

**Electoral Program
Party for the Animals
Parliamentary elections 2021**

**Idealism is the
new realism**



**Party for
the Animals**

Par

Table of contents

Introduction	3
1. A liveable Earth For all its inhabitants	8
2. Animal rights Animals have the right to live according to their nature	20
3. Food and agriculture Only sustainable agriculture can provide healthy food for everyone	34
4. Systemic change Economic growth is the problem, not the solution	44
5. Environment, energy and mobility Protect everything of value, share scarce resources equally	54
6. A healthy society A government that puts health first	66
7. Living space for everyone Appropriate and affordable housing in green surroundings	78
8. More knowledge, wisdom and beauty Education, science and culture	86
9. A just society With a government that listens to people, rather than listens in on people	94
10. Europe and international solidarity The Earth offers enough to satisfy everyone's needs but not everyone's greed	104

Introduction – Plan B

We live in uncertain times. But we also stand on the threshold of important and long-awaited changes. Citizens around the world are taking to the streets in droves, demanding action for climate change. The winds of change are blowing. A growing number of people refuse to contribute to the livestock industry and support for free trade agreements is dwindling. Politicians in traditional parties are clearly becoming increasingly uncomfortable with the consequences of their own neoliberal policies. Shareholders have been growing rich while the average citizen has been left out in the cold. The economic system no longer serves our human values. It is time to make radically different choices.

The coronavirus crisis has strengthened that realisation. The pandemic has magnified the systemic deficiencies that have been put in place by traditional politics. Turning the world into one giant marketplace, where production needs to be carried out as cheaply and efficiently as possible, has put us in a very precarious situation. Suddenly, we are dependent on China, the world's factory, for our essential goods. Jobs that were undervalued are now deemed crucial to our well-being — in stark contrast to the rewards associated with careers with no perceptible added value. Even in our wealthy society, the number of people who are dependent on food aid has exploded. A virus that was transferred from animals to humans is responsible for the deaths of more than one million people worldwide and has precipitated the largest economic crisis since the Second World War. Meanwhile, new zoonotic diseases with pandemic implications are rearing their heads, such as the bird flu and the mutation of COVID-19 present in minks. If humans would have left animals alone, we would not have had to deal with an abundance of infectious diseases, 75% of which originate from the animal kingdom.

All the signs indicate that we have reached a turning point. We cannot afford to continue with business as usual. It is time for Plan B — because there is no Planet B. This election programme

The historian Philipp Blom describes the situation as follows: *"We are seeing a break between eras. We have reached a tipping point in history, and we do not know on which side the coin will land. We are stuck in an economic model that is destined to fail. Either it ends in catastrophe with new pandemics, war, no access to resources, you name it, or we start heading in a new direction. But one thing is certain; the tide of history will turn."*

is our Plan B. We will not treat symptoms. We will not attempt to refine an unsupportable economic system. We will not offer solutions

that will, at best, only become effective decades from now. We will not compromise and join in endless debates between parties, which are fundamentally at odds, to reach a watered-down version of core values where ideals have been left by the wayside. So, what will we offer? A brave new political direction that offers a new prospect for people, animals, nature and the environment and in which ideals play a central role. Our ideals. Your ideals. We are convinced that this is possible. We are going to do our very best to realise your ideals. Staying true to your ideals, that is our goal.

Idealism is the new realism

The Earth offers enough to satisfy everyone's needs but not everyone's greed. The biggest challenge at the moment is keeping our planet habitable for future generations; an Earth with clean air, clean water, rich biodiversity, fertile soil, a stable climate and a harmonious society involving every living being. A society where caring for each other plays a central role, where the fair distribution of resources and equal treatment in every sense becomes a reality, and where quality education and meaningful work becomes universally accessible. A society where people are actively involved in the changes required to make this happen. We need to say goodbye to systems that no longer function, to the old-fashioned division into left or right, and to egocentrism. Our eco-centric program is needed to turn the tide. We are the only party that takes the interests of every living being — human and animal — as a guiding principle. We have a vision for the entire planet. This is what makes us unique.

The Party for the Animals' unique starting position provides the space and creativity to provide effective solutions. We are offered a wonderful opportunity to tackle the roots of the crisis we are facing and to find collaborative solutions. Economic growth is the problem, not the solution. The Netherlands cannot be the world's dairy farmer and butcher. A

radical reduction in the number of animals in livestock farming is necessary to liberate farmers, animals, and the environment from a dead-end agricultural system. More free trade is not beneficial for human rights and for the environment; it goes against our nature and our common interests.

We are breaking taboos. Instead of an economic system that only serves the elite, we want a welfare economy that is sustainable for our planet. Instead of making agricultural export our goal, we will help farmers make the transition to regional and truly sustainable production where the human factor and farming expertise are given free rein once more. We protect farmers, self-employed entrepreneurs, and employees in our part of the world and in developing countries against unfair competition and a price-driven market.

We are a driving force behind fundamental, positive change. The coronavirus crisis is a turning point, a chance to say farewell to 'business as usual' once and for all. Going back to the new abnormal is no longer an option. A society where people live in harmony with other beings, with our living environment and with each other, is a reassuring thought, for now, and for the future.

Biased growth

Current policy is aimed at a rapid return to the traditional exploitation of the Earth's resources, resources that for a while we believed to be endless. Injecting large sums of borrowed money into the economy does not provide perspective or a structural solution. As if by reflex, polluting and tax-evading concerns are given support, leaving the government very little money for healthcare and the cultural sector. Scant attention is given to what truly matters, issues that are often literally a matter of life and death, but that politically speaking require a more long-term vision.

We are dealing with a number of crises on a global scale: a climate crisis, a biodiversity crisis, a social

justice crisis, and now a health crisis that has paralyzed the world. These crises are a result of the way humans interact with nature and animals. We are digging our own graves and, therefore, need to fundamentally change how we define our relationship with animals and the environment.

Plan B is about being safe rather than sorry. Because there is no Planet B.

The new Doughnut economy

A sustainable economy stays within the carrying capacity of our planet. The British economist Kate Raworth describes this system as a doughnut, where everyone has the right to basic (social) facilities, and no one has the right to abuse the ecosystem for their own gain. We should let our actions be led by a sense of community and the health and well-being of people, animals and the environment, and be geared towards significantly reducing our ecological footprint. One-sided growth models from the Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis hardly take into account the consequences of our actions. In Plan B, the polluter pays, whether that's the aviation, agricultural, transport or industrial sector. Initiatives that offer long-term solutions for our future, such as preventive healthcare and sustainable agriculture, are given priority. Labour taxes are strongly reduced, and the consumption of scarce resources becomes more expensive. More jobs will become available as we reduce the costs of labour and invest in the green economy. Vital occupations will be re-evaluated, and public facilities restored. The teacher, the nurse, the refuse collector, the constable, the cleaner and all those other crucial and undervalued occupations are given due compensation.

Plaguing animals leads to human plagues

Of the infectious diseases threatening the human

population around the globe, 75% are transmitted through animals. According to virologist and professor Ron Fouchier from the Erasmus MC, we are only a few steps away from a mutation of the bird flu which, when it becomes contagious among humans, could lead to a mortality rate a dozen times higher than COVID-19. This makes how we exploit animals extremely dangerous, not only for the animals but also for our own lives and well-being. The livestock industry is literally making us sick and needs to be put to a halt as soon as possible. The Party for the Animals wants to see a reduction in the number of animals bred, exploited and killed in the livestock industry every year (currently in the Netherlands, this amounts to over 640 million farm animals) by at least 75%.

If the farmlands currently used for the cultivation of livestock feed for the meat industry are instead used for crops for direct human consumption, we can feed three times as many people with the same crop yield. We can even give some of those fields back to nature. In the coming 40 years, our planet must produce the same amount of food as we have been producing in the past 8,000 years. This is only possible through radical change. Food waste must be actively combated, and a fairer distribution of food resources is therefore essential.

This will only offer advantages. Through more plant-based agriculture, we will save animals from immeasurable suffering. And when we give our chickens the room to follow their natural tendencies, we no longer need to fear the threat of a bird flu pandemic provoked by the incarceration of chickens under highly unnatural circumstances. More land will become available for nature and residential areas. Our soil will return to its healthy state. We will prevent drought and the collapse of structures due to poor soil conditions. In the Netherlands at the moment, a million homeowners are in danger of losing their precious homes to collapse as a result of lower groundwater levels due to the agricultural sector. Average expected costs per homeowner: € 80,000 in the coming

years. Therefore, having fewer animals in the livestock industry offers many benefits: water conservation, more space for nature and housing, fewer climate problems and a significant reduction in the risk of a new pandemic.

Biodiversity as a priority

In the Netherlands, only 15% of the indigenous animal and plant species survive today. Not only is the diversity of species in jeopardy, but the food supply along with the well-being and safety of humans is also at stake. In Plan B, we will connect nature areas with each other. We will stop biomass production and plant new forests on a large scale. In so doing, we will remove CO2 from the air, give nature a chance to recover, and develop more green space for people and animals. We literally have some scores to settle with threats to nature such as agricultural pollutants, nitrogen levels and greenhouse gasses.

10 out of 10 for climate change

The coming ten years will be decisive for our climate. That's why the 2021 elections are more important than ever. The energy transition will have to take place in the coming decade if we want to prevent our planet from heating up to dangerous temperatures. We are the first generation to undergo the consequences of global warming, and the last generation who can stop the situation from getting worse. Every ton of CO2 that enters the atmosphere right now will continue to loom over our planet for hundreds of years like a sword of Damocles. The Netherlands cannot remain a non-committal discussion platform for political parties with opposing interests and priorities. As a country that is largely situated below sea level, it will have to actively defend itself against climate change. If we can use our buildings to generate energy instead of waste energy, that would make a world of difference. With the decline in the aviation industry, clear skies have become more prevalent, and the air we breathe has become fresh and healthy once

more. Improving public transport and reducing car traffic will reduce the level of fine particles in the air and generate more space for greener streets. Through remote work, people can live in rural areas, giving the struggling rural regions new impetus. Overheated cities would be given more space and breathing room. Schools, small supermarkets, and local public transport would increase the quality of life in the immediate living environment.

Making people better: a government fighting for a healthy society!

In an unhealthy living environment, people need to do their best to not get sick. That's not the way things should work. The close intertwining of industry and politics has given rise to poor air quality, poor health conditions, a hypocritical food lobby, a deadly tobacco industry, and a drinks industry that has made our young people addicted to an unhealthy lifestyle before they're even old enough to make their own decisions. Everyone has the right to a healthy living environment. The government must safeguard our liberties and develop a framework for protecting our health.

International solidarity

We are worried about the large number of conflicts in the world today. Millions of people are being forced to flee their homes. The conflicts are often compounded by water and food shortages arising from climate change. We can make our world safer and more peaceful if we are willing to look at our own involvement in the causes behind these problems. With our economic dogmas of endless growth and a higher GDP, we have often ignored the well-being and future of others. We waste resources: fossil fuels, fresh water, and phosphates. We have an aggressive export strategy that is detrimental to the local economies in underdeveloped countries, and a weapons

industry that fuels conflicts. Combating global hunger and poverty starts with a fair distribution of the resources our planet has to offer. The Party for the Animals would like to use at least 1% of our GNP to combat global inequality. Inequality has far-reaching consequences: when large groups of people fall victim to climate change, lack of economic opportunity and war, the migration streams of those people who are cast adrift can no longer be managed, leading to widespread repercussions.

Stay true to your ideals

More and more people realise that it is time to move away from traditional paradigms that no longer work. You are one of those people; otherwise, you wouldn't have read this far. This programme tells you about the Party for the Animals' vision for the entire planet. Our political voting behaviour is based on four key concepts: tolerance, sustainability, personal freedom and personal responsibility. Our Plan B does not require much in monetary terms, but to turn the tide, we do require the courage of many brave citizens. We will need that courage on 17 March 2021. If we cannot rely on the current politicians to create positive change, then it's time for citizens to get politically involved. These elections offer a unique opportunity to end the traditional game of catch-up between fossil-fuelled political dinosaurs at the expense of the climate and the environment. It is time to stay true to our ideals instead of engaging in endless discussion, compromise and patching up holes. Together, we can effect radical change to government policy and provide a happy outcome to future generations.

These elections are the opportunity of a lifetime. Never before have we seen so many encouraging signs to make the outdated fossil-fuelled way a thing of the past. Turn this crisis into a turning point and give our youth, our children and our grandchildren a sustainable future. Take sides on 17 March and vote. For the animals. For the planet. For yourself.



1 A liveable Earth

For all its inhabitants

The Earth, and its natural wealth, is essential for every form of life. It is home to an enormous diversity of ecosystems and plant and animal species. However, our planet is now worse off than it has ever been before. If we don't make radically different choices, we are heading straight for a global temperature increase of four degrees Celsius by the end of this century. We are already seeing the consequences of this temperature increase: droughts, flooding, apocalyptic forest fires along with devastating hurricanes and storms. Nature areas are disappearing or being choked to death, ecosystems are being thrown out of balance, and biodiversity is being wiped out. As a result of human activity, plant and animal species across the globe are faced with extinction at an alarming rate. Over 70% of all land-based animals have disappeared. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) warns us of the extinction of one million plant and animal species. The human population, represented by a meagre 0.01% of all life on Earth, is responsible. The loss in biodiversity precipitates further climate change, and vice versa, causing a downward spiral that must be stopped. The Party for the Animals stands for reducing consumption patterns. Our activities should not deplete more resources than our Earth has to offer. We still have a lot of ground to cover, literally.

As the country with the highest concentration of livestock and the second-largest exporter of agricultural produce in the world, the Netherlands has a significant influence on climate and biodiversity. More than half of the country's surface area is used for (monoculture) agriculture, and only 15% of the original biodiversity in the Netherlands survives today. Eutrophication and drought, in particular resulting from the bio-industry, significantly damage what little nature is left. In addition to climate change, the large-scale fishing industry causes substantial biodiversity loss. The damage caused to ecosystems and biodiversity is compounded by climate change for which the fishing industry is partly responsible. The overexploitation of our seas and oceans caused by the fishing industry contributes to the rate of global warming. In addition to the intensive livestock industry, the Dutch fossil fuel industry is also disrupting the climate and the natural environment around the globe. Moreover, the loss of biodiversity and habitat for many species ensures that contagious diseases such as COVID-19 are more easily transmitted from animals to humans. The food supply and health and safety of everyone on our planet is therefore at stake. By developing a green economy, we can make a world of difference for a liveable future.

The Earth may still recover if we radically change course. We need to stop with unrestrained economic growth on a planet that cannot grow along with us. By transitioning to a new economy that functions in harmony with the capabilities and resources of the planet, we give the Earth a chance to recover. To do so, we believe in the importance of a socially equitable transition. The emission of greenhouse gasses is mostly produced by a few large polluters. The Party for the Animals wants those polluters to pay the lion's share of the costs of sustainability and wants society to benefit from the transition. The polluter pays while we give sustainable sectors room to grow.

The Urgenda Climate Case, where the Dutch

Supreme Court reminded the Dutch Government of their legal obligation to combat climate change, makes painfully clear that far more drastic measures are required to achieve our climate goals than traditional politics initially had in mind. Climate and biodiversity goals should no longer be optional. The time to restore our climate and biodiversity is now. Any delay is unacceptable. We are the first generation to undergo the consequences of global warming, and the last generation who can prevent the situation from getting worse.

Facing the biodiversity and climate crisis together

The most critical measure to avert the crisis is to reduce our ecological footprint. This requires a comprehensive approach involving the combination of biodiversity measures with climate plans. By implementing sustainable changes in the food production sector, reducing our energy consumption, and reducing our resource consumption, we give nature a chance to recover. As a result, we can benefit from more greenery, a more pleasant and cleaner living environment, fewer emissions from traffic and agriculture and a more meaningful and greener job market. We will turn a no-win into a win-win situation.

- A new ministry will be tasked with the responsibility for animal welfare: the Ministry of Health, Sports and Animal Welfare
- A Ministry of Climate and Biodiversity will be created. The ministry will hold the same status as the Ministry of Finance: the policies of other ministries will from now on be evaluated on sustainability. They will safeguard the environment, biodiversity, resources, and CO2 budgets in such a way that the natural environment can recover.
- The Netherlands will do its utmost to limit global warming to a maximum of 1.5 degrees Celsius and will be climate neutral by 2030 at the very latest. We will establish these reduction goals in a new Climate Act. The

aviation and shipping sectors will no longer be exempt from realising these climate goals.

- The less energy you use, the less you produce. That's why we are committed to conserving energy in the agriculture, industry and transport sectors and in urban areas. By 2030, the Netherlands will have reduced its energy consumption by at least 50%. The transition to an energy-efficient society will not only produce a reduction in costs but also plenty of green job opportunities, for example, in construction, the energy sector and (technical) education sector.
- The number of animals in the livestock industry will be reduced by at least 75%. Agricultural farmland that is no longer used will be returned to nature, and space will be created for residential areas.
- At least half of the coronavirus relief funds will be used for investments benefitting nature, the environment, climate, and sustainable, environmentally friendly work opportunities.
- The fossil fuel industry will no longer be exempt. The subsidies for the fossil fuel industry will be abolished. We will reduce energy consumption and invest in the development of sustainable energy sources. We will work towards a new economy that functions within the environmental capabilities of our planet.
- The burning of biomass fuels and the fermentation of manure to generate heat and electricity will be banned. Subsidies on biomass fuels will be terminated immediately.
- The Netherlands will choose a necessary reduction in the aviation industry. This means that the number of flights will be reduced to a maximum of 300,000 flights per annum by 2030.
- Maastricht Aachen Airport will no longer expand. Twente Airport and Lelystad Airport will not be thrown open for commercial flights. Groningen Airport Eelde and Rotterdam The Hague Airport will close.
- The Netherlands will actively work towards promoting affordable, sustainable, and fast

international train connections.

- The International Criminal Court will be given the authority to prosecute CEO's of companies or officials from countries who are guilty of ecocide. Ecocide is a crime in which ecosystems are lost due to negligence, damage or destruction.

Ecological growth instead of economic growth

Significant investments need to be made in ecological growth through improved protection of the environment and the development of new natural environments. The stubborn focus of traditional politics on economic growth and the associated increase in consumption behaviour, in combination with sky-high subsidies for polluting activities, has led to an irresponsible escalation of the biodiversity issue. This not only has immensely adverse consequences for nature reserves in the Netherlands but for ecosystems elsewhere as well. The exploitation of the Earth for the short-term interests of a small group of people must end.

- The creation of new nature areas and the reconnecting of fragmented nature reserves will provide room for nature development. This will make our nature more resilient and allow fragile ecosystems to recover, saving populations such as bird and insect populations from extinction in the process.
- Agricultural farmlands will be converted into nature reserves where the biodiversity can recover, and the emission of greenhouse gasses will be significantly reduced. Landowners will be compensated for the change in land use.
- Natural landscapes are designed to encourage pollination and produce an animal-friendly environment to create an ecological network of habitats and corridors.
- Fossil-fuelled leaf blowers will be forbidden because of their damaging effects on air quality and noise pollution. Leaf blowing

will only be permitted on paved areas for safety purposes, provided the leaves are not disposed of but moved to unpaved locations nearby.

- A ban will be implemented on the use of chemical pesticides, herbicides, and insecticides.
- The cabinet will strive to reduce the Dutch contribution to Earth Overshoot Day (marking the day when human consumption exceeds the renewable resources our planet has to offer within one year) by moving the date back to at least the 31st December.

