides oxygen, clean water, a stable climate and fertile soil - it is the basis of life. It is our duty to maintain a livable earth, now and in the future.

In the Netherlands, nature and biodiversity are under extreme strain. Nature reserves are sacrificed to asphalt, commercial lots and urban development. Eutrophication and soil dehydration, particularly as a result of intensive farming practices and the livestock industry, inflict enormous harm to what remains of nature. Only 15% of the original biodiversity in the Netherlands remains. Furthermore, the Netherlands plays a major role in the destruction of natural wealth elsewhere on the globe. The mass scale import of soy as food for the hundreds of millions of animals in the Dutch livestock industry comes at the expense of tropical rain forests and primeval forests.

Nature in Dutch waters is also in dire straits. Agricultural toxins and fertilizers in rivers, creeks and lakes disrupt the underwater ecology. Overfishing has severely damaged the North Sea and the Wadden Sea. Fishing techniques that scrape and plow the bottom of the sea in order to corral fish into the fishermen's nets seriously affect the seabed. Many species of fish are in danger of becoming extinct.

Connect and preserve nature.

What little wilderness we have left in the Netherlands, should be conserved. By connecting wilderness areas plant and animal species' chances will improve.

- Policies on nature will again become a primary task and responsibility of the State instead of the provinces.
- The original Primary Ecological Structure (Ecologische Hoofdstructuur - EHS), a network of connected natural reserves will be realized in full during the next government term.
- Robust connection zones between natural areas will be developed in the short-term.
- The animals in the Oostvaardersplassen area will be provided with more natural shelter and given access to a larger nature reserve. The Oostvaarderswold will be realized as soon as possible in order to connect Oostvaardersplassen with the Veluwe area, so that animals can migrate from area to area in accordance with their natural needs.

- Natural areas that are approaching the point of irreversible damage will be given priority for restoration.
- Activities and projects that affect existing nature, may only be allowed to proceed if they provide a demonstrable and essential contribution to long-term sustainability. Sacrificed nature will be compensated in the immediate vicinity in advance.
- Provinces will have a performance obligation for nature restoration with concrete timeframes and objectives.
- Nature will be barbed-wire-free.
- Building in undeveloped natural areas may not be lower in costs than building in developed areas. Where permission is granted for building in natural areas, project developers must pay for compensation, which will consist of the realization of a natural area that is three times larger and of a higher quality than the area that will be lost.

Greener cities and towns.

The Party for the Animals believes it is high time to make cities and towns greener. Green cities and towns will be beneficial in countless ways: we will save more energy, experience less flooding and there will no longer be a need to flee from the heat of concrete in the summer. An moreover, being surrounded by greenery is much healthier.

- A national action plan will ensure the preservation and return of nature to cities and towns.
- We will establish a legal norm for urban vegetation that is aligned with the norm proposed by the United Nations: 48 m² greenery per city or town resident.
- We will make the criteria for felling permits substantially stricter in order to increase the protection of trees.
- We advocate nature-inclusive building: new developments must meet nature objectives, such as green roofs, nest opportunities for animals, trees and shrubs along the streets and natural playgrounds around the corner. Insulation and renovation of existing buildings must also take nature into account.

- We will encourage and educate civilians to choose natural landscaping for their gardens.
- Government authorities will maintain public spaces using toxin-free materials.
- Any products that harm human or animal health or the environment, such as chemical pesticides, will be banned and will immediately be removed from garden centers and other stores.

Protection of nature.

In our country, intensive agriculture and the livestock industry form the greatest threat to nature. Nevertheless, the government does not address the root of these issues. The Netherlands complies with only the bare minimum of the protection and preservation levels obligated by Europe, and even tries to evade these regulations. This must change.

- Livestock industry in the vicinity of nature will be decreased rapidly.
- No subsidies for air washers or low-emission stable systems for the livestock industry. The livestock industry will also adhere to the principle that the polluter shall pay.
- Groundwater levels will no longer be adapted to accommodate agriculture, but will meet the needs of nature. This will give dehydration sensitive areas the opportunity to recover.
- Mandatory authorization and licenses for activities in and near protected natural areas will once again be fully anchored in the law. In and around Natura2000-areas, all mining activities (such as natural gas extraction) will be discontinued.
- The National Forestry Commission will not be privatized, state nature parks and reserves will not be sold.
- Recreation may not come at the expense of nature and scenic value.
- An action plan will address and deal with light pollution caused by the greenhouse sector and other human activities. Government buildings will set the right example in this respect.
- Improved protection of coastal areas. Construction and development in the dunes and along the coast will be stopped.

A nature network in the North Sea and the Wadden Sea.

The North Sea is our largest natural area, and originally it accommodated an enormous wealth of species. Sadly, intensive fishery practices have deemed large fish such as sharks and skate rare. The Wadden Sea should receive the protection that this UNESCO world heritage site deserves.

- Economic activities with an intrusive effect such as natural gas extraction and fishery have no place in these seas.

- In order to restore and conserve marine ecosystems, an urgent ‘no, unless’ principle will be applied. Fishing will be put to a halt until independent biologists can demonstrate that catches are responsible from the perspective of biodiversity and fish populations.
- The number of marine conservation reserves will be increased. Fishery or other harmful activities will have no place here. Areas such as the Frisian Front and the central oyster grounds will be given full protection.
- The Act on Nature Conservation will restore the protection of various vulnerable migratory fish species and sea mammals.
- Ecologically valuable shipwrecks will be protected.
- Ensuring the opportunity for fish to migrate will be a prerequisite for hydropower stations.

Protection of Dutch-Caribbean nature.

Bonaire, Saba and Saint Eustatius harbor a wealth of plant and animal species. Such extraordinary nature deserves proper protection.

- The central government will contribute to the conservation of nature on and near the Dutch Caribbean by means of regulations, enforcement, expertise and financial support.
- All animals living in the wild on the islands, such as donkeys, will be given optimum protection.
- Protection of the coral reefs will be given the highest priority.

5. Environment, climate and energy

Protect all that is valuable. Distribute all that is scarce fairly.

The Party for the Animals is the only party to place what the earth can sustain at the forefront of every policy decision it makes. We will not compromise on a sustainable future. That makes us the driving force for an ambitious environmental policy. Conserving the earth should not be just an empty phrase, it is literally a matter of life and death. Our planet provides us with clean air, water, healthy soil and the resources both humans and animals need to survive.

If everyone on the planet were to consume according to the pattern of the average Dutchman, we would need nearly three planets earth to sustain us. The Party for the Animals stands for a strong climate, energy and environmental policy. There is a world to be won. The costs of global climate change can be cut in half if we refrain from eating meat, fish and dairy more often and adopt a more plant-based diet. The worldwide production of meat generates 40% more greenhouse gas emissions than all traffic and transportation combined. The Climate Case, in which the court admonished the Dutch state for not taking sufficient action against climate change makes it painfully clear that we must switch to Plan B immediately.

Reduce the ecological footprint.

The current environmental problems call for a comprehensive approach: technological solutions and modification of our consumption pattern.

- The government will adopt a Deltaplan for Sustainable Consumption to support the transition to sustainable consumption on all fronts. A reduction of meat and dairy consumption is by far the most effective measure to improve the climate and the environment, and must therefore be given top priority.
- We will incorporate the real costs of products and services in their price, so that they can no longer be passed on to society as a whole.
- The government will provide independent and clear information about the impact of products and services on the climate and the environment.
- All policies, in all areas, will be considered in relation to sustainability.
- The government will set the right example. The stand-

ards for procurement of all products and tenders will be 100% sustainability and fair trade. This will also apply to the procurement of food, energy and company clothing.

- It will be made easier for SMEs to acquire assignments from the government.

Reduce greenhouse gases.

Despite all fine words and promises, the emission of CO₂ in the Netherlands has risen instead of fallen. The Party for the Animals wants the Netherlands to make achieving the climate goals a priority and take genuine action to do so. Let's move to a truly low-CO₂ economy!