A just climate policy

The Party for the Animals stands for a sustainable society in harmony with the Earth's resource capacity. Despite the lofty promises made by traditional political parties, we will not achieve the goals stipulated by the Paris Climate Accord at the current rate. The current climate policy is a compromise between the interests of our planet and the interests of the fossil fuel industry. These compromises, however, are threatening to flood our country, with all the consequences they entail. The Party for the Animals is the only political party that aims for a climate policy without compromise. The transition required to rein in the climate crisis has a significant impact on all aspects of society. Major opportunities lie ahead for improving our standards of living, streamlining our transport sector, generating clean energy, and producing healthier food without asking too much from our environment. The transition to a climate-neutral society will provide new, green job opportunities on a large scale, for example, in the (technical) education, construction and energy sectors. They will only succeed if everyone participates and if the costs are shared equally among all parties. The largest polluters will have to pay their share for their role in causing these problems.

- The Netherlands will play a leading role in making globally binding agreements to reduce

the emission of greenhouse gases.

- The actual costs of products and services will be reflected in the price, so costs are not borne by the society at large.
- The government will give unbiased and transparent information about the impact of products on services on the climate and the environment.
- A government campaign will be launched to better inform citizens about climate change.
- Any policy, regardless of the domain it falls under, will be assessed for the effect that it has on sustainability, animal rights and human rights.
- The government will set an example. Procurement of all products and contracts will be 100% sustainable and fair trade by 2030. This also applies to organisations that are linked to the government: network administrators, water utility companies, ports, airports, independent governance organisations and all public bodies, such as the central government, provinces, municipalities, water boards and businesses that receive subsidies or tax benefits.
- Together, we will shape the transition to a climate-neutral Netherlands by 2030. Members of the public must be closely involved with climate policy. The government will organise a Climate crisis civilian committee that will act as an advisory board on climate measures.

The polluter pays

To combat climate disruption, we want to rapidly reduce the levels of CO2 emissions. However, the Netherlands is currently still almost entirely dependent on fossil fuels. As long as the government continues to support and subsidise this energy system, we keep the traditional economy alive and hardly give sustainable solutions a fair chance. In the past five years, no less than 8,3 billion euros of government support are given each year to the fossil fuel industry. The Party for the Animals will pave the way for a quick

transition to sustainable energy by making the polluter pay.

- We will lower labour taxes and increase taxes for the use of resources, pollution, capital, and profit.
- A considerable CO2 tax will be implemented that will apply to all polluting sectors. The aviation and shipping industries will lose their special status.
- Subsidies and lower tax rates for energy producers and bulk consumers will be abolished. This will increase the incentive for bulk consumers to reduce their energy consumption. The establishment of energy-guzzling data centres and other polluting industries in the Netherlands will be discouraged.
- The environmental costs of the production of heat and electricity will be reflected in the price, making polluting energy more expensive and cleaner energy cheaper. Suppliers of solar and wind energy will be given priority access to the electricity grid.
- Advertising from the fossil-fuel industry (coal, oil and gas companies) and advertisements for fossil-fuelled products and services (such as petrol cars and flights) compounds the climate issues we face and will therefore be banned. Warnings will be displayed at sales outlets of fossil fuels, air travel services and vehicles with fossil-fuelled engines.
- Energy companies will be obligated to provide a minimum percentage of sustainable energy produced in the Netherlands. This percentage will be increased annually. We will set a limit on the emission of greenhouse gases by new and existing power plants. The limit will periodically be adjusted to a lower level.
- The use of gas for bulk consumers will become more expensive over the next few years, increasing the incentive to reduce gas consumption and transition to other forms of energy. By 2030, the Netherlands will no longer use natural gas as an energy source. The domestic demand for natural gas will decrease through the improved

insulation of homes and other buildings and by implementing alternative forms of central heating.

- Shale and coal gas will remain in the ground as the extraction of these gases will be prohibited. No permits will be issued for exploratory drilling. Existing permits will be revoked. We will not allow the storage of CO2 under Dutch soil, including in the North Sea. Empty gas fields will not be used to store any form of natural gas.
- Coal plants will be closed as quickly as possible. Electricity produced by coal plants and traditional nuclear plants will not be given access to the Dutch electricity grid.
- The Netherlands will not build any new nuclear plants, and existing plants will be closed as quickly as possible. It is morally irresponsible to burden future generations with even more nuclear waste that will continue to be dangerous for thousands of years. Furthermore, constructing a nuclear plant will take decades, rendering the construction of such a plant ineffective. The consequences of a nuclear accident would be disastrous.
- Strongly polluting fossil fuels such as oil sands and shale gas will not cross European borders; the Netherlands will do its utmost to prevent that.

Plant trees for fresh air

People and animals cannot live without trees. Trees filter the air polluted by industry, the livestock industry and transport. Trees cool the Earth down and provide a home to countless animals. Trees and natural forests are invaluable for biodiversity. Trees also play a critical role in villages and towns, to strengthen the biodiversity and provide cooling in a world with rising temperatures. The shade and water evaporation from one large tree provides the same cooling power as 10 air conditioning units. We need to fully invest in trees as our natural air conditioners. Large, old trees cool much better

than smaller trees. Therefore, we not only have to plant new trees, but we must certainly cherish our existing trees. In a country that is rapidly heating up, it is of the utmost importance to plant new trees and to give older trees a future.

The best moment to plant a tree was 20 years ago, but the second-best moment is today. Nonetheless, Dutch forests are being chopped down for financial gain at an alarming rate. Furthermore, forests suffer under the effects of climate change and drought. We need to protect, strengthen, and expand our forests and our trees.

Unfortunately, the Netherlands is also largely responsible for the destruction of nature elsewhere on Earth. Tropical rainforests, primeval forests and other natural areas are being destroyed for the production of palm oil and the large-scale cultivation of soybeans to feed the hundreds of millions of animals in the Dutch livestock industry. Meanwhile, trees are being chopped down on a large scale abroad to produce wooden pellets as fuel for biomass plants in the Netherlands. We need to put a stop to this.

- Indigenous trees will be planted on a large scale. This is necessary to strengthen our natural environment and increase the storage of CO₂. Furthermore, planting trees in cities will create a more pleasant climate during warmer periods.
- Indigenous trees and forests will be given protected status.
- Permit conditions for the chopping down of trees will be stricter so trees will no longer be felled without good reason. When a tree absolutely must be removed, moving the tree will always be considered as the primary option. Nesting and brooding sites of animals will be protected with an obligatory quiet period during the brooding and feeding season. Severe penalties will be placed on the illegal felling of trees.
- Trees are not fuel. Burning wood and wood scraps as biomass for energy production is not

sustainable and causes air pollution. Subsidies on woody biomass will be abolished. A ban will be implemented on the use of biomass to generate energy and heat.

- Economic and fiscal systems will be implemented in the service of a healthy planet. Laws will be implemented to prevent products or financial services from contributing to local and global deforestation and the destruction of ecosystems and species.

Give nature room to breathe

In the Netherlands, we emit far more nitrogen-based compounds than nature can compensate for. No less than 41% of the nitrogen deposits found in protected nature reserves comes from the Dutch agricultural sector. The issue primarily concerns ammonia from animal manure and urine. When the ammonia deposits itself in a nearby nature reserve, it acidifies the soil, a life-threatening condition for many plant and animal species. The blatant way in which the cabinet continues to delay any decisive action in this regard is intolerable. A substantial decrease in the number of animals raised, used, and slaughtered in the livestock industry is imperative. This will give the natural environment room to breathe and recover from years of over-fertilisation and eutrophication. Furthermore, stricter enforcement on the proper implementation of nature permits should take place to limit the impact of damaging industries, road construction activities, and mega-stables. This also applies to businesses which do not have the correct nature permits and where the government has thus far turned a blind eye, such as at Schiphol Airport, Lelystad Airport and many biomass plants.

- A 75% decrease in the number of animals involved in the livestock industry will give the environment some breathing room. The livestock industry and polluting horticultural industries, with their large-scale adoption of poisons and chemical fertilisers, will be scaled back at a rapid pace.

- Given that 70% of the agricultural produce is currently used for export, this significant cut-back in the livestock industry will allow the Dutch farmer to primarily produce for and supply their own region. This will lead to short food supply chains and a far smaller ecological footprint for the agricultural sector.
- The government is committed to reducing the production and consumption of animal proteins through active campaigning and policymaking. This is to ensure a quicker transition to a more plant-based and therefore animal and climate-friendly society.
- In 2030, the emission of nitrogen (ammonia and nitrous oxides) in the country will be 50% lower than in 2020. These concrete goals will be laid down by law. In areas where nature requires even lower levels, the nitrogen emissions levels will be reduced even further after 2030.
- Subsidies will no longer be available for technical stopgap measures used by the livestock industry such as air washers or so-called low-emission stable systems. The principle of the polluter pays will also apply to the livestock industry.
- In and surrounding Natura 2000 areas, no mining activities (such as gas or salt extraction) will take place.
- The aviation sector will decline substantially; the number of flights will be reduced to a maximum of 300,000 flights per annum in 2030. Reducing the number of flights will lower the emission of greenhouse gases and nitrogen.

Connecting and protecting nature

Nature is of great importance for the biodiversity and well-being of people and animals. That is why it is critical to ensure that there is enough nature to safeguard the interests of every living being by creating large, interconnected areas where animals can find refuge and where the biodiversity can flourish. This will, in turn, provide enough space for people to enjoy their natural environment.

Nonetheless, the Netherlands hovers somewhere at the bottom of the list when it comes to the number of nature reserves, and they are literally being sold off en masse by the government. The Party for the Animals aims to keep and expand the natural areas we have left in the Netherlands. We want the original plans to connect nature areas (the National Ecological Network) to finally be implemented. This will give plant and animal species room to grow and flourish, and the natural reserves in the Netherlands will expand and become less fragile.

- Environmental policy will once again be a priority and the responsibility of the central government instead of the provinces. It will include a performance obligation for nature conservancy, with concrete and measurable goals and terms.
- The Oostvaardersplassen will no longer be the responsibility of the Province of Flevoland and will become subject to central government policy.
- The original National Ecological Network (EHS), a network of connected nature reserves, will be implemented in full by 2025 at the latest. Nature reserves belonging to the government will not be sold.
- Natural areas that have been almost irreversibly damaged will be given priority, purchased, restored and where possible, connected with other nature reserves.
- Activities and projects that are conducted at the expense of existing natural environments will only be allowed to continue if they can visibly and essentially contribute to the sustainability of the region in the long term. If sacrificing nature is deemed unavoidable, the nature lost will be compensated in the direct vicinity with an area twice as large. The nature of the compensation is to be agreed on beforehand.

A nature-friendly water network

The North Sea is our largest nature reserve, formerly home to an enormous diversity of species. Unfortunately, the region finds

itself in dire straits. Through intensive fishing practices, large fish such as sharks and rays have become rare.

- The Wadden Sea must receive the legal protection that this UNESCO World Heritage site deserves. Disruptive economic activities, such as gas extraction and fishing, will be restricted.
- More protected sea reserves will be implemented. In these areas, fishing, gas extraction or other detrimental activities will be prohibited, allowing plants and fish to recover. Areas such as the Friese Font, Oosterschelde Nature Reserve and the Centrale Oestergronden will be granted full protection.
- For the restoration and conservation of marine ecosystems, the 'no, unless'-principle will be adopted immediately for economic activities.
- In the Nature Conservancy Law, the protection of various endangered migratory fish and sea mammals will be restored. The creation of opportunities for fish to migrate will be a strict condition. If there are any barriers, facilities such as fish traps will be implemented, allowing fish to pass.
- Each year, millions of fish die in pumping stations. Locks and pumping stations will be adapted so that fish can swim past them. Fishing in the vicinities of these fish passages will be immediately forbidden. Fish migration routes to and from the sea will be made safe for fish, and the Haringvlietsluizen will be opened further.
- A water connection and fish migration route will be constructed between the IJsselmeer and the Markermeer.

Drought in the watery Netherlands

More and more areas in the Netherlands are suffering from drought due to climate change and an artificially suppressed water level. The groundwater level is deliberately kept low in many agricultural areas so increasingly massive

agricultural machinery can access the fields. This results in compression of the soil, which becomes so compacted that it is no longer able to retain water as efficiently. This causes natural areas to dry out and shrivel up, increases the frequency of wildfires, reduces biodiversity even further, causes tearing and sagging in dikes and collapse in buildings, and further decreases the water quality and quality of life in streams. Moreover, the agricultural sector is a bulk consumer of groundwater, surface water and tap water for irrigation. With these extremely low water levels, long periods of drought, and the uneven distribution of water, animals and nature are being threatened. Through the oxidation of peat, each year more and more CO2 is released from peat bogs (the equivalent of the emissions from 2 million cars) and homes in the surrounding areas are in danger of collapse.

The Party for the Animals wants to prioritise the optimal protection and conservation of nature in terms of water distribution. A decisive climate policy is also an essential condition for the prevention of drought.

- Through a natural water level and the equitable distribution of water, we can return water management to a healthy state. This is beneficial to the diversity of species and could be the salvation for woodland bird species, many of whom are now dying from malnutrition in part because of long periods of drought.
- Groundwater levels will no longer be kept artificially low to benefit the agricultural sector. This will give nature reserves that are sensitive to drought a chance to recover. Peat bogs will be infused with fresh water and can serve as a climate buffer.
- No longer will water be sluiced away for the agricultural sector (for example through the unlimited use of water wells). A nature-friendly water policy will manage the distribution of water, where nature is given priority over agriculture.
- Rainwater run-off will be separated from the

sewer system. The proper disposal of polluted water will be made compulsory.

- Making gardens green again will be strongly encouraged. Paved areas in public spaces will be reduced and replaced by plants.
- Exemption from water tax with the use of more than 300 cubic meters of water will no longer apply. A progressive water tax system will be implemented instead whereby bulk consumers, such as the chemical and food production sectors, will pay the costs of their high levels of water consumption.

Water as a driving force of nature

Clean surface and groundwater should be a given, but the reality shows otherwise. Surface water is polluted by agricultural poisons, medicine residues, chemical waste products, and microplastics along with manure and hormones from the livestock industry. As a result, plants and animals die, and the fresh water supply is in jeopardy. The North Sea and the Wadden Sea are not only affected by pollution (through plastics, chemicals etc.) but also by overfishing. Fishing practices extensively damage the seafloor. Many fish species are facing extinction. If our freshwater and groundwater sources are clean and the fishermen are barred from exploiting the seas, then marine life can recover from this enormous loss in biodiversity.

- Businesses that pollute the water will be dealt with. The central government takes control of the supervision and enforcement of environmental laws. More capacity and expertise will be made available to the supervisors. The fines will be increased significantly and in proportion to the turnover of the fined businesses.
- The intensive fertilisation of agricultural areas will be put to a halt.
- The enforcement of and control over the use of pesticides will be intensified. The sale of pesticides for private individuals will be banned, and an educational campaign for

members of the public and businesses will be set up to discourage the use of harmful poisons.

- Riverbanks, dikes, and waterfronts should be constructed in as natural a setting as possible, and mowing policies will be adjusted to accommodate the well-being of plants and animals at all times. Fauna Uitbreed Plaatsen (FUPs, or fauna transition zones) will be implemented in areas with elevated quays so animals can exit the water.
- The natural environment will be protected from risks during shipping accidents.
- Ecologically valuable shipwrecks will be protected.
- The guaranteed seats on the water boards, which until now have been reserved for farmers, businesses and management organisations will be abolished. Water boards will have a democratic distribution of members.

Protection of nature in the Dutch Caribbean

Bonaire, Saba, and Sint-Eustatius are special municipalities of the Netherlands and islands boasting a rich diversity of plant and animal species. They are home to coral reefs, rare wild orchids and more than 10,000 animal species, including flamingos, iguanas and sea turtles. This unique nature and its many animal species are under threat from overfishing, climate change, the acidification of seawater through the absorption of CO2, dredging activities, erosion, tourism, and poor wastewater management.

- The central government will contribute to the conservation, protection and strengthening of the natural environment on and around the Dutch Caribbean islands through legal measures, enforcement, and financial support.
- Protecting the coral reefs is of the utmost importance. The sale and import of sunscreens containing oxybenzone will be forbidden to preserve the coral reefs.

- The central government will invest in the rapid implementation of proper wastewater treatment facilities on the islands. These facilities will meet Dutch and European standards and combat the disastrous effect of wastewater on coral reefs.
- Activities that are detrimental to the biodiversity in the region will not be financed with Dutch taxpayers' money.
- Wild and stray animals living on the islands, such as donkeys, dogs, and cats, will be given optimal protection. Dogs and cats must be microchipped, and the central government will finance a sterilisation and neutering program to reduce the number of stray animals.
- The central government will provide sufficient funds to look after wounded or ill animals or other animals in need of help in specialised shelters.

Animals have the right to live according to their nature

Animals are often viewed simply as ‘things’ that are secondary to the interests of human beings. However, animals — just like people — are conscious individuals with feelings. We share the same habitat, yet we can only speak of gross injustice. Many animals suffer in deplorable circumstances because they have been bred, traded, used, chased away, hunted and killed by humans. In our country each year, more than 600 million animals die after enduring a miserable existence in the livestock industry, all in the name of short-term economic profit. The Party for the Animals wants to put an end to the exploitation of animals. We will work towards a society where as few animals as possible are exploited by people.



Animals have an intrinsic value and deserve their due rights. A drastic re-evaluation of our relationship with animals is also in the interest of human beings. For many of the world's biggest problems — such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, and the depletion of the soil — the livestock industry has been shown to be one of the biggest culprits. Moreover, the coronavirus crisis has demonstrated that our health is directly at risk if we keep viewing animals as something that we can simply catch, breed, or kill. The coronavirus is a zoonoses, an illness that is transferred from animals to humans. Scientists warn that zoonoses comprise 75% of all new infectious diseases that threaten the health of humankind today. Furthermore, these types of illnesses will continue to proliferate if we continue to breed and kill this many animals in the livestock industry, or if we continue to trade in wild animals and keep applying pressure to our environment and the climate. Zoonoses such as MRSA, Q fever, bird flu and the Mexican flu have already made it clear that it is in our own interest to put a stop to the exploitation of animals. A safer world for animals is a safer world for humans.

Animal rights in the Constitution

Animals deserve to be treated with respect and compassion. In practice, however, animals rarely enjoy legal protection. Take, for example, stable fires. We have fire safety rules for the production of toilet rolls, but no rules for live animals in a stable. It is an absurd political choice that generates tens of thousands of victims each year. Once animals have rights, cruelty to animals can be prevented or punished.

- Animal rights will be recognised and recorded in the Constitution.
- The Animals Act will be replaced by a more comprehensive animal protection act, where the intrinsic value and the natural behaviour of animals are no longer subject to economic interests.

Animals in the livestock industry

The Party for the Animals wants to ultimately liberate animals from the food chain. In the meantime, the suffering of animals in the livestock industry must be limited as much as possible. Appetising plant-based and sustainable alternatives for meat products provide hope for the animals and for our future. The government must be actively involved in realising this transition to plant-based foods as quickly as possible. The Party for the Animals wants to provide proper education about the suffering and deaths of animals, which is currently hidden from consumers.