- The government will abandon its resistance to the court's judgement in the Climate Case. Instead, it will invest its energy in complying with the obligations and in achieving the ambitions necessary to truly limit global warming to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- A climate law that will make the reduction of greenhouse gases mandatory will come into force as soon as possible. This law will determine that greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 will be 40% less than in 1990, and 65% less in 2030. In 2040, the Netherlands will be CO₂-neutral and will no longer use fossil fuels.
- The Netherlands will reclaim its leading position in terms of establishing global, binding agreements to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.
- Within Europe, the Netherlands will advocate the abolishment of the failed trading system in CO₂ emissions (Emissions Trading System (ETS)). It will be replaced by binding reduction obligations.
- Storage of CO₂ and financial compensation for the failure to meet reduction objectives in other countries are

not sustainable solutions and will not be counted as contributions to meeting the European reduction objectives.

Save energy and increase sustainability.

We will generate sustainable energy, close to home; the environment and nature require it of us, and it will make us less dependent on oil and natural gas producing countries. Generating green energy in collaboration with your neighbors will be made easier, by means of solar panels placed on roofs, for example. There is no need to use everything you generate, but you can share it with others, tax-free. Cutting down on energy consumption is the first, best and cheapest step toward a sustainable and tenable energy policy. By generating the energy that we do use locally and on a small scale, we will create green jobs.

- In 2030 the Netherlands will cut its energy consumption in half, relative to 2014. The percentage of sustainable energy will be increased to 25% in 2020, and 60% in 2030. In 2040 all energy will be generated in a sustainable manner.
- The energy market will see drastic reform; the adverse effects of over-liberalization will be reined in.
- Energy companies will be obligated to supply an annually increasing percentage of sustainably generated power. We will establish a maximum greenhouse gas emission level for new and existing power stations. This maximum will be subject to periodic reduction.
- Bulk consumers of energy will no longer receive subsidies or tax cuts.
- The environmental costs of electricity production will be incorporated in the price as much as possible, so that dirty energy will become more expensive, and clean energy relatively cheap.
- Sustainable energy will be given priority on the electricity grid, with 'smart grids', which will be fed by green, small-scale and decentralized generated energy. This may in no way compromise the privacy of users and suppliers.
- A master plan for sustainable heat generation and distribution will be drafted.
- The Netherlands will adopt strict standards for the energy consumption of appliances, vehicles and data centers and will actively pursue the adoption of a European energy label that will take into account the consumption and the full lifecycle, from production through recycling.
- Government investments in energy research will be primarily focused on improved energy efficiency and sustainable energy generation.
- Free trade agreements such as TTIP and CETA must be stopped. These trade deals liberalize the trade in energy products.

- Extremely pollutant fossil fuels such as tar sand oil and shale gas will be banned from Europe; the Netherlands will take an active stance to achieve this. Companies such as Shell and BP will moreover be obligated to report on the climate and environmental impact of their fuels.
- The use of natural gas will become more expensive, so that reducing natural gas consumption will be rewarded.
- Gas extraction in Groningen will be stopped as quickly as possible. We will reduce to a maximum extraction volume of 12 billion cubic meters per year as quickly as possible. The absolute maximum extraction will be set at 21 billion cubic meters per year. Natural gas supply contracts to countries abroad will be terminated where possible.
- Domestic demand for natural gas will fall due to improved insulation of homes and buildings, and due to alternative heating methods.
- Shale and coal gas will remain in the ground, extraction will be prohibited. No permits will be issued for exploratory drilling. Existing permits will be revoked.
- We will not allow CO₂ storage under Dutch soil, nor will we allow storage under the North Sea. Exhausted gas fields will not be used for the storage of (imported) natural gas.
- No new coal or nuclear plants. Existing plants will be closed as soon as possible. Power from coal and nuclear plants will not be allowed on the Dutch electricity grid. We are opposed to the storage of new nuclear waste. Existing radioactive waste will be properly remediated and stored at the expense of energy companies.
- Wind energy will be made possible in locations where these will cause little to no nuisance to humans, animals and nature. Wind farms at sea may not have any demonstrable adverse effects on marine life. For instance, driving piles for the construction of offshore wind farms will be prohibited.
- Manure fermenters are not sustainable energy sources. They make it necessary for animals to be kept in their stables year-round in order to collect the manure, and cause health and safety risks for nearby residents. New manure fermenters will no longer be built. The subsidies on manure fermenters will be terminated.
- Biofuels will be subjected to sustainability criteria. As long as these criteria have not been met, the import of biofuels will be suspended. Mandatory blending will stop immediately, as will the import of timber and palm oil for energy production.

Sustainable building and living.

We can generate more energy in and around our homes than we consume. This will benefit the environment and

will lower our energy bills.

- As of 2018, all new buildings will be at least energy neutral: they will generate at least as much energy as they consume. Existing buildings and residential homes will also be made energy neutral at a rapid pace. As of 2025, newly built residential areas will generate more energy than they consume. New neighborhoods will not use natural gas.
- Energy renovations will be encouraged by means of applying the low VAT rate.
- People should be able to resupply privately generated electricity to the grid, for the price they pay for power. Tax free!
- Neighborhood collectives are allowed to trade energy they have generated amongst themselves, exempt from taxes. This will allow entire neighborhoods to generate and share energy together. The government will stimulate neighborhood batteries. An appealing tax measure for decentralized energy grids will be adopted.
- It will become mandatory for housing corporations to insulate a share of their housing stock every year.
- Property taxes (ozb) will be differentiated according to energy label and energy consumption.
- Unnecessary lighting, for instance in offices after closing time, will be curbed, as will keeping open store doors in cold temperatures. A mandatory energy label will be adopted for all office units. Government buildings will earn an energy label A or will be adapted in order to meet the requirements for such a categorization.
- Solar panels on buildings, along highways and in surrounding airports will become the norm.

Efficient use of natural resources.

Natural resources are scarce and their mining or extraction often cause environmental pollution and human rights violations. We must be conscientious in our use of natural resources, recycle them and salvage them from existing products.

- A Natural Resource law will be adopted which includes binding obligations. In 2030, consumption of natural resources must have been cut in half and all natural resources will be recycled.
- Large companies will account for and report their use of natural resources and will make their emissions transparent.
- New products will be designed in accordance with strict sustainability demands, so that these products have long lifecycles, can be repaired and the materials they are made of can be reused. This may for example include the implementation of a deposit system for electronics and appliances.
- Fiscal measures will encourage sharing of appliances and cars with others. Owning pollutant appliances will

be made more unappealing.

- The plastic in the seas, lakes and oceans will be tackled with an action plan. A ban on micro-plastics in cosmetics, legal objectives for the reduction of litter and regulations for clothing and laundry machine manufacturers in order to combat the release of synthetic fibers into the water.
- The current deposit system will be extended to include soda cans, disposable cups and small (plastic) bottles.
- We will put an end to the dumping and incineration of waste and improve waste collection. New products much to a large degree consist of recycled materials.
- An end to unsolicited door-to-door folders and other printed communication. The rule will become: you will not receive folders or papers, unless you request them by means of a sticker on your mailbox.

Clean air and clean water.

- Quality standards for air, soil and water will be determined on the basis of the precautionary principle and achieved as quickly as possible.
- Standards for air quality in public buildings, and particularly in schools, will be monitored and enforced.
- Surface water pollution caused by drug residue will be reduced; waste water from hospitals and nursing homes will be subjected to separate purification.
- Endocrine-disturbing substances in among other food packaging, toys and agricultural toxins will be prohibited.

Smarter traffic and transportation.

The Party for the Animals want to give ample room to pedestrians, cyclists and for sustainable, efficient and comfortable public transportation.

- Commuter traffic by car will be reduced. Flexible working times and working from home will be encouraged. Fiscal stimulation of cycling will be maintained, commuter tax deductions for cars will be reduced, with consideration for residents of sparsely populated areas.
- The transportation of goods will be made more sustainable in order to reduce impact on cities.
- Fully electric powered cars and hydrogen powered cars will become more fiscally rewarding. In 2025, no new combustion engine cars will be sold.
- More asphalt does not solve traffic congestion issues, but leads to an increase in car use and consequently to a further rise in greenhouse gas emissions and particulates. Therefore, no more new roads will be built and existing roads will not be widened, unless this is to solve polluting congestion issues or improve road safety. This means that the widening of the A27 highway, the Rijnland Route, Groningen Ring Road, the Rotterdam Baan and the Blankenburg Tunnel will not proceed.

- Motorists that drive few kilometers or drive outside of high traffic hours will pay lower taxes than those who make extensive use of their cars. An exception to this kilometer charge will be made for people living in sparsely populated areas. These areas will see substantial investments in better public transportation options in order to lessen dependency on motor vehicles. The new road user charge will incorporate strict privacy warranties. An investment fund for the development of sustainable mobility of people and goods on a large scale will be introduced. Innovation and the roll-out of a common infrastructure will in part be paid for by the yields of the kilometer charge for cars.
- We will invest in safe bicycle paths and in (new) bicycle highways. Existing bicycle paths will be maintained properly. Traffic lights will be adjusted so that bicycles and public transportation will be given the green light sooner and will be given priority in the event of rain.
- Educational institutes and healthcare facilities will be easily accessible in all residential areas, and government service buildings will be easy to reach by public transportation, also for those with a physical disability. Public transportation will be reliable, affordable and accessible. Also in rural areas.
- Train stations will be made more easily accessible for the elderly, the disabled and cyclists, with sufficient and safe bicycle parking. The Public Transportation Bicycle system will be adopted on all train stations and all principal public transportation connection sites.
- Travelling by train should be comfortable and aligned to the needs of (business) commuters. The number of trains will be increased. Every train compartment will be equipped with toilets, electrical sockets and internet.
- Sustainable passenger and freight transport by water will be stimulated, including ferry connections.
- The Netherlands will commit to achieving reliable, affordable, low-emission and quick public transportation in Europe, with direct connection between major cities. This will reduce air traffic within Europe.
- Speed limits on highways will be brought back to 120 km/h and 80 km/h on beltways.
- Municipalities and provinces that implement an environmental zone can count on active support. Speed limits in city centers will be 30 km/h. Natural areas will see the introduction of nighttime speed limits in the interest of the safety of people and animals.
- The government will support the development of hydrogen powered tractors for the agricultural sector.
- The Netherlands will not invest in the expansion of airports. Schiphol, Lelystad Airport, Groningen Airport, Eelde and Maastricht Aachen Airport will not grow further. Twente Airport will not be built.
- Tax benefits for air traffic, such as VAT and levy ex-

emptions, will be abolished. The true costs of travel must be charged through to the price: the polluter will pay. Flights to and from Europe will be subject to a CO₂ levy.

Room for space.

Open spaces in the Netherlands are scarce. What little space we have left must be cherished. The importance of a green, clean living environment for man and animals will take priority in all spatial planning.

- Our drinking water and the environment must be protected: it is just one more reason to prohibit the underground storage of nuclear waste and CO₂.
- Whenever the quality of the living environment is potentially affected, permits for building plans will be refused.
- An Environmental Planning Bill will be adopted which will prioritize our public health, the environment and natural landscape.
- Inspections and enforcement for factories and companies that pose a risk to public health and the living environment will be intensified and prior notice of such inspections will no longer be given. Violations will be penalized immediately.
- Urban building will become the norm. Business parks are deteriorating due to a large number of abandoned buildings. These buildings will be redeveloped and renovated; new office and production halls and the construction of new business parks will be discouraged. Repurposing derelict office buildings, into residential properties for instance, will be made easier. Vacant offices and shops will no longer pay reduced property tax rates.
- Fallow land will actively be made available for urban farming, nature development and collectively managed parks and natural playgrounds. Unused sites will be configured as bee and butterfly fields. Area residents will be invited to participate. This will particularly apply to hundreds of hectares of state-owned 'excess land'. The State and the Provinces will no longer sell this land, but will manage this land extensively and allow it to blossom.

International

Fair distribution of natural resources.

- The government will conduct stricter inspections of whether companies (multinationals) comply with national and international standards with a specifically appointed governance body.
- Stringent sustainability demands will be made on the import, mining and extraction of natural resources. These do not apply exclusively to the natural resource

importers, but also for all manufactured products and semi-manufactured products.

- Large corporations will be obligated to provide insight into the origin of the materials they use and the circumstances in the production chain. They will publish an annual profit and loss account in terms of people, animals, environment and climate.
- The Netherlands will cease to export waste and toxic substances to developing nations for cheap disposal.
- Government export credits will be subjected to extremely stringent assessment in terms of the consequences for people, animals and the environment.

International environmental policy.

- The Party for the Animals wants to include concrete intermediate goals in future climate, environmental and wildlife treaties, for which countries will be held accountable. International treaties and agreements concerning the environment, climate, biodiversity, human rights and socially responsible enterprise will be converted into binding regulation as soon as possible, both at the EU level and for individual member states.
- The Netherlands will actively pursue the establishment of an International Environmental Court which will rule on environmental conflicts and can impose punishments for violations.
- The International Criminal Court will have the opportunity to prosecute companies or countries guilty of ecocide. Ecocide is the extensive damage to, destruction of or loss of ecosystem(s) of a given territory. This new task can also be placed under the jurisdiction of the future International Environmental Court.
- We will ensure a properly functioning registration and processing of complaints regarding environmental crimes and offer victims support in seeking justice.

6. Housing, healthcare, education, science and culture

A society where everyone can feel at ease

The Party for the Animals wants an involved government that offers the population access to the right to housing, healthcare, education, science and culture. Dutch law makes demands on “due care”, and the government should adopt the same approach. It should not patronize, but it should serve society, create and protect circumstances in which everyone can feel at ease.

Housing without concerns.

An affordable, sustainable home in a comfortable living environment contributed to the welfare of humans. Housing should be affordable for everyone and should not take up a disproportionate share of income.

- Banks are obligated to allow for more possibilities for the penalty-free repayment of existing mortgages.
- Housing corporations will be downscaled and will no longer undertake ancillary commercial ventures. Residents will be given greater influence by means of enhanced participatory rights.
- Multiple-generation housing will be encouraged by means of generous policies surrounding the construction of sheltered housing for youths or the elderly on private property. These homes do not have to be removed as long as they are in use as housing for youths or senior citizens.
- The government will adopt policies that promote the realization of ‘tiny-houses’. Those who wish to replace existing housing with smaller housing or would like to build a tiny-house on their own private property for use as multiple-generation housing, will not experience any impediments to do so when the total developed surface area is smaller or equal to the original.
- Housing corporations and project developers will develop housing that combines housing and care.
- Tenants of (student) rooms will be entitled to rent subsidy if the rent meets the requirements of the points system.
- Areas with a shortage of student housing will see the urgent development of sustainable housing will be developed, preferably in vacant (office) buildings.
- Despite the fact that many people are actively searching for affordable housing, many buildings are vacant. Such vacancy may not be rewarded, the ban on squat

ting will be revoked.

- In order to prevent a further spike of rental prices in the major cities, an anti-speculation clause will be adopted.
- The landlord levy will be cancelled.
- Rental prices will be linked to housing quality. This is fairer and will lead to more balance in the rental housing market.
- Liberalization of social rental housing in areas with a shortage of housing will be prohibited.
- The government will take firmer action against rogue renting of housing and rack-rent landlords.

Protection of local residents against hazardous industry.

- The chemical industry can pose an enormous risk to people, animals, nature and the environment. The storage, processing and emissions by the chemical industry will be subjected to more intensive inspections by the government. The company that is subject to the inspection will pay for these extra checks.
- Dutch nuclear reactors, such as those in Borssele and Petten will be closed. Medical isotopes will be produced with particle accelerators. The Netherlands will join Germany and Luxemburg in their call for the decommissioning of the Belgian nuclear power plants in Doel and Tihange. As long as these nuclear plants are still operational, the Netherlands will take measures to prepare for a potential nuclear disaster in Belgium.
- In order to prevent earthquakes and damage, natural gas extraction in Groningen will be reduced to 12 billion cubic meters per year, which is considered safe. Ultimately, extraction will be cut down to 0.
- Residents of areas in which mining activities take place or took place in the recent past, will no longer be re-

quired to prove that damage was caused by earthquakes or soil movements. The company in question will have to prove that this is not the case, or will otherwise be held to payment of compensation of the damage.