An end to the livestock industry

How animals are kept in the current livestock industry is unethical and unsustainable. Many animals often do not even see the light of day. The sheer number of animals currently raised for meat, dairy and egg production is so enormous that no single environmental or animal welfare measure can stand up to the myriad problems this gives rise to. The number of animals bred and killed for consumption will drastically decrease. We need to bring the livestock industry to a halt as quickly as possible.

- First, the number of animals in the livestock industry will be reduced by at least 75%.
- Legal measures will be put in place to guarantee the fire safety of stables, such as a limit on the number of animals per stable, mandatory sprinkler or water mist installations, compulsory emergency exits such as retractable walls, and a ban on air washers.

The real story about animal suffering in the livestock industry

Every government agrees that consumers should know where their food comes from. However, the everyday reality behind the production of meat, dairy, eggs, and fish is actively withheld from the

public. There is a large gap between the terrible truth for hundreds of millions of animals in the livestock and fishing industries and the positive image portrayed to the public. Free-range eggs, for example, don't come from chickens that are permitted to 'range freely' out of doors, but from chickens who spend their entire lives cooped up in an overcrowded barn. Through these sorts of misleading campaigns, many consumers have no clue about the reality behind the product. In advertisements and on the packaging, these animals look happy, content, and healthy. The same goes for, for instance, pigs, cows, lambs, ducks, and rabbits. This is in stark contrast to reality.

The Party for the Animals wants to put an end to misleading information about the origins of animal products. The government must ensure full disclosure and education about what animals in the livestock industry go through before their meat or their products end up on the supermarket shelves. Consumers have the right to know the real story behind milk and cheese production. Journalists should also be given better access to information about what happens in the livestock industry. For example, a cow in the dairy industry is made pregnant each year, and her calves are taken away from her shortly after birth. The young bulls and female calves that are not kept as dairy cows are fattened before being slaughtered to produce veal. As Paul McCartney once aptly said: 'If slaughterhouses had glass walls, everyone would be vegetarian.'

- There will be an end to misleading communication, euphemisms, and advertising surrounding animal products.
- The government will ensure the availability of unbiased imagery of the reality in stables, slaughterhouses and the fishing industry and actively make these available to the public. The government will also provide high-quality, accurate public information about what animals go through in the name of animal products.
- The government will register facts and

figures about animals in the livestock industry fully and clearly and publicise them in an accessible manner. Such statistics will include the number of animals that die prematurely in the stables or arrive dead at the slaughterhouse after transport.

- Meat, dairy and egg products will be clearly marked with a label showing where the animal involved was born, how and how long it lived and — in the case of meat products — where and how the animal was slaughtered. A QR code will appear on meat products with a stream to the slaughterhouse where the animal was killed so consumers can judge the slaughtering process for themselves.

Animals have the right to behave naturally

The way in which animals are kept in the livestock industry is absolutely unacceptable. For example, millions of ducks never even see daylight, and they have no water to swim or bathe in. The first time in their lives that they see water is when they are electrocuted in a water bath. Calves and kids are removed from their mothers immediately after birth, so the mother's milk can be consumed by people.

The Party for the Animals wants the right for animals to behave naturally to be established by law. Chickens should be able to take a dust bath, pigs should be able to root around in the ground, and cows and goats should be allowed to graze outside instead of being locked up in stables. The Party for the Animals wants all animals to be able to live as they would in nature, and they should be given the space and the opportunity to do so.

- All animals in the livestock industry should be able to graze in the fields and have sufficient shelter from weather conditions such as heat and rain. In the stable, animals should have enough space, hay, and diversion. They should be able to isolate themselves or socialise as they wish.
- Calves and lambs will no longer be taken away from their mothers after childbirth but

remain with their mothers in the fields and drink the milk that is meant for them. That should also apply to the young bulls, rams, and male goats.

- Maternity stalls where sows are boxed in between rails will be banned. Sows will be allowed to nestle and take care of their piglets.
- There will be no more painful procedures such as the castration of piglets, the burning or cutting of tails, the filing of teeth and the de-budding of cows and goats.
- A ban will be implemented on the gassing of newly born roosters in the egg industry.
- The production of white veal will be prohibited. It is unacceptable that anaemic calves are deliberately made ill by force-feeding them with an iron-deficient diet simply to produce this type of meat.
- There will be a ban on the breeding and keeping of animals if their natural needs cannot be met, or if severe suffering takes place as a result. Duck and rabbit farms will be prohibited in any case.

Stop fattening animals

Many animals have been methodically bred so they can be fattened up in just a few weeks. This results in serious health issues. Fattened chickens are unable to remain upright, and cows with fat rumps are no longer able to carry calves naturally. An animal-worthy existence also means that animals should be able to reproduce naturally without repeated artificial insemination.

- Breeding for extremely rapid growth (chicken and pigs) or high yield (dairy cows) will be banned.
- A maximum 'product yield' will be implemented per animal.
- There will be a ban on the insemination of animals.
- There will be a ban on artificial methods of seed harvesting.
- The systematic breeding of sows to produce increasingly large numbers of piglets per

pregnancy will be put to an end.

- The Netherlands will commit themselves within the EU to ban the production of foie gras (goose or duck liver) and will implement a trade and import ban on these products.

Mitigate animal suffering during transport and in slaughterhouses

Animals should be transported as little as possible. And if they are to be transported and slaughtered, they should experience as little suffering and stress as possible. An animal-friendly slaughter method doesn't exist. Suffering during the slaughtering process must be prevented as much as possible as long as slaughterhouses continue to exist.

- The ban on the slaughter of animals without anaesthetic will apply to everyone: the exception made for the religious slaughtering of animals will be revoked. Meanwhile, if the slaughter takes place without sedation, the product should be labelled as such. Un-anaesthetised slaughter is out of the question for the export or regular domestic market.
- Animal transport will last no longer than two hours. Animals may not be transported on warm days (i.e. days with an expected temperature of 25 degrees Celsius or higher). A much stricter control and enforcement of the Dutch and European transport regulations will be implemented.
- Transport of live animals to countries outside the EU, such as Turkey and China, will no longer be allowed. The import and transfer of animals through the EU from, for example, the United States to China, will end. Day-old chicks will no longer be exported and flown around the world.
- Livestock transport lorries will be equipped with a GPS tracking system, regardless of the length of the transport.
- The import of young calves for the fattening of calves for veal will come to an end.
- Slaughtering and sedation methods that cause pain and fear, such as the water bath method

for chickens and CO2 sedation for pigs will be abolished immediately.

- Livestock markets cause a lot of animal stress and suffering and will be prohibited.

Fish feel pain

For a long time, people thought that fish were incapable of feeling pain. Today there is irrefutable proof that fish can indeed experience pain and stress and are conscious beings. Fish that are trapped in nets or are caught by hooks (long lines) experience a gruesome struggle before death. The Party for the Animals is committed to banning all catching and killing methods that involve long, drawn-out, and severe suffering and end in fully conscious slaughter.

- We want to eliminate cast-net fishing. Fish such as porpoises become entangled in these vertical nets, causing them to drown.
- The live boiling of animals such as lobsters, crabs, and shrimp and the sale of live animals for consumption will be banned.
- Existing fish farms will be independently assessed for animal welfare and sustainability. Fish farms that do not pass this assessment will be shut down.
- The slaughtering of fish without sedation will be forbidden.
- Sportfishing (angling) is a pastime that causes profound animal suffering and will therefore be banned.

Give the animals space; stop the hunt

The Party for the Animals wants animals that live in the wild to be left alone as much as possible. The habitat of animals is becoming increasingly smaller. When humans encroach on that habitat, the animals are blamed for any inconvenience caused. That is absurd. Amateur hunters kill two million animals every year in the Netherlands under the guise of 'population management'. A similar number of animals are shot and grievously

wounded. Young animals are orphaned, partnerships are cruelly interrupted, and group hierarchy and population dynamics are literally shot to pieces. The Party for the Animals wants the cruel hunting of animals to end and to give animals the room to live freely in their natural environment.

- The intrinsic value and the protection of animals in the wild will be a guiding principle in policymaking decisions from now on.
- Animals living in the wild will not be killed. Only in the case of urgent and overriding reasons, such as when an animal is suffering intensely or the public health is at risk, can the government make an exception after consulting with independent experts. Exceptions can only be made by the central government, not by provincial governing bodies.
- The national list of huntable species will be abolished. There will be a ban on the killing of animals living in the wild by amateur hunters. The Nature Conservancy Law will be adjusted to include legislature that truly protects our natural environment.
- The entrapment of animals in the wild, the release of animals for hunting purposes, and illegal hunting practices will be dealt with through more field surveillance and harsher penalties. Lifelong hunting bans for hunters who break the law will more easily be applied than has been the case up until now.
- Hunting surveillance parties will not be in the service of the hunters that they supervise. Fauna management units (hunting clubs) will be abolished.
- The organisation of tourist hunting events both nationally and internationally will be forbidden, as will the advertisement for these activities.
- Animals will not be allowed to be disturbed during delicate periods such as gestation, moulting, breeding and feeding periods.
- A nation-wide network for the care of wounded animals in the wild will be set up. Hunters will no longer be involved in this

- network because of their double agenda.
- Animals will be given the space, quiet and protection to allow them to live naturally. Nature reserves will be connected to make migration possible and keep populations in equilibrium.
- Wolves will be considered an enrichment to the Dutch national environment and a contribution to increased biodiversity. Sheep farmers and farmers will be educated on how to protect their animals without having to kill the wolves. For preventive measures, subsidies will be provided where necessary.
- The King will stop his hunting practices, and the Royal Hunting Department will no longer be subsidised. The Crown Estates will be open year-round to the public.

Proper supervision and strict enforcement

The monitoring of animal welfare needs to be re-assessed. The Party for the Animals will see to it that more unannounced checks take place, both in the livestock industry as in other spheres where animals and humans meet. Violation of the rules will be punished stringently. To improve enforcement, the Party for the Animals wants the legislation to be clarified and made more concrete. Open-ended norms and self-regulation leave too much room for discussion and often makes enforcement impossible. Moreover, any imposed sanctions can easily be appealed when the law is not clear on the matter. The animals do not benefit from legal ambiguities.

Reams of research reports have shown that the supervision of the livestock industry has failed in every aspect. An important reason for this failure is the enormous number of animals involved in the livestock industry. Animals are being processed through slaughterhouses at breakneck speed. This rules out the possibility of adequate supervision. All this while the incredible speed has significant consequences for the animals, for food safety and for the welfare of slaughterhouse employees. There are increasing occurrences of

ill or pregnant animals being slaughtered, despite it being strictly forbidden. Or that animals in the slaughterhouse are still conscious as they are being killed. Finally, we see that slaughterhouses are becoming hotbeds for the spread of the coronavirus. The rate of slaughter needs to drastically decrease.

- Stables and slaughterhouses will be placed under permanent camera surveillance. This measure will be implemented in addition to on-site checks by veterinarians carried out by the NVWA.
- The Dutch Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA) will be restructured. Any members of management and NVWA employees who refuse to implement new measures will be removed. The department will no longer fall under the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality; it will be placed under the responsibility of the Ministry of Health.
- The monitoring of all the links in the livestock supply chain will be intensified and will be placed in the hands of the government rather than under the control of the sector itself.
- The rate at which animals are processed through slaughterhouses will be decreased substantially. The number of animals that will be slaughtered will be adjusted according to the level of surveillance the NVWA can guarantee. That number is far smaller than we see today. To prevent fraud and corruption from taking place, controllers will rotate between slaughterhouses. There will no longer be one assigned controller per slaughterhouse.
- Slaughterhouses in severe violation of these measures will close immediately. Employees found guilty of cruelty to animals in addition to the suffering they have to endure in the slaughterhouse will be permanently banned from carrying out their profession.
- Upon violation, the NVWA will immediately impose large fines proportional to the turnover of the slaughterhouse and will make the details of the checks, as well as their

- registration of antibiotics, publicly available.
- Earmarking animals will no longer be obligatory. As long as these rules still apply, conscientious objectors will be exempt from the earmark obligation. The cabinet will plead at a European level for the development and implementation of an animal-friendlier alternative such as microchip registration.
- Animal welfare will be a priority during the training and mobilisation of police dogs and police horses. Other methods for riot control will be developed so horses will no longer need to be deployed during riots. Studies will be conducted into which alternatives are available for deploying dogs as a mean of violence.

Prevention is better than cure

Human beings have thrown nature and its ecosystems off balance. Nature reserves have become fragmented and increasingly less diverse. This paves the way for the development of plagues. Animals such as the oak processionary caterpillar benefit from this trend. In a healthy ecosystem, great tits, woodpeckers, bugs and bats keep the caterpillar population in check. However, the monocultural planting of oak trees and the removal of shrubs have made these natural predators a minority. Moreover, great tits are suffering significantly from the measures taken to counter the rise of the box tree moth. Many municipalities have chosen to burn, vacuum or poison the oak processionary caterpillars. The Party for the Animals would like an animal friendly and environmentally friendly approach through investments in restoring the balance in natural ecosystems.

The gassing of geese in the areas surrounding airports is cruel and senseless, especially because the agricultural lands surrounding the runways are sown with crops that are attractive to geese. The Party for the Animals wants to use smart, practical and animal-friendly methods to prevent further inconvenience and protect animals.

- The fields surrounding the airports will no longer hold crops that are attractive to geese but will be filled with solar panels or crops that will deter geese. A significant reduction in the number of flights will also provide breathing room for both people and animals.
- The gassing of animals living in the wild, including geese, will be prohibited. Geese in the areas surrounding airports will, if required, be lured away to more attractive areas where they can safely remain.
- Farmers will only be compensated for any inconvenience if they have used animal-friendly measures to try to mitigate the damage and have been unsuccessful in doing so.
- Each year, some 50,000 muskrats and coypu meet a gruesome death in a trap or by drowning. This must stop. The government must commit itself to implement preventive measures and increased dyke surveillance.
- Roads and village centres will be fenced off from boars and deer. Speed limits will be implemented at night on roads in and surrounding nature preserves.
- Refuse attracts animals. Litter and illegally dumped waste will be actively dealt with.
- Alternative nesting sites for seagulls and pigeons will be made available to prevent them from becoming a nuisance in urban areas.
- Stray cats will not be killed, but captured, spayed or neutered, and returned to their habitat. This will prevent an increase in homeless cat populations in an animal-friendly manner.
- Avenues and streets lined with oak trees will be made attractive to natural predators of the processionary caterpillar by planting shrubs and implementing nesting boxes. The use of poison and sticky bands around tree trunks is not a solution. It kills many natural predators of the oak processionary caterpillar, poisons the environment and is detrimental to animal welfare.
- There is no such thing as a 'beaver problem'. No exemptions will be made to kill these protected animals.

Animals and their pelts are not a fashion accessory

Fur, down and angora are examples of luxury products that are responsible for unacceptable cruelty to animals. The use of the pelts of animals for fashion or accessory purposes is, therefore, morally reprehensible. The manner in which animals such as mink are kept for the production of fur is not only cruel, but it poses a significant threat for the public health through the spread of infectious diseases such as the coronavirus. The breeding of mink for fur production will be forbidden in the Netherlands in 2021. This measure is in part thanks to the years of dedication of the Party for the Animals to implementing this measure. That is good news because animals are now no longer raised in the Netherlands for the production of fur.

Not only fur pelts but also the production of down and various types of wool, such as angora and Merino wool, involves severe cruelty to animals. For example, the fur of the angora rabbit is violently stripped, shorn or cut away from the live animal. Geese and ducks are plucked alive for the collection of down. The Party for the Animals wants to end every form of animal cruelty for the production of materials for the fashion industry: The Netherlands will become down and fur-free!

- The Netherlands will commit itself to a European-wide breeding ban for animals that are used for the production of fur and down.
- The import and sale of fur and angora will be prohibited.
- The import and sale of down from live-plucked and force-fed geese and ducks will be forbidden.
- As long as fur products are still allowed to be sold, clear labelling will be compulsory. This label will include information about its origins, the number of animals that have been killed to produce the product and how these animals were killed.
- On leather products, the origins of the

leather used must be clearly labelled. The import and sale of leather from animals that are solely bred for the leather industry such as crocodiles, snakes, kangaroos and lizards, will be prohibited.

Animals are not an entertainment commodity

What zoos, circuses, falconry shows, and the Dolphinarium all have in common is that they exploit domesticated and wild animals in captivity for the entertainment of people and commercial profit. Breeding programs in zoos do not substantially contribute to the preservation of endangered species and are primarily driven by other motives: new-born animals always draw visitors. What many people do not know is that behind the scenes, many animals in zoos live a miserable life. So-called surplus animals that are considered 'superfluous' by zoos and petting zoos waste away in small cages hidden from the public.

Thankfully, real animals in exhibitions, shows and films are increasingly being replaced by artful alternatives or computer animations. This allows the public to enjoy them without having animals suffer. The Party for the Animals wants to end the suffering of animals for entertainment purposes.

- Surplus animals should immediately be given the space they need. Breeding animals with the intent to populate zoos, shows and petting zoos should stop immediately. Young and new-born animals should no longer be used as a major attraction.
- The chaining of wild animals, such as elephants and birds of prey, will be banned immediately. When returning them to their natural habitat is no longer an option, animals in shelters will be given as much space as they need in as natural an environment as possible.
- Zoos will be converted to specialised shelters. Instead of putting financial interests or the interests of visitors first, the welfare of the

animals will be given top priority.

- The Dolphinarium and aquariums will be closed. Some locations may perhaps serve as a (temporary) shelter for stranded or illegally traded marine animals or mammals.
- Stricter legal restrictions will be implemented for the welfare of animals in petting zoos, with the natural behaviour of the animals as the norm. Animals are not stuffed toys, and they will be given the freedom to live peacefully, without always being lifted or petted by people.
- The ban on the use of wild animals as a source of entertainment, such as in circuses and wildlife parks, will be expanded to include mammals and marine mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and birds. No animal belongs in a circus.
- Traditions and festivals in which animals are used or killed, such as living nativity scenes, 'zwientje tikken' (playing tag with a pig), and kallemooi with live roosters will be abolished.
- A decree on horses will be implemented where the basic principles for horse welfare will be legally established. Horses will be given room for natural and social herd behaviour and the opportunity to move freely in the open air every day. Harmful training aides and methods will be banned, and a minimum age will be set at which ponies and horses can bear burdens.
- A code of conduct will be drawn up for the use of animals in art and media.
- Sports and competitions that involve the killing and exploitation of animals, such as camel races, pigeon racing, angling, and the collection of lapwing eggs, will be banned.
- It will no longer be possible for animals to be rented out.

No animal should be a guinea pig. Stop animal testing

Experiments on animals should be stopped as soon as possible. The tests and the accommodations of animals used in testing

are sources of impermissible amounts of pain, stress, and death among animals. Moreover, the majority (85%) of animal tests that are conducted do not lead to useful results; humans and animals simply differ too much from each other on a biological level. That why it important to cease the practice of animal testing, not only from an animal welfare standpoint but also because of an urgent need for better models. Methods that do not use animals provide better and more reliable results in many cases. In areas where animal-free testing methods are not available, they need to be developed. The Netherlands has the potential to be a driving force in the field of animal-free research. The Party for the Animals wants investments for alternative methods for animal testing research to be given the highest priority.

- The Netherlands will commit itself to propagate the international recognition of and the application of animal-free research and testing methods.
- Research conducted using primates should be banned as quickly as possible. A plan (with a time schedule) will be drawn up to close the BPRC primate research at the earliest convenience.
- The practice of breeding and killing testing animals for storage management purposes will be abolished.
- Biotechnology applications in animals — including genetic manipulation and cloning — will be banned.
- Judges will be in a position to test compliance with the Animal testing act. Members of the public and civil institutions will be allowed to object to animal testing proposals.
- The budget that is reserved every year for animal testing will incrementally be transferred to research methods that do not use animal testing.

Pets

Half of the households in the Netherlands have one or more pets. Besides dogs and cats, exotic

animals are also kept as pets, animals which are absolutely not suited to domestic environments. Their needs and instincts are, after all, similar to those of their peers in the wild. The domestic environment cannot meet those needs. The Party for the Animals wants to draw up a short list of animals that, given their natural behaviours and needs, may still be kept as domestic pets. Other animals will not be owned or sold.

Many animals are sold as pets through breeders. The breeding of purebred animals primarily focuses on the animals' appearance, not their health or their welfare. Dogs and cats with a short snout and a small head are bred to accentuate those features. This leads to breathing difficulties, chronic headaches and epileptic seizures. Furthermore, tens of thousands of dogs are produced by fraudulent breeders and puppy mills in large barns both in the Netherlands and abroad. These practices need to be dealt with resolutely.

- Breeding pets to accentuate extreme physical characteristics will not be permitted, and neither will in-breeding. The sale and import of these animals will be forbidden.
- The import of foreign puppies from breeding barns will be banned. This will be intensely monitored in collaboration with our neighbouring countries.
- The minimum age at which kittens may be separated from their mother will be increased to 12 weeks.
- The obligation to microchip dogs will be extended to cats as well.
- Pet shops will be encouraged to stop the sale of animals. Instead, they can refer their customers to animal shelters or animal refuges.
- The sale of animals via the Internet, garden centres, and other locations will be forbidden to discourage impulse buying. Animal shelters will be exempted from this ban.
- Minimum standards will be set for animal supplies such as kennels and cages. Keeping naturally social animals such as rabbits in

isolation will be prohibited, as will the sale of fishbowls and cages or kennels that are too small. New pet owners will actively be offered information about animal welfare standards and rules.

- A short 'positive list' will be drawn up of animals that, given their natural behaviour and needs, are suitable to be kept as domestic pets.
- Markets where animals are sold or displayed, such as horse and bird markets, will be forbidden, as will online pet animal markets or websites.

Pet care, shelters, and emergency services

Each year, tens of thousands of pets, many of which have often been purchased on a whim, end up in animal shelters. Unwanted new-born pets are also regularly brought to or dumped at a shelter. The care for found or unwanted animals falls under the jurisdiction of the municipality, but they often fail to do so. That is why it is primarily hardworking volunteers that run the animal shelters and refuges with donations from private individuals. The financial support from government institutions for animal shelters is often minimal or completely absent. The Party for the Animals wants the government to take responsibility and provide financial support for animal shelters and ambulances.

- Nation-wide guidelines will be developed for the financing of animal shelters and wild animal refuge shelters. The central government, provinces and municipalities will provide sufficient financial support.
- The pet sector will contribute to the shelter and care of unwanted and found animals. For every pet sold, a contribution will be made to an animal shelter fund.
- The animal shelter and ambulance network will have national coverage.
- Animal ambulances, just like other emergency services, will be granted additional licenses to be able to offer quick emergency assistance to

animals, such as a permit to make use of bus and tram lanes and the right to park freely.

- Saving the lives of animals will be given due consideration in the plans and scenarios of emergency services.
- When people living at home require care, adequate care should also be given to any animals present. People will also be able to bring their pets along with them to a healthcare institution.
- In shelters for victims of domestic abuse, space will also be provided for their pets when necessary. If required, pets will be placed with a host family.
- Animal care is not a luxury service, it is a necessity: just like medical care for people, veterinary care will also be exempt from VAT.

A more rigorous approach to animal abuse

The Party for the Animals wants animal abuse and animal negligence to be dealt with harshly. Anyone who abuses animals should no longer be allowed to keep animals. Studies have shown that there is a clear correlation between domestic violence and animal abuse. Violence towards people is often preceded by violence toward animals. The Party for the Animals wants the police and the justice department to give more priority to tracking down and bringing to justice cases of animal abuse and animal negligence, and that a public prosecutor for animal-related cases is appointed.

- More animal police officers will be appointed with sufficient authority to track down and arrest people who have abused an animal. Animal welfare should once again become a standard part of the police training. The animal police will also be given the authority to monitor the welfare of animals in the livestock industry.
- The law will be amended to allow quicker confiscation of neglected and abused animals so they can receive professional care and shelter.

- The further sale of confiscated animals for retail or slaughtering purposes will be banned.
- A ban will be placed on the keeping of animals by animal abusers. People who abuse animals can, in addition to a fine, be prevented from keeping animals for a certain period.
- Anyone convicted of animal cruelty or negligence may also receive a lifelong ban, in addition to harsher penalties and more substantial fines. Anyone who has been banned professionally or has repeatedly been convicted of animal abuse or negligence abroad will also be prohibited from keeping animals in the Netherlands.
- Social workers in domestic violence situations will also be trained to recognise signs of animal abuse and negligence.

Protection of wild animals across the globe

Each year, millions of endangered animal species are illegally distributed around the world. They end up in dubious 'medicines', exotic meals or as wall ornaments. After the drug trade, the trade in endangered species is the second most lucrative form of criminal activity, and its victims are numerous. The illegal wildlife trade can also lead to infectious diseases that are transmitted from animals to humans. The new coronavirus has made clear how dangerous this 'business sector' is for human health. However, the chance of getting caught engaging in this type of criminal activity is low. Enforcement is weak, and the penalties are minor.

The Netherlands is seen as the beating heart of the illegal animal trade in its role as an important transit hub. It is estimated that hundreds of thousands of exotic animals cross Dutch borders every year. The Party for the Animals wants a European import ban on wild animals to put a stop to the trade and to protect endangered species. Targeted tracking, robust enforcement and high penalties for illegal traders must drive back this ruthless criminal network.

- The import of and sale of exotic animals will be banned, and a watertight permit system will be implemented. The Netherlands will actively commit itself on the international stage with CITES.
- The tracking down and enforcement of the illegal trade in endangered species will be intensified. A specialised task force will be put together with sufficient scope and sufficient mandate. Illegal traders will be punished more severely, and the hunting tourism industry and import of hunting trophies will be banned altogether.
- The Netherlands will actively provide opposition to the hunting of whales and seals. It will spearhead international protests against these types of slaughter. The Netherlands will plead with the International Whaling Committee (IWC) for a hunting ban on all smaller whale-like species, banning the hunt on dolphins as well. The Netherlands will actively oppose the slaughter of dolphins on the Faroe Islands and in Japan.
- The Netherlands and its trading economy have become an important transit hub for whale meat and other unwanted animal products. The Netherlands will ban the transit of these products.
- The Netherlands will commit itself to a total ban on the fishing of bluefin tuna and other tuna species and shark finning.

Only sustainable agriculture can provide healthy food for everyone

Healthy and sustainable nutrition is a basic need for our existence. And although our fully stocked supermarkets paint a different picture, the current agricultural system does not meet this basic need. The agriculture sector is heading towards a dead end. The nitrogen crisis and the enormous growth of the number of people that choose to eat more plant-based foods have made it clear that we have reached a turning point. The way we think about food and about the values that we feel are important when it comes to dealing with food, are about to undergo a radical change. Since the very beginning, the Party for the Animals has always been a driving force for this positive change. We will continue to fulfil this role, especially now when we have so many opportunities available to turn the tide. We are on the threshold of a food revolution.



And not a moment too soon. The current agricultural system is doomed to collapse. Yet, this system has been propped up far too long with a lot of time, effort and taxpayers' money. Now we are all reaping its bitter fruits. For example, the Netherlands has grown into the country most densely populated with livestock. Nowhere else in the world will you find so many animals cooped up over such a small area, and the animals are paying the price. But farmers and citizens are also paying an irresponsibly high price. In a country that breeds and slaughters more than 640 million animals on an annual basis, the risk of zoonoses – including Q fever, bird flu and swine flu – are larger than life. The impact of the coronavirus shows how important it is to protect ourselves from these diseases. The environment and climate, the soil, our drinking water, and our health creak and groan under the burden of inconceivably large amounts of manure. A decrease in the number of animals in the livestock industry would be the obvious answer, but reducing the number of animals has been considered taboo for decades. The only decrease we saw was in the number of livestock farmers. Over the past 20 years, almost half of livestock farmers were forced to throw in the towel. Small-scale businesses disappeared, and the companies that remained continued to grow in terms of both size and the number of animals.

The farmers themselves do not benefit much in Dutch agriculture's so-called 'successful business model'. Due to a lack of political will to tackle the root of these problems, agricultural policy has completely derailed. Instead of reducing the number of animals, past governments have only focused on the treatment of symptoms and invented increasingly unwieldy rules and regulations; anything to prevent any real reform in the agricultural system. As a result, farmers were forced into a downward spiral of continual adjustments, paired with new loans and a scaling-up of the business. Meanwhile, the agricultural sector suffered the consequences of drought, soil exploitation, and loss of biodiversity. Farmers have become increasingly

dependent on a system that has turned against them.

The issues facing the agricultural sector are, therefore, significant, but that is no reason to give up. On the contrary! In no other domain can we gain as much ground for animals, nature, the environment, farmers and our health, as in the choices we can make about our food consumption. When we use this turning point to start heading in the right direction, we can give everyone access to healthy and sustainable food sources while freeing up agricultural lands. We can return those lands to nature and use them to build the homes we so desperately need in the Netherlands. We can turn the tide on the biodiversity and climate crisis and ensure that farming expertise, quality and the human factor again become the agricultural sector's standard. This is the systemic change that lies at the heart of the Party for the Animals' mission. The time is ripe, and the time is now. Let's move ahead to a healthy food system for citizens and farmers alike!

Critical choices: stop the livestock industry Stop producing for the world market

A fundamental change requires the courage to put an end to that which is no longer feasible. Our foundering agricultural model thrives on two major misconceptions. The first misconception is that the exploitation of animals will lead to more food. That is not true. The livestock industry is not a producer of food but a waste of food. Anyone raising animals for food has to ensure that these animals are well-fed. This costs much more in terms of food than it generates in terms of meat and dairy products. And we create a surplus of manure to boot. If we use the agricultural land currently used to feed the animals to produce food for human consumption, we can provide for everyone and have land left over to give back to nature. In one fell swoop, we can also resolve environmental issues that are associated with the livestock industry

but not with the cultivation of plant-based proteins such as the nitrogen crisis and other problems. Therefore, the first critical choice for a sustainable food system is removing animals from the food chain and saying goodbye to the livestock industry.

The second misconception is that a small, densely populated country like the Netherlands could become the second-largest food export economy in the world. Numerous studies have shown that land prices and other costs are too high in a country like the Netherlands to be able to compete with bulk producers at a low price. Therefore, the second critical choice that we should make is that we start producing predominantly for the local market.

- We will change course to a sustainable plant-based future. First, the number of animals in the livestock industry will be reduced by 75%. We will use financial resources such as European agricultural subsidies to help farmers transition to a sustainable, plant-based food production system.
- Dutch farmers will be producing primarily for the local market: we will stop production for export.
- We will save the taxpayer lots of money and reduce the regulatory pressures on farmers by putting an end to treating symptoms. Subsidies will not be spent on technological stop-gap measures to mitigate the environmental damage caused by the livestock industry. That policy has clearly failed, and we don't expect it to succeed in the future. Those subsidies will now be made available for a far better solution: to help farmers make the transition to genuinely sustainable agriculture.
- Healthy plant-based food will become cheaper. Fruits and vegetables will no longer be taxed. The societal costs of animal products will be reflected in the price.
- The range of available food products will be geared toward sustainable options. Plant-based foods will become the standard

and animal products the exception. The successful concept 'Carnivore? Let us know!' ('Carnivoor? Geef het door!', a campaign to change food consumption patterns by serving plant-based food at catered events by default unless attendees specifically request otherwise) is fully encouraged and will be adopted in all government agencies.

- The millions of euros in subsidies for animal products can be spent far more efficiently. We will convert them into campaigns aimed at promoting a plant-based diet.
- School milk programs will be discontinued.
- Plant-based alternatives for meat, fish, dairy and eggs have increased significantly over the past few years. We will build on this success by encouraging and providing full support for these innovations. Cultivated alternatives may also be encouraged, provided that they do not make use of calf serum or other products associated with animal suffering.

From trade policy to food policy

Positive change often arises from questioning errors in reasoning. Food is incorrectly viewed as a trade commodity, as a means to drive up the gross domestic product. The Party for the Animals is firmly against this principle: food is a human right. The central question should not be how we can make a profit from food, but how can we ensure that everyone has access to healthy and sustainable food.

- We will develop a food policy, where the right to food and the position of sustainable farming play a central role.
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality will be disbanded. A Minister of Food and Agriculture will be appointed.
- Schools will expand their programs for healthy meals and fruit at schools and will purchase organic, sustainable, plant-based foods. Lesson programmes will focus on healthy and sustainable nutrition.
- An effective and integral approach to combat

food waste will be implemented. Over-the-top regulations about expiry dates and the appearance of food products mean that food perfectly fit for human consumption is being thrown away. Those regulations will be taken off the table in any case.

Connecting farmers and citizens: a healthy food market

The transport of food all over the world is perhaps one of the most visible excesses resulting from the politics of trade that has also completely taken over the food industry. And there isn't one single reason to do so. To give an example: the Netherlands exports onions to Brazil, while supermarkets in the Netherlands stock up on onions from New Zealand. Both the relationship between farmers and the relationship between citizens and farmers is seriously out of balance. It is high time to restore that relationship because it is this very connection that will enable us to go through the agricultural transition together. The first changes are already visible: around the country, initiatives are set up between farmers and citizens for local food production. And the beginning of the end of free trade agreements has been put into motion, led by the Party for the Animals. Thanks to our party, the free trade agreement with the Mercosur countries that would have led to the large-scale import of cheap agricultural products, has been taken off the table. We will continue to expand this growing resistance movement so that we can continue to protect farmers who work sustainably.

- For all food products for which it is possible, we are going to organise production at a regional level.
- Farmers will be protected from unfair competition from outside. We will block all European free trade agreements that lead to the import of cheap products that are produced below our standards.
- We will implement tariffs at European borders for food that we can produce ourselves

more sustainably. This will break through the downward spiral of bulk production at the lowest possible cost and will create room for quality crops, farming expertise and the human factor.

- The Netherlands will stop the implementation and facilitation of the livestock industry abroad, such as was the case in Ukraine. The export of breeding animals or stable systems will no longer be permitted.
- Farmers and market gardeners will be given the opportunity to create a strong position for a fair cost price for their products. A fair-price-proof system will be introduced: wholesalers, supermarkets and other retailers must show evidence that they have paid the farmer a fair cost price. Contracts with a delivery obligation below cost price will be forbidden. The price the consumer pays in the shop needs to be the true cost of the product.
- Initiatives for regional food production and the relationship between farmers and citizens will be fully encouraged. There will be ample opportunity for urban agriculture, food forests and farms where citizens can partner up and work together with the farmers!
- The European Common Agricultural Policy, which still has production increases as its only official goal, will be overhauled. The hundreds of millions (!) of euros in agricultural and fishing subsidies from future EU multi-annual budgets (2021-2028) will be used to help farmers and fishing businesses make the transition to environmentally friendly, plant-based food production. After this period, the subsidies will be abolished.
- Plant and animal species are not the property of businesses. Patents on all forms of life will be forbidden. We will resist attempts from corporations such as Bayer-Monsanto and BASF to patent plant and animal genes to monopolise the food market.
- The Netherlands will commit itself to promoting international plant breeders' and farmers' rights.

Healthy cultivation with healthy soil

Nature provides us with everything we need to produce food: healthy soil in which to grow our crops, clean water for optimal growth, and biodiversity to encourage pollination and the prevention of plague and disease. One of the costliest mistakes humans can make is to destroy the natural environment and the soil they need for food production. Intensive agricultural practices have depleted the earth to such an extent that the crops growing in this soil contain far fewer nutrients than they did 50 years ago. Time for radical change: we will put a stop to this depletion. From now on, we are going to provide proper protection for the resources that nature has to offer. Buzzwords such as 'closed-loop agriculture' are wholly unnecessary: organic farmers and market gardeners have been showing us for years how we can close the cycle and produce healthy food in harmony with nature. The Party for the Animals says: make this area of farming specialisation the leading theme for agricultural practices in the Netherlands.

- Diverse, nature-inclusive agriculture will become the norm, including options such as organic farming, permacultures, agroforestry, and regenerative and agroecological systems. Mainstream farmers and market gardeners will be supported during their transition to sustainable forms of food production.
- We will make more critical choices about the use of agricultural lands. We will say goodbye to forms of cultivation that do not promote sustainable means but instead damage the environment through things like the excessive use of pesticides and depletion of the soil. We will immediately stop the cultivation of lilies and will scale down the mainstream bulb growing industry as a whole. The soil will be given a chance to recover, and cultivators will be assisted in their transition to sustainable cultivation forms.
- Soil use will be based on the type of soil and the natural groundwater level instead of the other way around. For example, in peatland meadows where the natural groundwater

level is much higher, a transition will be made to wet forms of cultivation, or the meadows will be converted into nature areas. Such measures are essential to counter the effects of subsidence.

- Sustainably cultivated plant-based protein crops for human consumption are the future: the soil will benefit, and it will offer farmers sustainable prospects. The transition to these forms of cultivation will be fully encouraged, facilitated and supported.
- By choosing a plant-based future, we can use the agricultural lands that will be freed up to greater effect: for more nature, for resolving the housing shortage issue, and for the sustainable cultivation of oil-based crops, such as rapeseed, and produce for sustainable applications, such as hemp and flax. The cultivation of these crops will be encouraged.
- Crops that deplete the soil, such as potatoes, may no longer be cultivated once every two or three years on the same plot of land: a longer crop rotation period (with a maximum of once every six years) will be made compulsory.
- Monocultures will make room for strip-tilling and other forms of nature-inclusive, regenerative agriculture.
- We will cease to over-fertilise our soils. The structural over-fertilisation in the Netherlands will come to an end. We will no longer request an exemption on the fertilisation regulations that apply to other European farmers. Manure injection will be forbidden, as will the use of artificial fertilisers. The current fertilisers and manures will be replaced by plant-based fertilisers and green manure.
- The soil will be given room to breathe. With minimal or non-inversion tillage, we will prevent compaction of the earth and stimulate soil life and the healthy growth of roots. This will increase water retention and the breakdown and storage of CO₂ in the soil. Intensive tillage such as ploughing will no longer be permitted. Heavy agricultural machinery will make way for smaller, lighter machines that are powered by electricity.
- The soil will receive more water. Water will no longer be removed as quickly as possible,

but stored for drier periods. The groundwater level will no longer be artificially suppressed; a natural level will be maintained instead.

- The agricultural sector will become pesticide-free. The use of agricultural pesticides will be scaled down rapidly through regulation.
- The local production of compost will be encouraged, including the fermentation of residues from the mowing of verges. Organic compost use will restore the level of organic materials in the soil.
- Agroforestry, combining agriculture and forestry on the same plot of land, will be strongly encouraged.
- Traditional organic crop improvement methods will be encouraged for the development of healthy and resistant crop species.