- Damage that is a result of mining activities in the stone and coal mines in Limburg will be compensated by the State.
- There will be a large-scale and national survey regarding the safety risks for people residing in the vicinity of livestock industry businesses and manure fermenters. Local residents will be informed no less than every quarter on potential changes to safety and health risks.
- The government will apologize for the manner in which it handled the Q-fever epidemic after 2007, will accept accountability for failing to implement adequate precautionary measures and will grant victims generous compensation.
- The costs for fighting future outbreaks of animal diseases will be claimed in full from the businesses where these outbreaks occur, in accordance with the principle that ‘the culprit pays.’

An enjoyable and safe New Year’s Eve.

Every year, hundreds of people suffer serious injuries around the new year, including a large number of children. Half of all victims are bystanders and do not set off fireworks themselves.

- Consumer fireworks will be prohibited. Professional pyrotechnic shows will be organized in locations where people, animals, nature and the environment will not be harmed.

Homeless shelter and domestic violence crisis care.

- It must be made much easier for victims of domestic violence to find refuge in crisis care centers. It should also be made easier to bring pets to such facilities, or find temporary shelter for these pets.
- Investigation agencies must pay more attention to the recognition of signs of animal abuse in relation to domestic violence.
- Sufficient and timely debt counselling should be made available in order to prevent evictions and custodial placement.
- The government will increase its support of food banks. Volunteer work with food banks by those entitled to benefits must be stimulated by the government.

Humane conditions for refugees.

Sufficient small-scale shelter for refugees will be made available. Residents of receiving municipalities will be properly informed during and before shelter is provided. Housing of refugees will be such that the total number of refugees can never exceed one quarter of the over-

all number of original residents of a city or town. This measure is to ensure that the social cohesion will not be disturbed and promote good integration.

- The Netherlands will not return people to their native country if they run the risk of being persecuted on the basis of their sexual orientation, religious affiliation, political beliefs or ethnicity.
- People who file for a residency permit in the Netherlands will receive a final decision regarding their residency permits within two years.
- Children’s rights, as defined in the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (ICRC) will be incorporated in the Aliens Act. These rights will have great bearing: children who are rooted in our country will not be deported and will be granted residency permits. For children who have been in the Netherlands for five years or more, further investigations concerning the child’s best interests are not necessary. Scientific research has demonstrated that in these circumstances, it is always in the child’s best interest to stay in the Netherlands.
- Residency permits for unaccompanied minors seeking asylum will be processed quickly and according to individual assessment.
- Refugees are entitled to education, language courses, healthcare, (volunteer) work and adequate housing.
- Those unable to leave the Netherlands due to circumstances beyond their control will not be thrown out onto the street, but are entitled to shelter, food and healthcare. Municipalities will receive assistance from the State to make this possible.
- The root causes of the refugee crisis will be tackled, including oppression and poverty, climate change, water and food shortages, geopolitical conflicts and the aggressive trade politics of the west.

Healthcare: better to prevent than to cure.

Prevention is the basis of a sound healthcare system. Healthier living, diets and more physical exercise play an important role in preventing disease and discomfort. Preventive healthcare lowers healthcare costs. A greener living environment results in people, and particularly children, leading healthier and happier lives. Focusing on prevention in healthcare, both in terms of policy as in family doctors’ and hospitals’ daily practices, only has advantages.

- The government will stimulate a healthy lifestyle and will actively pursue a beneficial living environment.
- Over-medicalization will be prevented. Primary care is essential in order to oversee which symptoms are common, and which need specialist care. Home births in the Netherlands should be possible, regardless of location.

- The government will initiate a campaign to stimulate extended breastfeeding. Assistance and support from lactation experts belongs in the basic healthcare insurance package, where the child is the care recipient. The right to pump breastmilk or to breastfeed during working hours will be extended from nine to twelve months. Hospitals will have demonstrable knowledge concerning breastfeeding.
- Reimbursement for prevention - such as dietician costs and help with stopping smoking - will be maintained in the basic health insurance package.
- Reimbursement for birth control will again become a part of the basic health insurance package.
- Industrial manufacturing of unhealthy foods will be addressed: legal standards for a maximum in salt, sugar and fat in processed foods will be adopted.
- The general population should be given fair and honest information about a healthy lifestyle.
- All public broadcasters will adopt a ban on advertising for alcoholic beverages and tobacco.
- Marketing aimed at children for unhealthy products will be prohibited: no advertising for candy and fast food meant for children below the age of 12.
- A higher VAT rate will be imposed for unhealthy foods, (organic) vegetables and fruit will be exempt from VAT.
- School cafeterias will be made healthy: no fast food, vending machines with candy or energy drinks, but delicious products that help youths stay healthy.
- School fruit will be introduced in all Dutch primary schools, where fruit from local organic farms will be given priority. More information will furthermore be provided about the use and necessity for more plant-based foods.
- Youths need room to play and interact in their own surroundings. More amenities will be made available in neighborhoods, such as soccer courts, playgrounds and youth centers.
- Hospitals and care homes will serve healthy, tasty and organic food.
- Consumers must be informed that meat can cause diseases due to the occurrence of multi-resistant bacteria and salmonella. Warnings must be given on labels.
- An end will be put to the arbitrary scattering of antibiotics in the livestock industry, in order to prevent resistant bacteria.
- Agricultural toxins are a serious threat to public health. The government and the agriculture sector will place warning signs on land on which chemical pesticides are or will be used.

Healthcare for everyone.

Healthcare costs can be lowered by addressing bureaucracy. By putting an end to the power and profits pur-

sued by healthcare insurance providers, ending absurd executive compensations and by placing the professionals on the work floor back at the helm.

- Healthcare should not be exposed to or dependent on market forces. A National Healthcare Fund will be established, which will make healthcare available to everyone.
- The deductible excess will be abolished.
- No personal contribution for youth care.
- Differences between municipalities in terms of the availability and quality of youth care are unacceptable. Should municipalities not be able to offer the required youth care as a result of budget cuts that were implemented upon the transition of youth care to the municipalities, then these budget cuts will be undone.
- Fewer managers and administrative overhead for healthcare providers, more hands-on medical staff.
- A taskforce will be established that will tackle wastage in healthcare. In order to prevent excessive drug prices, the composition of drug prices will be made public, and where possible, cheaper, generic brand drugs will be prescribed.
- Investments will be made in healthcare providers: room for (continued) learning and good employment conditions will be the standard.
- Every care receiver is different. There will be more attention for the individual needs of every care receiver.
- Good quality healthcare is essential. The government will adopt quality standards, on consultation with both care givers and care receivers, which will be incorporated in contracts with care providers. An independent organization will report on the quality of care, both on the national and regional levels.
- The government will guarantee a varied range of healthcare centers. Identity-related healthcare centers with a national function will receive support, as will small, regional hospitals.
- (Senior citizen-oriented) care facilities will be considerate of people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender or intersex individuals(LGBTI). LGBTI-friendly care will be incorporated in the quality demands made on care facilities.
- Home care and geriatric care for people with disabilities will preferably be small-scale and regionalized. Differences between municipalities in the provision and quality of care are unacceptable.
- Multi-generation housing will be stimulated fiscally.
- Informal caregivers are entitled to financial compensation and supplemental measures that allow them to combine care and work.
- The government will stimulate the application of domotics and e-health at home. Strict safety requirements will apply to domotics, such as the internet. This

will prevent unsafe situations, as a result of DDos attacks for instance.