GMO-free

Healthy agriculture is GMO-free. The genetic manipulation of plants is a result of our industrial approach to our food supply system. Genetic modification has no bearing on the knowledge that we can feed everyone on this planet – now and in the future – if we don't waste precious proteins on the livestock industry but make them immediately available for human consumption instead. The Party for the Animals believes in the precautionary principle and is strongly opposed to the genetic modification of crops. Once a genetically modified crop turns out to cause more harm than was initially believed and has already dispersed itself among other organisms in the ecosystem, there is no going back. The promised sustainability of these crops has not been realised: genetically modified soybeans and maize have only increased the use of environmentally harmful pesticides rather than decreased them. Moreover, genetic modification is a threat to mainstream and organic farming practices because these genetically modified crops can cross-pollinate with non-modified crops. We are committed to making the Netherlands and Europe free from genetic modification.

- The Netherlands will become a GMO-free country. The cultivation and import of genetically modified crops will be prohibited. As long as a European import and cultivation ban continues to exist, we want to give member states and regions the opportunity to prohibit the cultivation of genetically modified crops.
- The genetic modification and cloning of animals is ethically unacceptable and comes paired with grievous animal suffering. The Netherlands will be committed to generating an import ban on cloned and genetically modified animals, their offspring and the products produced by these animals. The Netherlands will be actively involved in creating a global tracking system to monitor the trade in cloned animals.

The high cost of fishing

There are also many misconceptions about food from the sea. The fatty acids found in fish are healthy, but that doesn't mean that we have to eat fish because of it. Fish don't produce these fatty acids themselves. They ingest the fatty acids by eating algae – something we can also do ourselves. Moreover, by choosing plant-based foods straight from the sea (algal oils, seaweed), we avoid further detrimental health effects caused by the heavy metals and plastic residues that end up in fish and on our plates. The health of human beings, the well-being of fish and the biodiversity in our seas and oceans require a radical change in course: we need to catch and eat less fish.

Besides, most fish species are suffering from heavy overfishing. So much fish is caught that some fish species are on the verge of extinction. The Dutch fishing industry is partially responsible for the structural overfishing of European waters and the destruction of life on the seafloor. With European subsidies, seas outside of Europe are being plundered as well, such as those off the coast of Africa. The largest trawlers in the world are in Dutch hands. Fish farms are becoming a

second livestock industry. They don't solve the overfishing problem: a lot of farmed fish is fed with fish meal made from fish caught in the wild. Fish farms are therefore not sustainable and far from animal friendly. We can easily fish out an alternative: plant-based food from the sea makes us healthier, prevents significant animal suffering and gives the underwater environment a chance to recover.

- We are committed to change: we don't need to eat fish to remain healthy. We can also ingest healthy fatty acids from algal oils and seaweed. An effective campaign will be set up to make people aware of these new insights. The plant-based option will be made cheaper by eliminating the tax on these products.
- The fishing industry and fish farms will be scaled down. Subsidies on fishing practices will be dispensed with immediately.
- Ecosystems and endangered fish species will be given a chance to recover through the implementation of a complete ban on fishing in that area. For vulnerable species such as eel, cod and tuna, an immediate fishing ban will be implemented.
- Boats using destructive fishing methods will no longer be allowed to sail. Monster trawlers and deep-sea fishing, ships with trawl nets that destroy the seafloor (beam trawlers) or electrocute animals (pulse fishing) will not be allowed to sail under the Dutch flag.

Sustainable regional agriculture for a just world

A regionalised food system is the ideal approach, no matter where in the world it's implemented: not only in the developed West but also particularly in more vulnerable regions. The current agricultural and food politics in the Netherlands and Europe is not only highly detrimental to the climate and biodiversity on our continent, but also a threat to the basic conditions for people who live in far more trying circumstances than we do. With our

overexploitation of biomass fuels and cheap resources for our livestock feed and food industry, we are often guilty of land grabbing and the violation of human rights. We deplete soils and destroy the ecosystems and climate systems that people in vulnerable areas are dependent upon to develop their sustainable future. The Party for the Animals wants an agricultural policy that doesn't hurt others but promotes opportunity for people in vulnerable areas.

- Large international supply chains facilitate the destruction of ecosystems, create fragile monocultures, and are seriously detrimental to the position of women and girls in the countries where production takes place. Sustainable, small-scale agricultural economies, on the other hand, strengthen the position of women. We will break down the massive supply chains and help people in developing countries to develop a sustainable, regional agricultural economy.
- Fishing agreements between the European Union and other countries only serve to exploit and will be taken off the table or annulled.
- The Netherlands will stop promoting the export of systems and products for industrial agricultural practices such as slaughterhouses, mega stables, artificial fertilisers, pesticides and genetically modified crops. Instead, investments will be made in regional, agroecological food supply chains and regional infrastructure.
- We will stop the dumping of cheap, subsidised agricultural products on the markets of countries in the global south. All budgets for the promotion of export will be withdrawn, and European agricultural and fishing subsidies will be abolished.
- Large international businesses often make use of corrupt government officials in developing countries to rent or buy agricultural lands. However, these lands usually belong to local farming families. The Party for the Animals wants the Netherlands to lead a strong international front against these land-

grabbing practices. Investments in lands should meet UN human rights criteria on the Right to Food.

- We will cease to import products produced at the expense of the living environment elsewhere or those that are associated with the violation of human rights and the well-being of animals.

Intermediate steps in the transition: putting the health of humans and animals first

The transition to a sustainable food system will not happen overnight. Besides the radical changes required to alter our course, transitions often come paired with an intermediary phase requiring intermediate steps. As long as animals are not fully liberated from the food supply chain, the livestock industry will continue to pose a risk to human health, and zoonotic diseases will continue to be a threat. As long as pesticide use in the agricultural sector has not been banned, the health of people living near these treated farmlands will be at risk. As long as fishing continues to take place, measures will be required to limit the damage to marine ecosystems. In short, we are heading towards a truly sustainable plant-based future, and we will implement intermediate stages to preserve the health of humans, animals and the natural environment as much as possible during this transition.

Intermediate steps for agriculture

- The fewer animals are cooped up together, the lower the risk of the outbreak of disease and the transfer of diseases from animals to humans (zoonoses). A maximum number of animals will be set on a company and regional basis.
- The age of mega stables is over. No new permits will be issued for the construction of mega stables or for the expansion of existing livestock businesses.
- The fewer animals are moved, the lower the risk of contracting or spreading animal

diseases and zoonoses. The import of live animals, such as the import of calves that are fattened up in Dutch stables, will be forbidden.

- Strict rules will be implemented for the use of antibiotics in the livestock industry. The pre-emptive administration of antibiotics will be stopped for once and for all. Extra monitoring will take place in sectors where antibiotics are frequently used.
- The substantially reduced livestock industry will be fully localised. We will stop the import of resources for animal feed such as soybeans and palm oil. The export of fertiliser will no longer be permitted, and fertiliser fraud will be dealt with harshly.
- Fertiliser plants will cease to exist in the Netherlands. The billions of euros of subsidies reserved for manure fermenters can be put to far better use in the development of truly sustainable energy sources. No more permits will be issued for the manufacture of new manure fermenters, and existing fermenters will be dismantled.
- The health of residents living near farms and market garden industries will be given priority over the interests of the growers. Pesticides may no longer be sprayed in areas in the vicinity of residential areas, schools and other areas where people live and work, and children play. These spray-free zones will also be implemented near public roads, walking paths and cycling paths and around places where animals reside such as meadows.
- There will be a ban on the selling of meat and dairy products at exceptionally low prices. Cut-price meat and dairy products will be eliminated from supermarket shelves.
- The production of excess meat, eggs and dairy products is unacceptable. Therefore, we are vehemently opposed to European buy-back schemes and subsidies for the storage of surplus products.
- Mandatory labelling will be implemented for meat, dairy and egg products produced by animals that have been fed with feed from genetically modified crops. If genetically

modified ingredients are incorporated into a product, this will be clearly marked on the front of the product or packaging.

- Lease contracts will include strict conditions on sustainable soil management.
- Permanent pastures will no longer be 'broken up' (torn up and sown in again).
- We will bring meadows and pastures back to life by sowing a varied mixture of indigenous herbs and grasses.

Intermediate steps for fishing

- The precautionary principle will be the cornerstone of our fishing policy. This principle ensures that we will not fish more than independent biologists consider justified. If not enough scientific data is available, fishing will be prohibited, or large safety margins will be incorporated into the fishing quota and tend to be on the low side.
- The Netherlands will scale down the overcapacity of the fishing fleet at a rapid rate. The fishing capacity of the European fishing fleet may not exceed the capacity of the ecosystems in European waters.
- Strict enforcement of existing regulations will be maintained to combat harmful fishing practices. The ban on dumping caught fish at sea will be monitored closely through camera surveillance and on-board monitoring. Fishing vessels from fishing companies that do not comply will be forced to remain in port.
- Bycatch will be significantly reduced by placing a ban on non-selective fishing methods.

4 Systemic change

Economic growth is the problem, not the solution

The only sustainable economy is a socially just economy that functions within the limits of the Earth's resources. The current economic system is unfair, unstable, unsustainable, and it's making people unhappy. In theory, it promises more prosperity, but in practice, it comes at the expense of our well-being -- and the well-being of people elsewhere and future generations. Our addiction to economic growth is a significant problem on a planet that cannot grow along with us. Growth shouldn't be our goal; the well-being of humans, animals and our planet should. This is possible if we choose an economic welfare system that serves an equal society where we live in harmony with each other and with nature. The prosperity of one will then no longer be at the expense of the well-being of another. Vulnerable values will be protected, and the interests of large, polluting corporations will be subordinate to those values.



Many people have trouble scraping by as the wealth of others continues to grow steadily. In the Netherlands, more than a million people live below the poverty line. At the same time, one-quarter of the country's wealth lies in the hands of one per cent of the Dutch population. It is up to the government to guarantee a social minimum for all its constituents while ensuring that we do not exceed the carrying capacity of our planet.

The ecological and social crises are closely interlinked. The prioritising of short-term interests and the quasi-religious faith in economic growth has come at the expense of our planet and the people standing on the side lines of our workforce. The constant race to the bottom has led to the exploitation and depletion of humans, animals and the planet. This race is not sustainable for anyone. The last thing we should be doing is getting back to business as usual. To avoid this, a radical change in the tax and incentive structures in our economy is imperative.

An ecocentric economy

We live in a time in which we require increasingly fewer human resources to produce and organise everything we need. This effectively provides an immense opportunity to spend more time on other things, such as caring for each other and the natural environment, personal development, innovation, sports, art, et cetera. But we have set up our economy in a way that is a barrier to these opportunities: people are forced to work harder and work longer hours instead of less. Production and consumption must continue to grow, irrespective of whether people want it or not. Work remains an expensive good because of high tax rates. On the other hand, resources are dirt-cheap, even though they're scarce, damaging to the environment, and finite.

Merely continuing to produce whatever we

think we might need also has significant drawbacks. Society has lost its equilibrium because of it. We have more material goods than ever, but we throw them away just as quickly. Regularly buying new clothes or a new telephone has become perfectly normal. Moreover, this drive to just keep producing has contributed to the fact that we have crossed the line of what our planet can manage.

The coronavirus crisis is a turning point. The pandemic has shown that governments, when it comes down to it, can radically influence the economy. Moreover, the crisis has made many people realise that immaterial values such as friendship, love, caring for loved ones, health, and spending time with each other are much more valuable than having more material goods. The Party for the Animals envisions a society that will slow down and cut back, one in which the value of the work that people do is reflected in their livelihood.

To that effect, the tax and incentive framework needs a radical overhaul, and the minimum wage must be increased by 40 per cent. The Party for the Animals wants to tax resources that are scarce or environmentally harmful and spare those resources that are valuable. That means we need to impose heavy taxes on polluting activities and the use of finite resources and introduce a significant decrease in taxes on labour. These measures will allow us to reduce environmental pressures and create ample sustainable job opportunities through green employment.

- Pollution and scarce resources will be taxed much more heavily. This tax includes measures such as a hefty tax on CO2, a progressive aviation tax and a tax on animal proteins. The subsidies for the fossil fuel industry will be terminated.
- Labour, on the other hand, will be taxed much more lightly. The tax rate for the lowest income tax bracket will be lowered. The minimum wage will see a notable increase and

the position of employees in the workforce will be reinforced. A lowering of employer costs in smaller companies will make it more attractive to hire people.

- Production will primarily focus on a regional market. The VAT on valuable products and services will be abolished. Local entrepreneurship will be encouraged. A tax will be imposed on large internet-based shops to combat unfair competition.
- Our pension funds will no longer be used to invest in the fossil fuel and bio-industry sectors. Banks will be split up into public and commercial banks.
- A basic income, given the right framework, can offer income security and strengthen the position of employees vis-à-vis employers. A large-scale pilot for a basic income will be set up.
- The gross domestic product (GDP) is not a suitable indicator for our prosperity and well-being and should not be a goal in itself. We are going to measure wealth and well-being differently.
- Access to cash will be safeguarded. We will ensure that the rate at which cash is taken out of circulation will be reduced and that the percentage of cash in circulation will be kept to a certain minimum.

Radical fiscal 'greening'

Financial costs and benefits must be divided equally. Major polluters that play a significant role in the climate crisis and that have profited the most from economic growth must also bear the costs of the climate transition.

The dozens of millions of euros in coronavirus subsidies are a chance to implement changes in favour of the climate and biodiversity. It is inconceivable that this enormous sum should be used to go back to business as usual. Heavy investments in the climate transition will ultimately provide more benefits than costs. If the temperature should rise by two degrees, the global cost incurred will be over 25,000 billion

dollars in additional damages caused by climate change.

- A hefty CO2 tax will be implemented.
- A progressive aviation tax will be introduced. The more often you fly, the more tax you pay per ticket. Kerosine will be taxed.
- A separate tax will be added to animal proteins.
- The tariff for the highest income bracket for the profit tax will be raised from 25 to 35 per cent, the level it was at the beginning of this century.
- The subsidies for the fossil fuel industry, a sum of at least 4.5 billion euros per year, will be abolished.
- As long as non-recycled plastic continues to be used, it will be taxed.
- The degressive energy tax system favours bulk consumers and will, therefore, be abolished. Instead, we will implement a progressive energy tax system. A progressive energy tax system means that the more you use, the higher the average tax rate.
- Any agricultural pesticides that have not yet been banned will be heavily taxed.
- A 'data tax' will be implemented for businesses, international businesses and internet platforms. The tax rate will be linked to the amount of data that is used by the organisation concerned.

Work is valuable; work should be compensated

Everyone in the Netherlands should have an income that is high enough to allow them to get by. But, for many people, their financial reserves have dried up before the end of the month. Rent, gas, water, electricity, healthcare, childcare, subscriptions, taxes and transportation fees make life expensive. Unexpected expenses, such as repairs, then become too much. The allowances issued by the Inland Revenue department are sometimes a source of stress because they might need to be repaid sometime in the future.

In recent years, inequality in Dutch society has only increased. Valuable work is often underpaid, and work that has no immediately apparent added value is usually well compensated. The Party for the Animals wants to improve social security. Professions that are now underpaid will be re-evaluated, not only in financial terms but also in terms of how we view this type of work as a society at large.

- The rate for the lowest income tax bracket will be lowered. The highest rate will be raised to 60%. People with a high income benefit more from basic facilities (such as proper education and infrastructure). So, it is no more than reasonable to ask them to contribute in kind.
- The minimum wage will be increased to 14 euros per hour. Contributions from the Old Age Pensions Act (AOW) and Disabled Assistance (Young Persons) Act (Wajong) will increase accordingly.
- Rents will not be increased over the coming years.
- Salaries in the public sector will be raised significantly.
- In a society where everyone can get by, allowances from the government are no longer needed. An alternative to the allowances system will be necessary for the long term, based on the principle that everyone should have enough income to enjoy a decent quality of life.
- Mortgage interest relief will remain available up to an amount of 350,000 euros. The mortgage interest relief for higher values will be incrementally scaled down. At the same time, investments will be made to make housing affordable again.
- The wealth tax will be increased from 1.5% to 3% for the highest current wealth tax bracket. This increase means that more tax will be paid on fortunes valued at more than one million euros. The wealth tax will progressively increase above this amount.
- People in the same household are entitled to social security payments. This means that the co-resident rule will be revoked.

- Studies will be conducted into how the advantages of home ownership can also be made accessible to people who rent homes, so tenants are not faced with rising costs every year while home-owners have constant and even decreasing costs.

An equitable labour market and an end to job exploitation

The Party for the Animals wants a society in which as many people as possible can decide for themselves how they want to live their lives and earn their income. We want to eliminate the extreme pressure to perform, a source of continual stress and agitation. For us, equal work also means equal compensation. Sex, gender, and ethnicity should not lead to differences in income.

The Party for the Animals wants to put an end to job exploitation and over-the-top flexible contracts. A shortening of the workweek and a more equitable distribution of available work will ensure that we will have more time for each other. The position of power held by employers is far too great in some sectors. One of those sectors is the meat sector. The coronavirus exposed these inequalities on the work floor; slaughterhouses turned out to be an exceptionally dangerous source of outbreaks of the virus. Slaughterhouses are some of the largest exploiters of vulnerable migrant workers in the Netherlands, but the position of the individual employee must be reinforced in other sectors as well.

- An extensive vocational retraining programme will be set up for professions that will be largely redundant in the future, for example, in the aviation industry, the fossil fuel industry and the meat sector.
- Employment agencies will require a permit to put a halt to the proliferation of employment agencies.
- The proliferation of different types of labour contracts will come to an end. The

only labour contracts that will remain are the permanent and temporary contracts for standard employment, the temporary contract for replacement during sick leave or additional support during busy periods, and the self-employment contract for self-employed individuals. Temporary workers will be entitled to the same terms of employment as other workers. Pseudo-self-employment will be combated, and employees will not be forced to become self-employed.

- The coronavirus crisis has shown the extensive problems in the labour conditions in slaughterhouses. The slaughterhouses will be given priority by the labour inspection services.
- Strict conditions will be placed on the accommodation of migrant workers. Migrant workers will at least be entitled to sleeping accommodation that they will not have to share. This will enable them to keep to the basic coronavirus regulations. Employers are responsible if the migrant workers are not facilitated in this. Commercial businesses cannot simultaneously be the employers and landlords of migrant workers.
- The labour inspection body will be given a broader mandate to carry out individual research and monitor compliance with collective agreement wages, discrimination and social security regulations. The labour inspection services will specifically involve the employees themselves in this regard.
- The parental leave arrangement for parents will be expanded: the existing nine-week, partly compensated leave arrangement will be converted into three months with full pay. Parental leave for both parents will be made possible.
- Job seekers will be facilitated in carrying out volunteer work and traineeships, even when that work is not directly aimed at a return to the workforce. These activities will, from now on, count as useful preparations for a return to the labour market.
- Research will be conducted into how people can build up 'social capital' through acts that

are considered a benefit to society. This social capital can then be used to pay for basic needs such as food and living space.