- The free choice of alternative medical treatments must be safe-guarded, the VAT increase will be repealed. Further demands will be made of healthcare providers with respect to information regarding their education and treatment methods.
- The Party for the Animals is convinced of the importance of organ donation. People must receive sound and balanced information about organ donation and subsequently make a personal choice. However, in recent years the government has hardly undertaken efforts to bring organ donation to the attention of its citizens. This must change. Investments will be made in a sound multi-year donor campaign which will take into account both receivers and donors, and in an improved organization concerning surveys about people's decisions in this regard.
- The Party for the Animals believes it is an infringement of the right to self-determination for the government to automatically register people as donors, when for whatever reason, they have not yet stated their wishes in that regard.
- Family doctors will be more closely involved in the education on organ, blood, plasma and stem cell donation, and investments will be made in a better organization of organ donation.
- The Party for the Animals subscribes to the principle that people are entitled to self-determination, also if this concerns the wish to end their lives. However, society is also responsible for preventing people from considering themselves a burden to society or from feeling unwelcome in society. More attention is needed to the value of the elderly and preventing loneliness among senior citizens. An extensive social debate will be initiated on assisted suicide, for instance for the elderly consider their lives fulfilled.

Good, accessible and sustainable education for everyone.

Good and accessible education is the foundation for a free, democratic society. A society can only flourish if everyone, regardless of background, has the opportunity to develop and receive an education that suits individual abilities. Accessible education is a key value that always deserves to be defended - and must be fought for ever since the basic state scholarship allowance was abolished.

- The topics of sustainability, food, nature and environmental education and animal welfare are the cornerstones of a transition to a sustainable society that must take place during our generation's time. These areas of expertise will become a standard component of the

curriculum in primary and secondary schools. Teacher education will pay adequate attention to these topics.

- The education system will see 100% organic cafeterias and meals. The norm will become that meat and other animal products will become the exception, and are not standard items on the menu.
- The Education Inspectorate will take action against schools that do not inform their students about LGBTI-diversity. LGBTI stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals. This information provision will also be mandatory for intermediate level vocational training (MBO). Skills that will promote the acceptance of LGBTI will become a component of teacher training. Initiatives that improve LGBTI conditions in the educational sector will receive support.
- Primary and secondary schools will offer classes in media intelligence, teaching students to deal with the internet and other media. Philosophy will also be a component of the standard curriculum, and more attention will be paid on the arts and drama.
- Investments will be made in sufficient hours of school swimming lessons and sports classes for all primary and secondary school students.
- Schools will receive support in order to arrange school gardens, so that students will have the opportunity to grow food themselves.

Invest in students and teachers.

Schools should not be assessed on grades, but on the actual development of their students. The math test will be abolished and moving on to subsequent education will be made easier instead of more difficult. Education should not only focus on developing cognitive capacities, but on the unfolding of all human capacities, including social, emotional, motor and creative skills.

- Teachers, students and parents will be allowed much more autonomy in setting priorities. We do not want an educational system based on standardization, control, competition and business management models.
- The school hour norms will be abolished, schools can align the number of class hours to the exam requirements.
- Education will be aligned to the human dimension. This will allow both students and teachers to prosper. Mergers resulting in school factories will be a thing of the past. The number of students per class will be reduced. We will work to realize the Finnish model, in which all teachers have university degrees. Investments will be made in training and continued learning programs for teachers. Teachers will earn a salary that suits the important task they fulfill.
- Thousands of children are stuck at home and become isolated as a result of budget cuts on special schooling.

We must invest much more in adapted curriculums, so that no child will be left out or overlooked. Programs and special schooling for gifted children will receive support.

- Primary schools will be free not to conduct the final aptitude test if they have other manners of demonstrating that educational demands have been met.
- It will be made easier for schools to operate independently, beyond of the larger scope of a comprehensive school community.
- Child care for children under the age of 4 will become a component of government funded primary education.

Higher education available to all.

The student loan system will be abolished and the basic student grant will be reinstated. The Public Transportation pass for students will not be converted into a loan and will remain valid for as long as the student receives a student grant.

- Tuition fees will be lowered substantially.
- Tuition fees will be the same for all students, regardless of the number of previously followed courses or earned degrees. The educational institute will make the structure underlying their tuition fee transparent.
- Flexible studies make it easier for students to combine their education with a (student) board or representative position for a year, without losing a full year's tuition.
- Universities and colleges will see further democratization: students and teacher will be given more influence in participation councils. Directors will be chosen, instead of appointed by the minister.
- The influx of MBO students to higher level education will be improved through closer collaboration between HBO and MBO.

No testing on animals in educational institutes.

The use of animals in secondary schools and higher education institutes, in surgical training, for demonstrations and in tests must be put to a stop. As long as this has not been realized, the government will protect the right of students to refuse using animals for educational purposes, this right also extends to secondary school pupils.

- A campaign will be initiated to inform students and educational institutes of the right of animal test refusers and the available alternatives.
- As standard practice, students following (bio)medical education will receive information on and experience with alternatives to animal testing.

Science is independent and unfettered.

- All universities, including Wageningen University & Research, will fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.

- In order to enhance the quality and independence of scientific research, a larger portion will be funded through fixed (multi-year) financing. The government budget for direct public funding and contract research funds will therefore be subject to a structural increase.
- The government will invest additional funds in fundamental research.
- Scientific articles and reports that were (partly) funded by public funding, are available free of charge and can be accessed without restrictions.
- Stricter independence requirements will apply to special chairs that are funded by the business sector or social organizations and foundations.
- A public register will be established which contains all secondary activities undertaken by researchers from within and outside of universities and colleges.

Art, culture, heritage and sport is available to everyone.

Creativity and freedom are core values for an open society. Art and culture are essential pillars for a life in liberty, a life in which new roads can be explored and individuals can develop to their full potential. Art and culture inspire reflection, stir emotions, they touch us and unsettle. Art stimulates us to broaden our horizons. It is the upstart to the transformation, change and innovation that our society so desperately needs. The relentless budget cuts of recent years have seriously jeopardized the health and availability of art, culture and heritage. The Party for the Animals wants to heal the heart of a free society: a flourishing arts and cultural sector.

- The budget for art, culture and heritage will be structurally increased.
- Art and culture should be accessible to every citizen of the Netherlands: the government will facilitate the availability of art and culture throughout the country, not just in and around the major cities.
- We will invest to maintain and reopen public libraries. Digitalization of the archives of cultural and historic organizations will be stimulated.
- Museums will be open admission-free at least one day a week.
- Pop music will be appointed its rightful place in the cultural policy. This will result in actions regarding, for instance, a proper podium policy, room for pop music in the Podium Arts Fund, attention for the income positions of musicians and, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Affairs, efficient support for the export strength of the Dutch music industry.
- Scalping of tickets for excessive prices will be tackled.
- Copyright and copyright contract laws will be updated in order to strengthen the position of the creators and increase information freedom. New payment models for film and music will be investigated. Platforms that

earn from offering films and music without compensation for the creators, will pay a reasonable portion of their profits to the entitled authors/creators.

- The central government will promote repurposing of listed properties and will stimulate municipalities to draft cultural-historical and archeological value maps. Historically valuable buildings will not be demolished.
- The government will promote the recovery of cultural landscapes, which will include renovation or the cultivation of field margins and wooded banks.
- Cultural and musical educations are a fixed component of the curriculum offered in primary and secondary schools and in vocational training schools. Schools will foster a connection with and between the neighborhood, parents, cultural institutes, libraries, art centers, museums, associations and podiums.
- The central government will stimulate municipalities to make cultural participation a fixed component of their welfare policy. At the local level, there will be well-distributed, accessible, affordable and varied amenities.
- Sport plays an important role in our society. Not only does it promote physical and mental health, it also contributes to independence, as swimming does for instance. Sport has an important social task and sports clubs take a central role in this respect. The Party for the Animals believes that participating in sports in sports clubs should be available for everyone.

7. Security, privacy, civil rights and trustworthy government

A government that listens to its citizens' wishes (without wiretapping them).

In offering security, there is a major difference between a big brother who looks out for you and a Big Brother who spies on you. The Party for the Animals stands for a society in which citizens can feel free and which respects the rights to privacy and self-fulfillment. A trustworthy government involves its citizens and offers them perspective.

The police force is truly engaged with society.