- In large companies, employees will be given a more significant role in the making of important decisions, such as mergers, acquisition of their own shares, take-overs, restructuring activities and profit distribution. The position of employees in the works council will be reinforced
- It will be easier for self-employed workers to save for their pensions or have themselves insured voluntarily. Self-employed workers will be given access to a collective disability and pension insurance.
- The retrenchment of the safety net for young people with a disability (Wajong) will be reversed. They will be given opportunities for meaningful and useful day-to-day activities with the opportunity to grow into a suitable paid job.
- As long as there is no alternative for allowances, the child allowance will be made dependent on the income of the parents.
- Childcare will be free for four days in the week.
- A new type of sheltered employment will be implemented. This will allow everyone with a labour disability to carry out meaningful work close to home, with proper counselling and a decent wage.
- A national fund for flex workers in platform businesses will be provided. The premiums for disability insurance and retirement funds will be paid from this fund. The funds will be mostly provided by the platform businesses with supplemental funds from the central government. National and international platform businesses that do not accept these conditions will be denied access to the Dutch market. Relevant laws and regulations will be drawn up or adjusted accordingly.

Regionalising the economy - spare what's valuable

Valuable products and services should be made

affordable and should not be taxed further. Healthy products, public transport, cultural activities and repairs would therefore be exempt from VAT. On the other hand, online purchases will be more heavily taxed. This is fairer with regards to small and medium enterprises and puts a halt to the 'boxification' of the Dutch landscape and the globalisation of production and consumption.

The coronavirus crisis has shown that our economy has become too dependent on large and complex supply chains. The Party for the Animals wants to turn regionalisation into a starting principle. The radical greening and regionalisation of the tax system shall make room for economic activity that will serve humans and the planet alike. In other words, smaller, more innovative businesses that provide meaningful work, for example, in the energy transition, repair and healthcare sectors, small-scale nature-inclusive agriculture sector and regional market-oriented production. Local companies bring life to town centres and neighbourhoods and contribute to a pleasant living environment. These businesses, however, are increasingly faced with unfair competition from internet businesses. A separate tax for internet businesses will be implemented to mitigate this effect.

- The VAT on fruits and vegetables, public transport and all cultural activities will be abolished.
- VAT will no longer apply for the repair of bikes, appliances, clothes and other items.
- A separate tax will be levied on large companies (with an annual turnover of more than 12 million euros) that generate most of their turnover from online sales to level the playing field between small businesses and large internet companies even further. Food products will be exempt from this rule as healthy food is one of the necessities of life. Second-hand materials will also be exempt.
- A fiscal incentive will be given to small businesses to reduce the employer costs for those businesses. This will make it more

attractive for these businesses to hire more staff.

- The government sets an example. The procurement of all products and contracts will be 100% sustainable. This measure will also apply to executive bodies, utility companies, ports, airports, independent governance organisations and water boards.

A comfortable retirement

A comfortable retirement is a valuable right, but as a result of the Pension Accord that was agreed upon in 2019, pensions are increasingly dependent on the stock market. Stock-market prices fluctuate and are, furthermore, based on the out-of-date and bad idea of endless economic growth.

The Party for the Animals does not want to gamble with these pensions. The older people of the future – in other words, today's youth, should also be able to maintain a retirement fund. Furthermore, the Party for the Animals wants to improve the financial security of all people of pensionable age but not at the expense of young people. Therefore, the pension contribution should increase.

The Pension Accord does not put a halt to the fossil fuel and livestock industry. The Party for the Animals wants to use the pension funds to invest in a liveable planet and a sustainable future for our young people. The 1500 billion euros worth of investment allowance from the pension funds offers ample opportunity to do so.

- Pension funds will withdraw from the livestock industry and the fossil fuel industry altogether as quickly as possible. With that aim in mind, they will formulate a divestment plan to fully withdraw from all investments in these sectors by 2030.
- Anyone who has worked 40 years will receive state pension (AOW) upon turning 65. Anyone receiving social benefits at the age of 65

will receive their state pension from that point onwards. The option to choose a lower retirement age will be made available with the state pension adjusted accordingly.

- The state pension will increase, a positive development for retired people with a low or no additional retirement funds, without this being at the expense of the younger population.
- Employees will be given more freedom and flexibility in choosing how their pension fund is set up. For example, they will have the option to place their pension fund with a green investment fund if that is not an available option with their current pension fund. They will also be able to choose a flexible retirement age or a part-time pension.
- The pension funds will be democratised so employees will have a greater voice in the remuneration and provision policies and have a say in what pension funds do with their money.
- The job application requirement for people over the age of 60 will be abolished; this will leave time for volunteer work, childcare and caring for others instead.

Curbing the banks

Banks facilitate payment traffic, manage people's savings, and provide loans to businesses. These are public services that are important for every aspect of society. These public services should be separated from the riskier functions of banks. Banks must be encouraged to invest in what's valuable and not use their money to invest in damaging or disruptive activities.

The Party for the Animals wants banks with public services to remain solvent in times of crisis, but banks that do not perform a public service will not be bailed out by the government if they are not able to solve the problems they themselves created. Money invested in long-term investments for a better world will be more lightly taxed. On the other hand, money used to

create fast, short term gains will be taxed more heavily.

- Banks will be split up into public service banks for the management of payment traffic, savings and the provision of local loans, and commercial banks. Should a crisis arise, the public functions of a bank can then be more easily supported without requiring taxpayer money to bolster commercial banks.
- The government and executive bodies will use the banking services of a sustainable bank.
- The capital buffers of Dutch banks will be far greater than they are now. Banks will thus become more resistant to sudden changes and crises.
- Bonuses no longer have a place in the financial sector. They don't fit into its societal function. Financial institutions will be monitored to prevent bonuses from being issued in roundabout ways.
- Concrete plans will be made for a new democratic and transparent system for the creation of money. After all, banks have a monopoly on the creation of money and profit significantly from it. In drafting these plans, due attention will be given to the report titled Money and Debt from the Netherlands Scientific Council for Economic Policy.
- Given its platform function, the EU will promote a coordinated implementation of a tax system for banks and taxes for financial transactions in member states.
- The Netherlands will stop facilitating large-scale tax evasion by multinational corporations. They will make any special agreements, or tax rulings, with corporations available to the public. On a European level, the Netherlands will urge other member states to do the same.
- Studies will be conducted into how a tax on financial transactions can contribute to more sustainable investments and how so-called patient capital (money that is invested in sectors that do not instantly produce a profit) can be made more fiscally attractive.

A basic income for everyone

The coronavirus crisis has shown that large groups of people can quickly lose their source of income, this knowledge has brought with it a great deal of uncertainty. Meanwhile, many people find themselves in a weak position when negotiating with employers. The Party for the Animals wants to get rid of the 'easily replaceable' mentality that some employers have by structurally strengthening the position of the employee with regards to the employer.

The Party for the Animals wants to increase the security, autonomy and negotiating position of employees by investigating the implementation of an unconditional basic income. This can be implemented in several ways. A negative income tax can, for example, act as a basic form of income. A necessary condition should be that everyone has sufficient income security.

- Studies will be carried out to assess which form of basic income provides sufficient income security for everyone and which format improves the position of employees with regards to employers. Forms of basic income include a monthly disbursement for everyone or a negative income tax where only people with a low income receive a basic income.
- A large pilot for testing the basic income model in practice will be fast-tracked.

A different measure of prosperity

The government is currently too focused on increasing incomes in the Netherlands: gross domestic product (GDP). But a growing GDP does not by definition mean that our society benefits from it, or that citizens are happier. Volunteer work and caring for others are not factored into the GDP calculation as a positive measure of our prosperity. Activities that disrupt the environment, public health or animal welfare, such as the livestock industry, coal plants and gas extraction, oddly enough, are factored in.

- For the determination and regulation of policy, the government will use the already developed Comprehensive Well-being Monitor (Monitor Brede Welvaart). This will allow the implementation of other instruments that give a measure of the well-being of humans and animals, such as a clean living environment, biodiversity, innovative strength, community spirit, availability of healthcare, et cetera. The positive and negative effects of government measures and economic activities on society will be mapped out and allow us to determine the right course towards a sustainable and unified economy
- In addition to the Comprehensive Well-being Monitor, a future-generation test will be implemented. It will help us gain insight into how current, far-reaching decisions will impact future generations. We will also map out how our well-being comes at the expense of prosperity elsewhere. Furthermore, we believe that the Netherlands should become a member of the Wellbeing Economy Governments (WeGo), currently led by New Zealand, Scotland, Wales and Iceland.



5 Environment, energy and mobility

Protect everything of value, share scarce resources equally

Clean air, clean water and healthy soils are essential. The very survival of many lifeforms is at stake due to an environmental policy that, for many years, prioritised short-term financial interests over the protection of our living environment. The result is high emissions of hazardous materials, more noise, harmful substances and garbage in the environment, in addition to the depletion of natural resources. It is high time to turn the tide towards a political system that focuses on a healthy and safe living environment for humans and animals alike. We need to develop a system that uses the capacity of the Earth's resources as a starting point instead of endless economic growth on a planet that cannot grow along with it.

This is why the Party for the Animals is a driving force for a radically different environmental policy.

If everyone on this planet consumed as much as the average Dutch citizen, we would need three planets to sustain the Earth's population. Our growth-oriented economy promotes the ever-increasing consumption of products, leading to a shortage of resources and an abundance of waste. The plastic soup continues to accumulate in our seas and oceans, where it harms marine life and enters the food supply chain. We are surrounded by health risks, even in our immediate environment. For instance, every year, 12,000 people in the Netherlands die an early death due to unhealthy air caused primarily by traffic emissions. Industries are legally protected in such a way that they can release harmful substances into the air, soil and water with impunity, leading to dangerous conditions for our health, our environment, and our human rights.

The coronavirus crisis has shown us that choosing a cleaner living environment is a political choice. We have discovered that we can create cleaner air and a quieter neighbourhood if we no longer prefer aviation traffic over sustainable transport methods. We see more animals when it's quieter. It's much more pleasant on the roads with less traffic. We feel better when we have more greenery in our environment. We cannot return to the old way of life where pollution continues to destroy our planet. We will change course and work towards a living environment that will no longer make us ill but will make us healthier instead. The Party for the Animals is not afraid to make those radical choices, because that's how we create a healthy, fair and safe society. We want to create a society that is no longer in conflict with nature but lives in harmony with our natural environment.

A world without waste

The Party for the Animals draws its inspiration from nature, where processes develop without waste. Our throw-away society leads to the depletion of natural resources and the pollution of our seas and oceans. The Party for the

Animals is therefore committed to creating a circular economy, where we use our resources as sparingly as possible and reuse and recycle them from existing products. Single-use plastics will be banned and we will end hazardous waste disposal in our rivers. We will prevent the introduction of microplastics in the environment and the food chain. Such measures will allow us to work quickly towards a world without waste.

- In 2030, the use of resources will be halved, and all our resources will be recycled. A Resources Act will be implemented with binding obligations.
- Through a price differentiation between different resources, recycled resources will be cheaper than resources which have been exploited for the first time.
- There will be a ban on single-use plastic. The ban on plastic straws will take into account people who are dependent on straws for medical reasons. A proper alternative will be found for these people. We will drastically reduce the use of packaging materials. Any plastic used will have to be recycled. An immediate ban will be placed on the use of microplastics in cosmetic products. We will draw up regulations for clothing and washing machine manufacturers to prevent synthetic fibres from entering our waters.
- There will be stricter conditions for the design of new products so that they will last longer, repair easily, and contain materials that can easily be re-used.
- The deposit programme will remain and be expanded to include small bottles and plastic bottles, cans and single-use cups.
- Transparent resource flows are essential in our efforts to create a circular economy. Therefore, the Netherlands will argue within Europe for an expansion of legislation for the labelling of consumer goods and food products. In addition to the currently mandatory requirements, the resources used will also be specified on the packaging. This is to heighten awareness of the invisible materials such as the plastic coating on paper

wrappings, making it easier to separate waste products effectively. Manufacturers will be obligated to reduce packaging made from mixed materials.

- The industry and the construction sector will be obligated to use material passports. This passport will facilitate the recycling of materials at the end of the life cycle of buildings and products.
- The national budget will include a resource ceiling in addition to existing expenditure ceilings. The government may only carry out policy and plans if it fits within the resource ceiling.
- Balloons often land in water and in nature preserves where they can be fatal to animals. Therefore, the release of gas-filled balloons will be prohibited. Biodegradable balloons are not a solution: they will only break down under the right natural conditions and often take years to do so. The sale and launch of sky lanterns will also be prohibited.
- The 'ja-ja sticker' (mailbox sticker allowing the delivery of door-drop marketing materials) will be implemented nationally. The rule will be: you will not receive any unsolicited marketing mailings unless you specifically request it by placing a sticker on your mailbox.
- A ban will be placed on the sale of plastic cigarette filters.

Curbing hazardous industrial practices

Nobody should have to worry about the potential health risks posed by businesses in the neighbourhood. Nevertheless, in the densely populated and economically bustling Netherlands, we are often faced with dangers coming from numerous sources: the chemical industries, gas exploitation, pesticides and particulate matter and diseases from the livestock industry. The Party for the Animals wants everyone to live in a safe environment. The well-being of citizens is more important than the financial interests of businesses.

- The central government will control the supervision and enforcement of environmental laws. More capacity and expertise will be made available to the supervisors. The fines will be increased significantly and in proportion to the turnover of the fined businesses.
- The disposal of industrial waste materials, such as granulite, into the water supply, will be prohibited.
- Air traffic is not only one of the largest contributors to climate change; it is also responsible for significant levels of air and noise pollution. Air traffic adversely affects the health of the people living in the vicinity of airports. Moreover, large numbers of flights over densely populated areas pose health risks for the people living in these areas. The aviation sector will, therefore, be sized down drastically.
- No new manure fermenters will be constructed, and existing manure fermenters will be disassembled to reduce the stench and health risks for residents in the surrounding area.
- The chemical industry can create a significant risk for humans, animals, nature and the environment. The storage, processing and emission of substances by the chemical industry will be monitored more extensively. Moreover, inspections will take place without warning from now on, and the businesses will pay for the costs incurred during these inspections. Violations will be dealt with strictly and harshly.
- The government will follow up on its agreement to end the exploitation of natural gas in Groningen by 2022. Inspections and the reinforcement of homes with earthquake damage will be given priority, and any damage will be dealt with in a timely fashion, ending several years of uncertainty for many Groningen residents.
- The damage caused by mining activities in the coal and brown coal mines in Limburg will be compensated by the central government.
- The release of hazardous substances by ships

will be prohibited. The degassing of vessels, the dumping of hydrocarbon residues by boats, and the use of open-loop scrubbers will be ended as soon as possible.

- When wood is burned, different hazardous, often carcinogenic substances that are damaging to the environment, the public health and the climate, are released. The high emissions of fine particles can lead to serious health issues in children, the elderly and people with lung disease. Therefore, we will phase out the burning of wood fuels. During unfavourable weather conditions, such as mist or lack of wind, the burning of wood fuels will not be permitted.

A pleasant and safe New Year's Eve

Every New Year's Eve, hundreds of people are injured, usually as a result of legal fireworks. About half of the victims are bystanders who happen to be walking past. Fireworks contain heavy metals and other hazardous substances that pollute the soil, the air and our water supplies. After the New Year, about three million kilos of extra waste has to be cleaned up. Moreover, fireworks provoke fear and stress in animals. Traditions should be cherished, but they go too far when humans or animals suffer as a result. The Party for the Animals wants New Year's Eve to become a celebration for everyone.

- There will be a ban on consumer fireworks and carbide shooting. Professional fireworks or spectacles will be organised at locations where humans, animals, nature and the environment will not be disturbed or damaged.

A quick and just energy transition

We now have an opportunity to make the Earth liveable and prevent dangerous climate change. The energy transition required to realise this will provide us with new jobs, equitable

distribution of our prosperity, a cleaner living environment, and a society that is no longer in conflict with nature but lives in harmony with the environment. Vested interests from industries such as the fossil fuel industry are a barrier to this transition. The quicker we can break through this barrier and commit ourselves to reducing our energy consumption and making our energy supply sustainable, the less damage and fewer costs will be incurred over the long term. If we don't develop a sustainable society, the price in the long term will be significantly higher.

Stepping up energy conservation

We don't have to produce energy that we don't use. Conserving energy will make the total sum required for our transition to 100% sustainable energy much smaller. Energy conservation will also prevent the use of unnecessary amounts of space by power plants. Moreover, it will make us less dependent on oil and gas-producing countries. The Party for the Animals wants to significantly reduce energy consumption in the Netherlands: in urban areas, industry, transport and the agricultural sector. In line with the Paris Climate Accord, we will realise an energy conservation level of at least 50% relative to 2015.

- By 2030 at the latest, households and offices in the Netherlands will have reduced energy consumption by at least 65%. Homes will be adequately insulated, which will lead to an almost 50% reduction in the demand for heat. Housing cooperatives will be obligated to insulate part of their buildings every year. For home-owners, targeted financing instruments, such as building-related financing, will be implemented as quickly as possible. The increased revenues from the energy tax for producers and bulk consumers will be used to issue subsidies to make lower-income housing more energy-efficient and sustainable.
- All government buildings will be made more energy-efficient and raised to a class A energy rating.

- Renovations aimed at increasing energy-efficiency, such as the installation of a heat pump or applying insulation to a building will be encouraged by taxing these activities at a low VAT rate.
- Property taxes (ozb) will be differentiated according to energy consumption.
- The energy conservation duty, the duty for businesses and institutions to implement energy conservation measures with a payback period of five years or less, will be more strictly enforced.
- Unnecessary energy waste will be addressed. Superfluous lighting, such as in offices, shop windows of shops that are closed, or light-emitting advertising, will be restricted. Ice skating rinks will close in the summer. A ban on patio heaters will be implemented, starting in the spring of 2021.
- A reduction of 75% in the number of animals in the livestock industry and a scaling down of the fishing industry will also lead to a notable reduction in energy consumption. More efficient, plant-based and environmentally friendly forms of food production will be actively encouraged by the government.
- The production of artificial fertilisers is highly energy-intensive. Therefore, we will end the production of synthetic fertilisers. Instead, we will commit ourselves to developing closed-loop local production cycles, extract phosphate from sewage sludge, and implement plant-based fertilisers and green manure crops.
- By adopting a practical and integral approach to combat food waste, we will lower the energy requirements for our food consumption.
- The industry will conserve 40% of its energy consumption through a combination of lowering the demand for new products in specific sectors, the electrification of processes, using fewer resources more efficiently, the application of green hydrogen, more re-use and recycling techniques, and an average efficiency improvement of 2% per year.

- A data centre uses the same amount of energy as hundreds of thousands of households. As a result, green energy can no longer be used to supply homes with clean energy and to make other industries more sustainable. Therefore, the construction of data centres will be restricted.
- The Netherlands will adopt strict standards for the energy consumption of appliances and vehicles. It will commit itself to the implementation of a European energy label that not only takes into consideration the energy consumption but the entire life cycle of the product, from production to recycling.
- Green roofs and facades will provide cooling in the summer, which will reduce the use of air conditioning in our houses and offices. The greenery acts as an insulation layer in the winter, leading to a reduction in heat loss of up to 20%. Green roofs will be placed on the list of compulsory energy-conservation measures for owners of large buildings.
- Air conditioners lead to an extreme increase in electricity consumption. With climate change, more and more people are purchasing air conditioners, which puts a lot of pressure on the electricity grid. In warm conditions, a large tree has the same cooling power as ten energy-guzzling air conditioners. That's why we will plant a large number of trees in and around urban areas.
- The Netherlands will increasingly focus on a repair economy; repairing more products or giving them a second life. Repair businesses will fall under the no-tax percentage bracket for the VAT.