The establishment of the National Police Force has proven a failure. The closing of police stations and bureaucracy have made contact between civilians and the police more difficult. And moreover, the gap between management and officers has also widened as a result of the multiple executive tiers. Responsibility for the police should be returned to the Ministry of the Interior.

- Reopen instead of close more police stations, and invest in community police officers.
- More (community) police officers will be deployed in the field. Theirs is an important factor in ensuring safety and security.
- A sufficient number of animal police will be realized, who will work in close collaboration with the Dutch Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority.
- The use of camera surveillance may only be temporary, in court-determined high risk areas.
- Ethnic profiling will be combatted, by means of instruments such as a registration system that documents the reason why individuals have been pulled over or stopped by the police.
- The use and production of soft drugs will be legalized, so that the cultivation will become legal and subjected to taxes. The government will ensure proper information on the health risks associated with the use of soft drugs.

Accessible and effective judicial system.

The Party for the Animals believes that people should always be able to turn to the courts for judgement. High costs and accelerated procedures may not pose an im-

pediment to the accessibility of justice.

- Access to the judicial system will be improved by means of better judicial support for people with lower incomes.
- Participation and appeal options will not be restricted.
- Mediation will again be made possible in criminal law.
- A constitutional court will allow judges to better consider laws and treaties in the light of the Constitution.
- Green public prosecutors will be specifically educated to address environmental and animal welfare issues.
- An international criminal court for environmental and animal welfare issues will be established. Ecocide (extensive damage to or destruction of ecosystems) will become a legally recognized criminal act.
- A more effective monitoring and enforcement concerning violations of human rights, giving or receiving bribes, money laundering and other forms of fraud.
- Social organizations that initiate legal proceedings against the state when it violates its own laws and in which cases the court rules in their favor, will receive generous compensation for legal support. Currently, the compensation awarded is often only of symbolic value.

Privacy is security.

The Party for the Animals is committed to ensuring the unrestricted privacy of citizens. When we surrender our privacy, we give up a substantial part of our security. Privacy gives us freedom and protects us from the state. Infringement of civilians' rights may be allowed only in extreme cases.

- All Dutch and European policies regarding wiretapping, the collection and storage of personal information regarding civilians will be reviewed in detail, in the interest of privacy. Collecting and storing personal information regarding civilians and companies by American and other foreign intelligence agencies is unacceptable. The Netherlands will take measures to stop such privacy infringements as soon as possible and prevent any new wiretapping.
- The retention obligation for telephone and internet data will be abolished, as will the relaying of passenger information to the United States. The US will no longer be given access to European bank transactions.
- We will put an end to the mandatory recording of finger prints in travel documents and the registration thereof in databases.
- The Netherlands will see the establishment of an organization that will provide factual and detailed reports on specific incidents regarding security breaches of our digital infrastructure.
- Cyber security cannot be achieved by violating constitutional rights. Investigative agencies may not snoop around in computers without a serious, court-assessed, cause. More stringent norms for the tapping of telephones will be adopted.
- The Netherlands will protect personal information at the very highest level. The government will make structural investments in software projects aimed at improving the security of digital infrastructure. The Authority on Personal Data (AP) will be awarded the mandate and resources to properly fulfill its tasks, similar to the authorities held by the Consumer and Market Authority.
- Only in the event of concrete suspicion, assessed as such by the court, may the police force, the judiciary and intelligence services request information regarding civilians from companies. Civilians will be given greater insight into information about them that has been stored and will be given greater opportunities to remove their information from data systems. Companies will make public how much and how often they have been obligated to provide information to the judiciary. to a judicial ruling.
- Civilians have a right to unrestricted internet, without filters, blocks or transfer of information by providers.
- Online services are accessible without being tracked. Any form of diminishing the possibilities for encryption of information is unacceptable.
- Internet providers will not be used as an extension of the investigation agencies. The mandatory storage of personal information of civilians will be abolished. The confidentiality of communication will be protected and respected.

- The government may no longer, without due reason, ask companies to 'voluntarily' provide information or take any actions. This will be allowed only where regulated by law, and where all relevant legal guarantees concerning privacy are ensured.
- Companies will be obligated to inform civilians in the event that their information has been leaked. Hackers that expose security leaks will be protected.
- New policy and law proposals will be assessed in terms of the consequences for privacy. Where these affect the protection of privacy, they will either be modified or rejected.
- Systems that cannot warrant privacy will be abolished. Examples include national electronic files on patients, students and prostitutes.
- Compulsory identification will be abandoned.

Right to information and protest.

Civilians have the right to information on government bodies and companies that spend public funds. The Party for the Animals wants the right to protest to be an easily accessible means to exercise the right to freedom of speech. We object to the further expansion of the range of order, enforcement and security measures that do not require the involvement of the court.

- The Government Information (public Access) Act will be enhanced so that information will become available more quickly. The number of exception grounds to refuse information will be limited.
- Data originating from publically funded research will be freely accessible to all.
- Small demonstrations will be exempt from a notification obligation.
- Notification periods for demonstrations regarding recent events or occurrences will be shortened.
- Independent investigative journalism is necessary to monitor the powers that be. Old and new media may request funding for the Media Stimulation Fund. No further budget cuts for public broadcasting or regional networks.
- Internet censorship is prohibited, and no filters will be applied that can shut down portions of the internet. The anti-counterfeiting trade agreement ACTA will not be ratified.
- In Europe, the Netherlands will advocate a prohibition of internet access infrastructure monopolies.

Emancipation.

In the Netherlands, all civilians have equal rights. Discrimination on any grounds is unacceptable. It is the task of the government to ensure full integration and equal rights in the event of any form of bias against groups - including people with disabilities, women, ethnic minorities

and LGBTI (lesbians, gays and bisexuals, transgender and intersex individuals (i.e. individuals with both male and female gender characteristics)).

- The government will take resolute action against all forms of discrimination.
- Men and women will receive equal pay for equal work; homosexual couples will be awarded the same rights as heterosexual couples.
- The government will ensure that its civil service is a balanced representation of the structure of the population.
- The government will promote equal rights for people with a disability. Access to public amenities, public organizations and transportation must be self-evident, also for individuals with a disability and those who are dependent on assistance dogs. The UN treaty regarding the rights of individuals with a handicap will be strictly adhered to.
- A prohibition of LGBTI discrimination will be, as is discrimination based on religious affiliation, race, etc., be explicitly incorporated in article 1 of the Constitution.
- Transgender discrimination and discrimination of individuals with an intersex condition will be prohibited in the Equal Treatment Act. The law will furthermore replace the term 'heterosexual or homosexual orientation' by 'sexual orientation.' This will ensure the legal protection of bisexuals and asexual individuals.
- The government will enforce a strong LGBTI emancipation policy in the educational system. LGBTI students and teachers are welcome in all schools.
- The official gender registration will be abolished.
- Forms of multi-parenthood, for example where a child is raised by a lesbian couple and a gay man, will be recognized by law.
- Discrimination-based violence will be penalized more severely. The police will register violence against gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender and intersex individuals. Tackling anti-LGBTI violence will remain a top priority for police and the judiciary.

More democracy.

A sustainable and inclusive society cannot exist without a government that sets boundaries. The fundamental principles of compassion, sustainability, personal liberty and personal responsibility will be leading.

- The democratic input in decision-making in the Netherlands is in urgent need of reinforcement. The gap between civilians and the political arena is wide and confidence in politics is low.
- Forms of direct democracy, such as referendums, will be awarded a more prominent position.
- Civilian initiatives will be made easier and encouraged by means of campaigns

- Indicative referendums will play a role in important decisions. Referendums concerning topical issues may - after the Swiss example - take place parallel to elections. Possible options will be assessed. Digital collection of signatures for participatory procedures, referendums and civilian initiatives will be made possible on government websites.
- We will adopt a corrective binding referendum for impactful decisions. For example, in the event of the transfer of authorities or power to international organizations such as the European Union. Or in those cases where the government is planning to enter into trade agreements that incorporate private arbitration courts.
- Neighborhood associations will have a decisive vote in decisions concerning the future of abandoned buildings or common buildings in their neighborhood.
- Mayors will be elected by the municipal council, the King's Commissioners by the Provincial Council.
- Directors of the water authority will be elected directly, instead of indirectly by the municipal councils.
- Guaranteed seats in the water authorities will be ended.
- Municipal reorganization can only take place upon the agreement of all involved municipal councils.

Honest and adequate government.

The Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment will become the Ministry of Sustainability. This ministry will be awarded the same status as the Ministry of Finance: policies of other ministries will be subjected to a sustainability review. This Ministry of Sustainability will be responsible for the Environment, Climate, Energy, Spatial Planning and Nature.

- A Ministry of Food and Agriculture will be established.
- The ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport will become the Ministry of Health, Sport and Animal Welfare.
- The Ministry of Security and Justice will be dissolved. The Police will once again become the responsibility of the Ministry of the Interior. Justice will again become a separate ministry.
- A public lobby register will be established for all levels of government and democratic representation. For all documents such as bills and policy measures, the involvement and influence of lobbyists on the propositions must be documented.
- Whistleblowers are important sources for the detection of injustices in companies and (government) organizations and will therefore be given proper protection.
- A Commission for Public Nominations and Appointments will supervise honest, transparent and unbiased nominations and appointments. Party political appointments will be actively combatted. Public appointments will no longer be exempt from the anti-discrimination principle.

- The central government's tasks and responsibilities may only be transferred to provinces or municipalities under extremely stringent conditions. The task must be appropriate and the governments who will be given this new task must have the (financial) means to fulfill the responsibilities.
- The bakenende pay norm will apply to all public and semi-public organizations.
- The exemption for the king and his family from taxes, including income tax, will be abandoned, as will compensations regarding capital and profit taxes and yield taxes.
- The royal hunting department will be dissolved. Subsidies to this department will be revoked.
- Lese-majesty and the punishability of offending foreign heads of state will be eliminated from the law.

8. Europe, development cooperation, refugees and defense

A defensible world view, planet-wide!

The earth can provide enough for everyone's need, but not for everyone's greed. Our actions may not exacerbate the problems elsewhere on the globe. Compassion and sustainability should be leading for our foreign policy. Help for the most poverty-stricken and to victims of famine, natural disasters and violence is self-evident to us. Human rights must be upheld. A lack of solidarity is a breeding ground for refugee influxes and war. As mass-consumers of foreign soil, raw materials and natural resources we must accept substantial accountability.

In order to prevent conflicts we must use our earth responsibly and sustainably and ensure a fair distribution of food and resources. Military intervention is rarely a solution and often leads to exacerbation of conflicts, at the expense of countless human lives. Regionalization, fair trade and reduction of our ecological footprint will lead to food security and sustainable development. The Party for the Animals is against free trade (TTIP, CETA) at the expense of the environment, animal welfare, food security, human rights, privacy and employment opportunities for the less underprivileged in our own country.

The Netherlands in the European Union.

Europe is not a federal state and it is neither desirable or necessary to pursue this status. It is pertinent that the influence of Brussels be clearly defined. The Party for the Animals is for a European Union (EU) that is both democratic and controllable and respects the opinions of civilians. A Europe that will tackle issues that call for collaborative solutions, but still allows member states to make their own decisions on policies in areas in which European policy will do more harm than good.

- No new authorities will be transferred to the EU - and most definitely not without a prior binding referendum. There will be no European Public Prosecutor, European Minister of Finance, European Army or European pension system. These issues should be arranged by countries themselves.
- Member states will preserve full authority over their own budgets.

- The EU will end its infatuation with 'economic growth' and 'trade.'
- The Eurozone will see no further expansions.
- We advocate alternative scenarios for solving the eurocrisis and ask the EU to work out scenarios for parallel currencies, for the return to national currencies and for the potential division of the monetary union into a northern and a southern region, in order to dissolve the euro should the eurocrisis resurge.
- Exit strategies will be formulated for member states intending to leave the monetary union. The European Union will support member states that are considering such a step.
- Member states at risk of buckling under their debts will receive assistance to rebuild their economies in a manner that tolerable for their own populations and not destructive to animals, nature or the environment. Responsible debt restructuring will be the leading principle.
- The European Union will put an end to the ESM emergency fund. This fund requires a member state such as the Netherlands to act as guarantor for tens of billions of euro, without giving the member state any control over the manner in which this money is spent.
- As long as EU emergency funds still exist, their governance will be organized democratically. Courts of auditors at both the national and the European levels will play prominent roles.
- The European Central Bank (ECB) is undemocratic and dodge all parliamentary control, but does take deci-

sions that have extensive distribution effects. Creditor interests will no longer take precedence over debtor interests, and price stability should not trump employment and sustainability. National parliaments should be given full access to the internal minutes and be given the opportunity to hold ECB directors responsible for their actions.

Responsible trade.

Human and animal rights, nature and sustainability take priority over short-term economic interests. The Party for the Animals is against free trade agreements such as TTIP, because these deals undermine democracy and have major detrimental ramifications for people, the environment, animal welfare and public health. They restrict consumers' freedom of choice and privacy. They also threaten the opportunities for development of the underprivileged and vulnerable. Developing nations often bear the brunt of free trade, but do not share in the rewards. We want to significantly improve the position of developing nations in the world trade market, and increase the regionalization of the global economy.

- The EU and the Netherlands will refrain from closing any new free trade agreements. There will also be no more new (associative) agreements (such as the agreement with Ukraine) that offer countries free(r) market access to the EU. The negotiations with parties including the United States, Mercosur (six major nations in South America) and Japan will be suspended. The Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) will also be stopped.
- If the EU does enter into free trade agreements, individual member states should always have the last say. This will include the organization of a binding referendum.
- Free trade agreements such as TTIP and CETA give companies the right to bring countries before an often specifically established, private court, should the democratically established laws of a country impede free trade. We reject this type of investment dispute settlement. Systems such as these (ISDS and/or ICS for instance) may never be a component of free trade agreements.
- Existing free trade agreements and associative agreements to which the Netherlands is a party, will be revisited. The multitude of bilateral tax and investment treaties closed by the Netherlands will also be reviewed to assess their effects on the environment and consequential tax competition between countries in order to attract companies to the detriment of the general population.
- Tax evasion will be tackled, starting with the Netherlands and in close collaboration with other member

states. Developing nations will receive assistance to ensure they receive the tax incomes to which they are entitled. The Netherlands will obligate companies to fully disclose the taxes they pay.

- At minimum, products imported into the Netherlands or the EU must meet the same environmental and animal welfare requirements as products that are produced here. At the very minimum, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights must be respected in the entire product chain. Producers in developing nations will receive help in order to meet these demands.
- The Netherlands will not admit products that were produced at the expense of humans, animals or the environment and in Brussels, the Netherlands will actively pursue the rights of member states to do the same amongst one another regarding unethical products such as goose and duck liver (foie gras) from France, Spain, Bulgaria and Hungary.
- The export of systems for the livestock industry and products that are not allowed in the Netherlands, will be prohibited.
- Developing nations should be able to implement capital control in order to prevent foreign investors from suddenly retracting their funds and subsequently causing serious destabilization.
- The Netherlands will actively pursue a modification of the World Trade Organization's conditions, where social values will become the leading factor. Import bans on products such as battery cages, fur and tar sand oil must be made possible.
- Developing nations will be given more influence on the policies of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Over-representation of Europe will be ended. We want all these organizations to become transparent and democratic.

Invest in development cooperation.

Western consumption and production exceed the carrying capacity of the earth and undermine the position of people in poor regions of the world. They are hit first and hardest by the exhaustion of natural resources, drought and floods. The Party for the Animals wants the Netherlands to invest in effective solutions. Sustainability, education, health, child rights, the development of local production chains (not aimed at export) and equal treatment of men and women are fundamental principles in this regard.

- One percent of our gross domestic income will be spent on development aid.
- Aid will be focused on the interests of the people in the country in question, instead of the interests of Dutch business. The position of the poor population will be strengthened, particularly the circumstances of

women and children.