Generating sustainable energy

We are going to generate sustainable energy close to home. In 2030, we will make use of solar, wind, tidal, heat exchange and, where necessary, geothermal energy sources. We will work simultaneously on different solutions to achieve the speed required to meet this goal. The costs of the transition should be shared equally; the largest polluters bear the greatest costs.

- Every house, office and building will be energy-neutral by 2030. All new builds will theoretically be energy positive; they will produce more energy than they use. These buildings will compensate for the older buildings that cannot be made energy-neutral before 2030.
- Every house, office and building will be energy-neutral by 2030. All new builds will theoretically be energy positive; they will produce more energy than they use. These buildings will compensate for the older buildings that cannot be made energy-neutral before 2030.
- The government will set an example by making government property energy-neutral and by investing in the sustainability of schools, sports facilities, healthcare institutions and cultural institutions.
- Wind and solar energy will be made available on a large scale at locations where people, animals and nature experience little to no disruption.
- Solar panels on buildings will become the standard. All new builds will be equipped with solar panels. No solar parks will be built in nature preserves and, in principle, on agricultural soil. The 'solar ladder' concept introduced by the National Environmental Federation that determines the placement of solar panels, will be taken into consideration when placing solar panels.
- Wind parks at sea should have no visibly adverse effects on marine life. For example, piles will not be driven into the seafloor during the construction of wind parks. The best possible technology must be implemented to prevent wind parks from creating victims.
- Energy companies will be obligated to provide a minimum percentage of sustainable energy produced in the Netherlands. This percentage will be increased annually. We will set a limit to the emission of greenhouse gases from new and existing power plants. The limit will periodically be adjusted to a lower level.
- The PostCodeRoos arrangement, the

- arrangement that offers a 15-year exemption from energy taxes on the solar or wind energy that participants in a project generate jointly, will be expanded further. This measure will allow more people to make use of sustainable electricity.
- Sustainable energy will be given priority on the energy grid with smart grids fed by small-scale and delocalised sources of green energy. The privacy of the users and suppliers must be safeguarded during this process.
 - Proper regulation, including fiscal agreements, will be made for the generation and storage of energy at a district level. Such rules will allow entire districts to generate and share their energy sources. Self-generated electricity and heat must be returned to the central grid without taxation. Cooperative ownership of energy sources and heat networks by users will be encouraged.
 - We will use sustainable low-temperature heat sources to heat homes and other buildings. Investments will not be made in heat networks generated by fossil fuel energy from, for example, refineries and waste incineration facilities. We will not use biomass fuel for heating purposes and will eliminate any associated subsidies.
 - We will strive to build a circular economy where the number of waste incineration installations will decrease. We will prevent dependence on waste incineration as a source of heat energy.
 - We will encourage research into the development of green hydrogen from wind and solar energy sources that can be used for storage.
 - The use of gas for bulk consumers will become more expensive over the next few years, increasing the incentive to reduce gas consumption and switch to other forms of energy. By 2030, the Netherlands will no longer use natural gas as an energy source. The domestic demand for natural gas will decrease through the improved insulation of homes and other buildings and by implementing alternative forms of central heating.

- The Party for the Animals will strive to develop an exit strategy for energy derived from oil, coal and gas sources. Coal plants will be closed down as quickly as possible.
- The Netherlands will not build any new nuclear plants, and existing plants will be closed down as quickly as possible. It is morally irresponsible to burden future generations with even more nuclear waste that will continue to be dangerous for thousands of years. Furthermore, constructing a nuclear plant will take decades, with costs going up into the tens of billions of euros. The consequences of a nuclear accident would be disastrous.
- Wood-based biomass is not a sustainable energy source. This includes so-called 'scrap wood', which fulfils a crucial role in ecosystems and therefore should not be considered suitable for burning. The burning of biomass fuels to generate heat and electricity will be banned. Subsidies supporting this practice will be shut down immediately. Manure is not a sustainable energy source because manure fermenters require a constant supply of animal manure to function. This will make maintaining excessive amounts of livestock in the livestock industry a goal in itself. The use of manure fermenters will be scaled down.
- Shale and coal gas will remain in the ground as the extraction of these gases will be prohibited. These strongly polluting substances will not cross European borders; the Netherlands will do its utmost to prevent that.
- Diesel and petrol engines used in construction must be replaced by cleaner and less noisy alternatives.

Smart logistics and transport

An accessible infrastructure, safe traffic and healthy air are necessary conditions for the well-being of everyone. However, we saw before the coronavirus crisis that we still had a long way to

go. We were dealing with overcrowded airspace, an explosive growth of traffic jams, and an expensive public transport system that was not fully accessible and bursting at the seams.

Although the pandemic has been disastrous in almost every aspect, we have also experienced the advantages of less traffic. For a short while, the sky was clear and clean. The streets were quieter and more peaceful. People have become more aware of the climate and the environment and want to limit their flying and car use behaviour. Nonetheless, air pollution is on the rise again, and road traffic is well on its way to clogging up the motorways again. The current government is steering towards the opening of the new Lelystad Airport to enable even more cheap holiday flights.

If we go back to business as usual, we will be heading down a dead-end street. The Party for the Animals will therefore strive to create a radical change in our mobility, a modal shift with less road traffic, fewer flights, faster and more comfortable public transport and priority for pedestrians and cyclists. Smart logistics and transportation will allow us to spare the climate and make the air healthier again. More space will be made available for greenery on our streets, and it will become safer for children to play outside.

Paving the way for pedestrians and cyclists

Road traffic is responsible for 20% of CO2 emissions. Furthermore, cars, vans and lorries release high levels of fine particles and other hazardous substances into the air we breathe. Besides, all that traffic is taking up large areas of public space and is responsible for hundreds of deaths each year. If we give pedestrians and cyclists the right of way in all our cities and villages, that will make a world of difference. With less motorised traffic, we will contribute significantly to climate goals while benefitting from cleaner air and more space.

- City centres will be made car-free as much as possible. Parking can be done outside the city with proper park-and-ride facilities. The speed limit will be 30 km/hour in all built-up areas. More residential areas will be introduced where the pedestrian is always given right of way and where motorists are required to proceed at a walking pace. Playing in the streets and contact with the neighbours will become safer.
- In 2030, all traffic will run on 100% sustainable energy sources, primarily electricity and a small amount of green hydrogen, an alternative for heavy and international road traffic and the shipping industry.
- We will invest in fast, safe and greener cycling paths. Existing cycling paths will be better maintained. Traffic lights will be programmed to give priority to pedestrians and cyclists.
- Commuting by car will be discouraged, flexible working spaces and working from home will be encouraged. We will continue to provide financial incentives for cycling, and the fiscal deduction for commuting by car will be cut back. The needs of residents in less densely populated areas will be taken into consideration.
- To improve air quality, we will actively work together with municipalities and provinces to implement and expand low-emission zones. The conditions placed on vehicles that are allowed inside a low-emission zone will be stricter.
- Constructing more roads will not solve the traffic jam issue. However, it will encourage an increase in car use and, with it, a further increase in fine particle and greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, no more new roads will be constructed, and no existing roads will be expanded unless it's for the improvement of traffic safety. That means that construction projects such as the expansion of the A4, A6, A58 and A27 near Amelisweerd and the northern Utrecht ring road will not continue.
- Motorists who drive fewer kilometres will be less heavily taxed than people who spend more time on the road. An exception to this kilometre-based tax will apply to people who

- live in thinly populated areas. In those areas, heavy investments will be made in the public transport system to make residents less dependent on the car. The new pricing model will come with strict privacy safeguards.
- Speed limits will apply at night around nature preserves in the interests of the safety of humans and animals alike.
 - The speed limit on motorways will be restricted to 100 km per hour both day and night, with a speed limit of 70 km per hour on the ring roads.
 - A less restrictive policy will be adopted for the implementation of speed cameras. In dangerous traffic situations, the public prosecutor's office will no longer have to wait until accidents happen before implementing cameras.
 - The use of shared electric cars will be encouraged and made fiscally attractive.

Fewer flights, more trains

The Netherlands will strive to cut back significantly on flights from all Dutch airports. This measure is necessary to curb the aviation industry within the limits of what the climate, living environment and the health of humans and animals can take. Short flights will be replaced by fast, comfortable and affordable train connections.

- The train will become the travel mode of choice for international journeys spanning less than 1200 kilometres. The Netherlands will strive to develop affordable, sustainable and fast train connections within Europe, with direct connections between key cities. More international overnight trains will be implemented. Motorail trains will be reintroduced. More parking options for cycles will be made available on trains.
- The aviation industry will be cut back to a size that fits within the limits of what the climate, living environment and the health of humans and animals can take. The Netherlands will

choose to significantly reduce the aviation industry. The number of flights will be reduced to a maximum of 300,000 flights per annum in 2030.

- A considerable CO2 tax will be implemented that will apply to all polluting sectors. The aviation and shipping industries will lose their special status.
- Tax incentives for air traffic, such as exemption from VAT and excise duty, will be abolished. We will implement an air passenger tax that increases the more often you fly. An additional air tax will be imposed on private jets. These measures will generate a revenue of at least 2.3 billion euros, which we will use to develop sustainable transportation methods.
- Support measures for the aviation industry will be used to facilitate the transition to sustainable transport sectors, including the retraining of personnel.

Affordable, comfortable and sustainable public transport

We will invest in affordable, comfortable and sustainable public transport. This is essential for our climate and for keeping our cities liveable. Improving accessibility to shrinking regions reduces the pressure on the cities.

- Each neighbourhood, and all people with a physical disability, will have easy access by public transport to educational, healthcare and governmental institutions. Public transport will become reliable, affordable and accessible, in cities as well as in rural areas.
- The VAT on public transport will be abolished. Public transport will be 50% cheaper by 2030.
- Train compartments will no longer be divided into first and second-class compartments. Everyone must have access to a proper seat for a reasonable price. Class discrimination has no place in public transport.
- Train travel must be comfortable and must meet the needs of the traveller. The number of trains will be increased, and trains will become

longer. Meeting and workspace facilities will become available at all junction stations. Every train set will contain toilets, electrical sockets and an internet connection. Train stations will be made more accessible to older people, people with a disability, and cyclists. Sufficient secure and free bicycle parking facilities will be made available. Transfer facilities for car-sharing services will also be implemented. The public transport bicycle system will be expanded further to all train stations and major public transport hubs.

- The train travel time between the Randstad (western region) and the eastern and northern regions of the Netherlands will be decreased by at least 30 minutes. The Lelylijn will be constructed as quickly as possible. This high-speed train connection between Lelystad and Groningen can reduce the travel time between the north and the Randstad by an hour. We will also implement a new high-speed train connection between Utrecht and Breda.
- Through the expansion of light rail connections such as the Randstadrail, we can make smaller residential areas more accessible, thereby reducing commuter car traffic.
- More buses will be implemented to expand the public transport network to a fine-mesh network. All newly purchased buses will run on 100% sustainable energy sources and, as of 2030, all buses will run by sustainable means. On multiple carriage roads, lanes will be converted into bus lanes, so public transport will become faster and more reliable than the car, especially during rush hour.

Generating sustainable freight transport

Freight transport will become quieter, cleaner and climate-neutral, whether it's transported by train, by road, via waterways or through the pipelines. This will enable us to make more responsible use of public areas.

- In 2030, practically all new vans and lorries in the Netherlands will be electric vehicles. A small portion will run on green hydrogen

- generated from solar and wind energy.
- Tax benefits on fossil fuels for the shipping industry will be eliminated. The income generated will be used for developing a sustainable shipping industry. Sustainable freight and passenger transport over water, including ferry services, will be encouraged. The use of shore-based power will be made compulsory for docked ships.
- The practice of mixing hazardous waste into other waste streams will be banned. Businesses will no longer be allowed to mix chemical waste into car fuel or fuel oil for the shipping industry.
- Commercial cruise ships are among the largest polluters on our planet. Therefore, an additional tax will be imposed on cruise ships, and the number of docking permits will be restricted.

A government that puts health first

The coronavirus pandemic has shaken everyone up and turned the world upside-down. The Party for the Animals has been warning everyone for years that our relationship with animals can lead to virus outbreaks in humans. Unfortunately, we have been proven right. It is time to re-evaluate our relationship with animals. More than ever, the pandemic has shown how vital our health is to our livelihood.

It has made us realise how vital social contact is and how vulnerable our current healthcare system is. The Party for the Animals wants to work towards a healthy society where everyone can eat nutritious food, exercise and live in a healthy environment with enough greenery and clean air. We need a society where we reduce the risk of a new pandemic, put the health of humans before commercial interests, and give our healthcare system enough space and time to provide care for everyone who needs it.



We currently live in an unhealthy environment where an increasing number of people are dealing with lifestyle-related conditions such as obesity, type 2 diabetes, lung disease and cardiovascular disease. These people are more vulnerable to falling victim to COVID-19 than other patients. Our basic health is being undermined by a failing policy. The government allowed industry and mobility to seriously pollute the air over the years and let the food industry do whatever it wanted. Unhealthy food has become so accessible and so cheap that our public health is suffering as a result.

Moreover, the coronavirus crisis mercilessly exposed the vulnerabilities in our healthcare system. The chronic shortage of healthcare personnel led to difficult choices once coronavirus patients started flooding the hospitals. Other healthcare services had to be scaled down or cancelled. There was an apparent shortage of aids and particularly healthcare staff, who were not only struggling with the excessive workload but also with the administrative burden. In recent years, pharmaceutical giants have continued to amass power, and one regional health insurer after another has merged into ever-greater conglomerations, while regional hospitals were being stripped down to the bare bones or closed altogether. The over-the-top market mechanism and privatisation have not improved the quality and capacity of healthcare facilities – quite the contrary!

We will deal with the obstacles that have been exposed and learn from the lessons the coronavirus crisis has taught us. The Party for the Animals wants to manage our healthcare system on a smaller scale, where the patient instead of profit comes first, and with healthcare employees behind the wheel. If we as a government take over the reins from the food industry and the sugar, alcohol and tobacco lobbies, we can create an environment that will contribute positively to our health. And to the affordability of healthcare: because no less than a third of our ever-increasing healthcare costs can be

attributed to lifestyle-related diseases. By putting an end to the increase in the number of chronic, lifestyle-related conditions, we can also put an end to sky-high healthcare costs.

With a healthy living environment and a properly organised healthcare system, we will have a solid foundation to work from, but prevention is always better than cure. Above all, we are going to reduce the risk of another pandemic ever breaking out.

Preventing pandemics: reduce the risk of zoonotic disease outbreaks

COVID-19 is a zoonotic disease, an illness that is transferred from animals to humans. Scientists have been warning us about this for a while: 75% of all new infectious diseases currently threatening human health are zoonoses. The way we handle animals, therefore, poses a significant risk. The Netherlands has the dubious honour of having the highest concentration of livestock in the world. Giant stables housing thousands of cooped-up animals are a pressure cooker for virus mutations. The impact of such a virus became evident with the coronavirus outbreak that spread from China to every corner of the globe through human contact. The two largest European outbreaks of zoonoses both took place in the Netherlands; the bird flu in 2003 and the Q fever outbreak between 2007 and 2010 where residents living in the vicinity of goat stables died or became seriously, chronically ill. The Netherlands wasn't prepared then, and the government failed to protect public health. The interests of goat farmers weighed too heavily, allowing Q fever to spread, resulting in severe consequences. The public health should have come first in this case.

Thanks to an accepted proposal from the Party for the Animals, from now on, the Minister of Health rather than the Minister of Agriculture will be responsible for managing the prevention of and combating diseases originating in animals.

But as long as we do not reduce the number of animals, the Dutch livestock industry will continue to be a ticking time bomb for a new pandemic. According to virologist Ron Fouchier from the Erasmus MC, we are only a few steps away from a mutation of the bird flu which, when it becomes contagious among humans, could lead to a mortality rate a dozen times higher than COVID-19. The Party for the Animals has been warning the government about this possibility since 2006.

How can we prevent a new and possibly even more serious epidemic? The chance of the outbreak of a zoonotic disease decreases when we let nature run its course and stop crowding animals in stables where viruses have free rein to mutate. The risk of a pandemic is much smaller in a healthy, green society with space for nature and without bio-industry.

- The number of animals in the livestock industry will be reduced by at least 75%. Animal transport will last no longer than two hours to minimise the risk of the development and spread of zoonoses.
- Animals that live deep in the forest suddenly come into contact with human beings when their habitats are destroyed by deforestation, allowing unknown diseases to be transmitted. The Netherlands will stop importing products that are the result of large-scale deforestation.
- Changes in the climate and the biodiversity crisis are throwing the world out of balance. Zoonoses and their rapid distribution are one of the many symptoms. Through climate change, exotic diseases also spread quicker throughout the world via insects, for example. In the interests of our health, we will do everything we can to minimise global warming to a maximum of 1.5 degrees Celsius and to prevent the destruction of our natural environment.
- Animals living in the wild can also carry unknown diseases with them. The Netherlands is a hub in the international

trade in exotic animals. Dealing with this illegal trade at logistics hubs such as Schiphol Airport and the Port of Rotterdam will be given priority.

- The Netherlands will actively share its knowledge on the international stage for the improvement of prevention and healthcare systems around the world.
- Sufficient capacity and expertise will be implemented in the Ministries of Health and Agriculture with regards to the zoonoses dossier.

Proper primary healthcare

Everyone wants to be healthy and stay healthy. That is why proper preventative measures are so critical. But the Dutch living environment is making us ill. The current food supply is mostly unhealthy. We breathe in polluted air and take the car rather than the bike, making our entire living environment subject to polluting motorised traffic.

This unhealthy environment is no coincidence. For years, powerful multinationals have been given free rein to sell their harmful products and generate a healthy profit in the process. The Dutch government has done nothing to prevent these marketing campaigns for unhealthy products. The public was dependent on public campaigns from the government for information about healthier eating and lifestyle habits; these campaigns had only a fraction of the marketing budgets the multinationals had. A lack of further policy led to an excess of cheap and unhealthy food on every street corner and a heavily polluted atmosphere. That makes living a healthy life a lot harder. So, it is no wonder that we suffer from widespread obesity, cardiovascular disease, lung disease, type 2 diabetes – over 1.1 million Dutch patients – and other, often chronic, conditions. Meanwhile, healthcare costs are rising dramatically and continue to do so every year, something that is publicly visible in the annual increase in health insurance premiums.

Even now, a third of those healthcare costs are the result of lifestyle-related conditions, and this number is expected to rise by billions of euros if we don't act now. The government must take control and clamp down on the power of the food industry and the tobacco lobby. Only then will healthcare costs decrease and the Netherlands become a country with healthier residents.

The food sector

You don't have to look far in the Netherlands to find fatty fast food. Fast-food chains and snack bars can be found on virtually every street corner and at every train station. To find organic, unprocessed foods, you have to travel farther and pay a lot more than you do for those processed snacks, which are full of sugar, salt and fat. The government allows supermarkets to offer endless promotions with unhealthy products, and children at schools can satisfy their hunger and thirst at the sponsored vending machines filled with soft drinks and sweets. It's time for change. We will put an end to the tyranny of the food industry. Our health will no longer take second place to the profit of multinationals; it will take precedent. We are going to make the food sector healthy again.