- Priority will be given to clean drinking water and hygiene, proper (preventive) healthcare, access to essential medicine and contraception, education, clean energy and support for the emancipation movement. This will contribute to slowing down population growth and improve the chances of the democratization process.
- Environmental and human rights activists will receive support and protection from the Dutch embassy where necessary. The Netherlands will also help them in gaining access to the judiciary system.
- The Netherlands will advocate to add ecocide to the crimes that can be brought before the International Criminal Court, in order to facilitate the prosecution of companies and countries that inflict severe damage to the environment.
- If developing countries (temporarily) shield their markets from imports from the west in order to strengthen their own economy, no retaliatory measures will be taken.
- The Netherlands will help developing countries to process their own products, so that they can create added value, instead of exporting raw materials and resources.

Restrictions on conflict resources.

- The Netherlands will impose stricter regulations for the import of resources of which the mining, extraction or production may inflict harm on people, animals, the environment or nature. These regulations will apply to raw materials and (semi-)manufactured goods.
- Frequently traded resources such as soy, palm oil, copper and coal will be added to the list of conflict materials, which will be subject to stricter criteria in international trade. Fresh water will also be added to this list.
- We want to put an end to the non-committal character of socially responsible enterprise (SRE). In addition to an SRE governance authority, clear agreements will be made concerning effort and result reports by companies.
- Companies will be obligated to identify, prevent and address human rights violations (including child labor), environmental pollution, animal welfare violations and biodiversity loss in their chains.
- Large companies will be obligated to disclose the origin of the materials they use and the circumstances surrounding the production chain. They will publish an annual profit and loss account in terms of people, animals, nature, the environment and climate.

Prevent terrorism.

Terrorism must be prevented. However, the bombing

raids on Syria do not contribute to this prevention: they only serve to further destabilize the region and lead to countless displaced persons and civilian casualties. An ideology cannot be combatted with bombs. What does help is to stop the funding of IS by tackling the trade in oil and resources with this terrorist group.

- Among others, IS funds terrorism by means of trading in oil. Oil from specific oil fields has its own unique composition, which can be considered a 'fingerprint'. The Netherlands will join forces with other countries to review whether it is possible to use this 'fingerprint' to detect IS-oil and stop the trade in that oil.
- For the early detection of radicalization and identification of terrorism, information from community police officers often proves vital. The Netherlands will invest in more community police officers in the field, who can serve as the eyes and ears of their neighborhoods.
- Tackling illegal trade in animals and animal products (such as ivory) will be incorporated in an action plan against international terrorism.

Eliminate causes for the refugee crisis.

Millions are leaving behind their homes and all they know, fleeing from brutal violence. Furthermore, countless people are seeking better lives. Europe is faced with an influx of refugees and migrants that can hardly be contained. Many of these people need our aid to warrant their safety and safeguard their human rights. Victims of war and violence, oppression and persecution, famine, climate change and natural disasters must be helped.

The Netherlands and Europe do not only have a responsibility to give these people dignified shelter and help. We must simultaneously try to eliminate the root causes of the refugee influx and the breeding grounds for conflicts. Climate change, which results in droughts and food shortages, are at the source of a significant number of the conflicts that set people adrift. Our aggressive export and trade strategy and the facilitation of tax evasion by multinationals rob people in developing nations of the chance to make a good living in their home countries. The Netherlands has a large ecological footprint, which diminishes the opportunities for people in developing nations. In order to reduce the number of refugees, we will have to actively change our ways.

- The Netherlands will take action to reduce the consumption of materials, water, energy and land, in order to prevent our footprint from putting people, animals and the environment abroad in harm's way.
- The Netherlands will finally take serious measures to reduce CO₂ emissions.
- We will pursue the regionalization of trade, which will give developing nations the opportunity to develop

their local economies.

- Tax legislation and tax treaties will be revisited and modified so that developing countries will no longer lose out on millions in income due to tax evasion by multinationals.
- European agriculture and fishery subsidies will be scaled down. This will give farmers in developing countries new opportunities and better chances for success.
- The Netherlands will end the import of products that are detrimental to the living environment abroad, or which involve human rights and animal welfare violations.
- Fishery agreements between the EU and other countries are rogue agreements and will be disbanded.
- All existing export subsidies and budgets for export promotion will be abandoned and the dumping of products in developing nations will be put to an end.

Providing humanitarian aid is self-evident.

- Regional humanitarian shelter is preferred, but only where this can be done humanely. The Netherlands will make money and expertise available in order to support this. We will give generous support for (emergency) aid that is needed to give people in vulnerable areas a perspective on a dignified existence.
- Refugees from violence will be helped to reach safe destinations in Europe. Those who flee to Europe for economic reasons will be filtered from the influx of refugees in a careful and conscientious manner along the outer borders of Europe.
- More money and resources will be made available to prevent that people from having to make the dangerous crossing over the Mediterranean. Human trafficking will be tackled. The refugee deal with Turkey will be terminated: people may never be sent back without a diligent process.
- In the EU, agreements will be made concerning the distribution of refugees. Countries that fail to comply will be penalized by cutting back on the annual funds they receive. The Netherlands will actively pursue the global ratification of the UN refugee treaty.
- Sufficient small-scale accommodation for refugees will be established. The number of refugees accommodated may never exceed a quarter of the total original population of a city or town prior to the arrival of refugees. This measure will be adopted in order to prevent the disturbance of the social cohesion.
- The Netherlands will not return people to their native country if they run the risk of being persecuted on the basis of their sexual orientation, religious affiliation, political beliefs or ethnicity.
- People who file for a residence permit in the Netherlands will receive a final decision on their request

within two years.

- Children's rights, as defined in the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (ICRC) will be incorporated in the Aliens Act. These rights will have great bearing: children who are rooted in our country will not be deported and will be granted residency permits. For children who have been in the Netherlands for five years or more, further investigations concerning the child's best interests are not necessary. Scientific research has demonstrated that in these circumstances, it is always in the child's best interest to stay in the Netherlands.
- Residency permits for unaccompanied minors seeking asylum will be processed quickly and according to individual assessment.
- Refugees should be given the opportunity to adapt to our language and culture as quickly as possible. They are entitled to education, healthcare, (volunteer) work and proper housing.
- Those unable to leave the Netherlands due to circumstances beyond their control will not be thrown out onto the street, but are entitled to shelter, food and healthcare. Municipalities will receive assistance from the State to make this possible.

Restrictions on weapons.

- The trade in arms and investments in the production of weapons will be subjected to substantial restrictions.
- The Netherlands will take a clear stance to ensure - also within the EU - compliance with treating concerning landmines and cluster ammunition and global regulation of the arms trade.
- The Netherlands will take a leading role in the development of an international legal framework for the use of armed drones (unmanned aircraft).
- The weapons export policy will be modified in order to ensure that the Netherlands and the EU cannot supply weapons to repressive and authoritarian states that violate human rights.
- A blacklist will be drafted of countries and companies that may not be supplied with semi-manufactured weapons and parts of chemical and nuclear weapons and warfare materials involving bacteria, viruses, etcetera.
- The Netherlands will join forces with other countries to implement a universal ban on the use of any form of Uranium in weapons and will actively pursue a full prohibition on nuclear weapons.
- All nuclear weapons that are currently present in the Netherlands will be removed forthwith.
- The Netherlands will terminate its acquisition of JSF jets. The F-16 fleet will be scaled down and modernized.

No combat missions.

The Party for the Animals supports United Nations peacekeeping operations where these are legitimate, proportional and effective. The intertwining of political, military and humanitarian tasks is a threat to the upholding of humanitarian law on war. The Netherlands will continue to uphold its fundamental commitment to humanitarian principles as the cornerstone of its policy.

- The Netherlands will not participate in NATO combat missions.
- The Netherlands will retreat from Syria and Mali.
- The Netherlands will maintain full authority over its own military.
- The age at which our soldiers may be deployed on missions will be raised from 18 to 21.
- The military will refrain from all manners of active recruitment of minors, including recruitment for preparatory military schools.