- Factory-produced food will be dealt with: legal standards will ensure that we eat less salt, sugar and fats. Until then, the promotion of these types of products will be banned.
- The marketing of products containing too much sugar, salt or fat to children will be forbidden. There will be no advertising for and with sweets and fast food aimed at children below the age of 12. This advertising includes newer forms of marketing, such as that done via influencers and vlogs.
- We will restrict the number of new establishments opened by fast-food chains and snack bars. In any case, they will not be allowed to open in the vicinity of schools.
- Producers of unhealthy food will be taxed more heavily, for example, by implementing a

sugar tax. In other countries, this has ensured that manufacturers add less sugar to their soft drinks.

- The current prevention agreement is a covenant in which the food industry has played a large part, with the result that little has changed. We will draw up a new prevention agreement that puts the health of the public first rather than the interests of the food industry.
- By no longer adding VAT to organic vegetables and fruits, we will make healthy food affordable and an attractive option once more.
- Misleading food labels will be abolished.
- Children who are not given breakfast at home for whatever reason will be allowed to have breakfast at school or in childcare. Only healthy snacks such as fruits and vegetables will be provided at these locations, and sugary drinks will no longer be served.
- Organic, locally grown school fruit and fresh lunches will replace vending machines selling soft drinks and sweets.
- Space will be made for neighbourhood vegetable gardens. These gardens will bring people back in touch with food, with nature and with their neighbours.
- Rather than the highest-bidding multinational, healthy products will be given the most prominent place on supermarket shelves.

A plant-based future starts now

Every week we see cut-rate, cheap meat products being promoted, while we already eat far too much meat. The high average meat consumption – 39 kilos per person per year – contributes to the rise of cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes as well as being linked to various types of cancer. The Health Council of the Netherlands has been advising people for years to eat less meat and to choose a vegetarian or plant-based alternative more often. By eating less meat, you're helping nature, the climate and, of course, the animals. It is high time to

make plant-based food the rule rather than the exception!

- The range of food products available will be geared toward sustainable options. Plant-based foods will become the standard, animal products the exception. The successful concept 'Carnivore? Let us know! ('Carnivoor? Geef het door!'; a campaign to change food consumption patterns by serving plant-based food at catered events by default unless attendees specifically request otherwise) is fully encouraged and will be adopted in all government agencies.
- Children will learn to eat a varied diet and eat plant-based foods at school.
- We will start a large-scale, long-term public campaign to highlight the advantages of plant-based and organic foods. The Voedingscentrum (Dutch nutrition centre) will be actively involved.
- Hospitals and nursing homes will serve healthy, plant-based and organic foods. Until then, at least one entirely plant-based meal option will be offered on the menu. Patients and residents will always have access to fresh fruit.
- The current Dutch lunch culture offers more opportunities for fruit and vegetable consumption. We are going to encourage company canteens to provide healthy meals by offering them tax incentives.
- Mobile government teams are going to develop tasty, plant-based meals and provide on-site workshops to large catering companies and canteens.
- The indiscriminate use of antibiotics in the livestock industry will be brought to an end as this practice leads to bacterial resistance. The bacteria become resistant to antibiotics, making it more difficult to treat infections. As long as this practice continues, consumers must be warned about the risks of multi-resistant bacteria and salmonella on the meat label.

A healthy living environment

Too much public space is designed around cars and traffic. Playing and participating in outdoor sports is healthy, but this is made difficult with cars constantly racing past. The life span of residents in our largest cities is, on average, a year shorter because of poor air quality. Nonetheless, strict measures have not yet been put into place to combat this. We want people to be able to participate in outdoor exercise more often without having to worry about unhealthy air due to automobile emissions, the burning of wood fuels, and the livestock industry. Cyclists and pedestrians will be given ample space and children should be able to play outside in a safe and stimulating environment. Football fields and youth centres encourage young people to exercise and engage in social activities.

- The current EU standards regarding air quality are not stringent enough to protect our health. That's why the much stricter WHO air quality standards will become legally binding instead.
- By making town centres solely accessible to local traffic, we will make the air cleaner. Areas where even the EU standards for air quality are not being met will be given priority.
- When wood is burned, various different hazardous, often carcinogenic substances that are damaging to the environment, the public health, and the climate are released into the atmosphere. The high emissions of fine particles can lead to serious health issues in children, older people and lung patients. Therefore, we will phase out the burning of wood fuels. Until then, a national standard for the burning of fuels will be adopted and enforced. During unfavourable weather conditions, such as mist or lack of wind, the burning of wood fuels will not be permitted.
- Starting from an early age, we will give more and better information to young people about the hazardous effects of alcohol use, and we will continue strict monitoring of the minimum

legal age of 18 years. Advertising for alcoholic drinks will be forbidden.

- We will work towards a smoke-free generation. The sale of cigarettes, e-cigarettes and other tobacco products will be licensed and only allowed at tobacconists' shops. The prices will be substantially increased.
- Safe, eco-friendly playgrounds will be made accessible for all children living in a residential area.
- In each neighbourhood, space will be created for sports facilities for young people, such as public football and basketball pitches and skate parks. Earlier cut-backs in the development of youth centres will be reversed.
- Sports will play a crucial role in our society. It not only improves our physical and mental well-being but also contributes to self-sufficiency, such as is the case with swimming. Sports also have an important social function in which sports clubs play a crucial role. The practice of sports in a club setting should be made possible for everyone. Sport canteens will be encouraged to offer primarily healthy food and drinks.
- The government will take responsibility for proper education about the health risks associated with soft drug use. No new coffee shops will be built within the vicinity of schools.

A less stressful life

People in the Netherlands face increasing pressure from their work environments. We're almost always in 'available' mode. Work and personal life are hardly distinguishable from each other, especially now that we work from home so much. We are constantly available via our smartphones, and social media drains our energy reserves. Young people also struggle. Now that the economy is struggling, many young people are worried about their futures, and they miss social activities and in-person classes at school

or university. Symptoms of mass depression and burnout are just around the corner. We must create an environment in which we can truly find peace of mind and become psychologically healthier. The rat race and the constant state of alertness will make way for tranquillity and caring for each other.

- Greenery does wonders in this regard. A living environment with plenty of nature reduces stress levels. Being in the outdoors reduces pain and negative emotions and should, therefore, be made accessible to everyone. Nature is energising and invites people to get moving. We are going to turn residential areas and cities into green spaces.
- Mental health starts at school. During lessons, time will be devoted to the pressures created by social media to look a certain way, wear certain clothes, or go to the right parties. The lessons will also focus on the difference between the images portrayed on social media and reality. Full attention will be given to bullying, and this type of behaviour will be actively discouraged by institutions such as schools, day-care centres and sports clubs.
- An extensive plan of action for mental well-being will be implemented, involving educational institutions and employer and employee organisations as well as healthcare professionals.
- An integral approach to suicide prevention involving the education, healthcare and social-economic sectors is needed to reduce the number of suicides.
- People who need mental healthcare regularly spend years on waitlists, deprived of timely and effective treatment. We will reduce the waitlists and wait times in the mental health services (GGZ) by investing in enough subsidised retraining and training opportunities, a reduction in the administrative burden, and a reduction in costs by encouraging professionals to enter paid employment. Until then, we will ensure that sufficient transitional care and additional temporary inpatient capacity will become available.

- Mental health services will become part of the healthcare programme in every neighbourhood.

Report problems early to prevent escalation

A family doctor or therapist should quickly see people with physical or mental symptoms. Timely intervention will prevent the situation from worsening or requiring specialised healthcare; this requires accessible healthcare and the idea that everyone is heard. The primary care services provided by family doctors, for example, are critical for the early diagnosis of conditions before intensive medication or surgery is required. The pressure on primary care has only increased over the past years. That pressure needs to decrease. That is better for both the patient and the healthcare professional.

- Lifestyle interventions, in which patients are advised on healthy nutrition and exercise, are expected to decrease the number of type 2 diabetes patients that require medication by 30 to 40%. These interventions can also reduce the risk of other conditions. We are going to thoroughly assess the effectiveness of lifestyle interventions and focus more on training family doctors and other healthcare professionals.
- The limited budgets provided by health insurers means that family doctors are limited in their provision of lifestyle interventions. Family doctors must be able to declare any costs for lifestyle consults.
- People stay away from the dentist for fear of large bills, while that only leads to far more expensive treatments in the long term. Dental care will be reintroduced to the basic healthcare package.
- General practices will remain easily accessible to everyone. We will intervene if excessive rental fees lead to family doctors having to relocate away from town centres and sought-after neighbourhoods.
- Fewer patients per family doctor will give the family doctor room to schedule longer

consults and listen to the patient. We will make sure that the standard number of patients per family doctor will be lowered.

- Compensation for contraceptives will be returned to the basic healthcare package for all ages.
- The HIV prevention medication PrEP will be made accessible and refundable for people at higher risk of HIV infection.
- Social work will be sufficiently supported by the government and further integrated into other healthcare services. If social workers can diagnose psycho-social symptoms in a timely fashion, worse problems can be nipped in the bud.
- The government will develop a campaign to encourage breast-feeding. We will adjust the expected growth curves of babies to accommodate this trend; current curves are based on bottle-fed babies. Employers will provide spaces for lactation and this will be properly monitored. More research will be conducted into the development of formula without cow's milk. Proper guidance and support from lactation consultants will become an important condition and should, therefore, be included in the basic healthcare package.
- Vaccinations will not be made compulsory, directly or indirectly. However, extensive information about vaccinations will be made available to the public.
- The maximum age for youth welfare services will be increased to 21 years. These services will be gradually scaled down after the age of 18.

Healthcare for everyone

The coronavirus crisis has shown how important healthcare is and how dependent we have become on multinationals for our medications and healthcare materials. While healthcare managers awarded themselves absurdly high bonuses, underpaid nurses worked long days with a pitiful one-time bonus as thanks for their efforts. One thing is clear: healthcare should not be market-driven. One in every six people

in our workforce works in the healthcare sector. Healthcare needs to be an attractive working environment. The turnover in the healthcare sector, however, is also high. A large portion of healthcare workers end their healthcare careers after a few years and do not return. The over-the-top bureaucracy has ensured that professionals in the field have increasingly less influence on processes and need to justify everything they do. Any time they spend filling out forms and protocols is time that cannot be devoted to patient care. We're going to turn this around. Management layers will be descaled, and we'll declare an end to the bureaucracy. We want more hands-on medical staff and more healthcare professionals at the helm, combined with a suitable increase in wages and a reduced workload. These measures will make the healthcare sector a more pleasant environment for patients as well. More care and freedom of choice for patients will lead to higher quality healthcare. That is why we will also strive to promote small-scale primary care and prevent the merging of large-scale hospitals. These measures will make bespoke healthcare accessible to everyone.

More care, less profit

Cut-backs, privatisation and marketisation have ensured that the healthcare sector is primarily geared towards the optimisation of profits. Pharmaceutical companies and management levels in increasingly large-scale hospitals are often more interested in making a profit than in the patients themselves. We are going to change this. We want staff to spend time at the patient's bedside rather than filling out reports behind their desks.

- We will immediately abolish the exorbitant pay, dividends and bonuses awarded at the top level of healthcare management. Management layers will be cut back where possible, and the resulting budget will be invested in the people actually administering the care.

- We will invest significantly in healthcare professionals: room for training and follow-up training and proper terms of employment should be a matter of course. Wages will increase. Healthcare employees will have a greater say in their work and their schedules. These measures will also make it more appealing for young people to choose a job in healthcare and remain there. Medical specialists will be paid standard wages.
- The market mechanism has led to a waste of funds, whilst the financing of the healthcare sector is under immense strain. A task force will be implemented to reduce redundancy in the healthcare sector on all fronts and to abolish incentives that do not make sense.
- There will be an increase in capacity in healthcare. More IC beds, equipment and, above all, more staff will improve the quality of care and ensure that we are capable of handling a potential future disease outbreak. We will stock up on crucial medications and medical aids. Essential materials and aids will be produced in Europe from now on.
- Regional hospitals will be financially healthy and will no longer be swallowed up in mergers. Such measures will ensure that proper healthcare remains accessible to everyone. Each regional hospital will have a delivery room available so that parents-to-be are always able to reach a hospital on time. Specialised hospitals will treat only complex healthcare cases.
- The breakdown of medication prices will be made public, and cheaper, generic medications will be used wherever possible to prevent sky-high medication prices. A monopoly on a type of medicine should not pose a barrier to its availability.
- Care under the Social Support Act (Wmo) and care for people with a disability will preferably be offered at a small-scale and regional level and will be the same for every municipality. The care you receive should not be dependent on which municipality you live in. Healthcare professionals who are operating under this act will receive better support and higher wages.
- The differences between municipalities

regarding the availability and quality of youth welfare services are unacceptable. Decentralisation came with irresponsible funding cuts. We will make sure that every municipality has sufficient means for an adequately organised youth welfare programme.

- Youth welfare waitlists will actively be dealt with.
- Caregivers will be supported both financially and by other resources, and increased counselling will be offered to mitigate the strain on caregivers. For the accessibility and evaluation of healthcare options, the role of caregivers will be taken into consideration.

Suitable health insurance

Health insurance companies have been given too much power. They decide where we should go for our healthcare and increase premiums time and time again as they rake in huge profits and inundate us with expensive advertising campaigns. The price of healthcare continues to rise, but the benefits are increasingly hard to find. We will make health insurance fair and in transparent again.

- Out-of-pocket deductions will be abolished.
- The national health insurance fund will be reinstated with extensive coverage, including dental hygiene, physiotherapy, and temporary as well as permanent contraceptives. The premium paid will become dependent on income. People who can afford private health insurance will need to use private health insurance, but we will cap premiums for these services as well. This system will make healthcare allowances redundant.
- The healthcare system and the associated compensation from insurers are too focused on surgeries, treatments and medications. Preventative measures – such as advice from dieticians, substance abuse counselling, and services to help stop smoking – will remain in the basic healthcare package and will be fully

compensated. Health insurers will provide compensation for other types of preventive measures: we will build a healthcare system that is more focused on counselling and guidance to keep us fit and healthy.

- We will put a limit to the profits that health insurers are allowed to make.

Consideration of every need

A patient is a person, not a number; and that is how we are going to treat people. From now on, anyone who has symptoms will find what they need in the Dutch healthcare system. The government will guarantee a wide selection of healthcare services. Healthcare will remain regionally accessible, and local hospitals will continue to exist. Making the management of these institutions a matter of regional governance may support this trend, but in the past, this has proved to be more of a cut-back measure in disguise. That will no longer be the case: municipalities will be given sufficient means to provide proper healthcare, means which will only be used to this end. The costs, execution and quality of care will be the same in every municipality.

- Living accommodations housing multiple generations will be encouraged through fiscal stimulus, and there will be more space for the development of other forms of cohabitation where people can care for each other.
- Care centres with a particular identity will be supported. Examples are elderly care institutions that take people who identify as LGBTIQ+ or people with different cultural backgrounds into consideration.
- More attention will be given to diversity during medical training, healthcare treatment options, and the development of medications. By diversity, we mean health-related differences in social-economic status, gender, cultural background, and ethnicity. Accessible, bespoke healthcare will be a guiding principle.

- It should be much easier for victims of domestic violence to report incidences and seek refuge in a crisis shelter. More emergency shelters must be implemented to facilitate this. Pets should also be welcome or should be cared for somewhere else at no extra cost via the shelter network. The police, youth welfare services, schools, and social district teams will focus on recognising domestic violence situations so that they can be detected at an early stage.
- The police and justice department will focus more on femicide. Measures will be taken to reduce the occurrence of femicide.
- The elderly will be able to choose between good quality care at home or a vacancy in an elderly care home. Enough district nurses will be available. We will reduce the long waitlists for elderly care homes by building more but smaller-scale residences, and by offering sufficient day activities for older people living at home.
- The freedom to use alternative therapies must be safeguarded. Conditions will be imposed on healthcare professional with regards to the provision of information about their qualifications and treatments.
- Home deliveries will remain a possibility everywhere, but it has to be a choice and not a necessity due to a lack of available delivery rooms in the area. The out-of-pocket contribution for outpatient deliveries will be eliminated so that everyone is free to make their own choice.
- Transgender people will be given extensive information from the doctors involved and more freedom of choice in hormone and surgical treatment options.

Living a full life

The Party for the Animals subscribes to the principle that people should have control over their own lives, certainly when it comes to their dying wishes. Society is also responsible for making sure that people don't start seeing

themselves as a burden to others or don't feel welcome within the community. Establishing a legal age limit for assisted dying would be arbitrary and would lead to grave societal consequences. We will focus our attention on re-evaluating old age and the prevention of loneliness among the elderly. Municipalities and care institutions will be given sufficient means to provide a pleasant living environment and enough activities for the elderly.

- In recent years, there has been extensive societal debate about assisted suicide, for people such as older people who consider their lives complete. The Party for the Animals values self-determination and believes that people should be able to decide for themselves when they wish to die with dignity. However, an extremely well-thought-out process should precede this choice.



Appropriate and affordable housing in green surrounding

The coronavirus crisis has caused a lot of Dutch people to think about their housing wishes and opportunities. The lockdown and working from home trend has made it clear that people crave nature and a green living environment. It has also become apparent that in recent years, we have encroached far too much on that green living space. Anyone looking for a breath of fresh air soon finds themselves in an overcrowded park. More greenery is critical to the quality of life. Young families say that more space and quiet around them literally and figuratively gives them more room to breathe. The trend that had already started before the coronavirus hit was that more people were starting to look for a home outside the city. There is enough space in the Netherlands for quality and affordable housing in a pleasant living environment. What is needed, however, is for the political system to pluck up enough courage to make clear choices. The Party for the Animals will make that choice. Instead of creating monocultures for the livestock industry, we will create natural areas and space to live. We will ensure a green and healthy living environment where people can live together in harmony in affordable homes in spaciouly laid-out green neighbourhoods.

A roof over your head is a basic human right. Nonetheless, a lot of people have trouble finding a home. The housing crisis has never been this great: one million homes will need to be added by 2030 to put an end to this crisis. The ‘free’ housing market seems to be mostly free for rack-renting landlords and speculators. Regular buyers and tenants are left by the wayside. Moreover, the current housing situation is not geared towards future demographic developments. There is an increasing need for one-person homes, but also for multi-generational accommodations where children, parents and grandparents can live together and take care of each other. Free housing market? It’s time once again for public housing!

Moreover, we are faced with a massive challenge in making our homes more sustainable and our living environments greener to achieve our climate goals and meet the consequences of climate change such as increased temperatures and heavy rainfall. Too little has been done in this regard in recent years: outdoor spaces are paved over, trees are chopped down, and solar panels on roofs are unfortunately still the exception rather than the rule.

The Party for the Animals wants to resolve the housing shortage sustainably. We want students to live in affordable rooms in converted office buildings and flexible accommodations. We want young families to find a rental or mortgaged house that fits their family situation. We want born-and-bred city people not to be driven away from their city homes. And we want older people to live out their lives in single-floor homes tailored to their needs. That requires radical choices. We’re not going to survive with small changes. We can only make bespoke housing available for everyone through a better distribution of space in the Netherlands. We can no longer explain why the Netherlands wants to be the world’s dairy farmer and butcher, exporting cheese to Canada and pigs to China, while there is barely room left for the Dutch population to live and the biodiversity

drastically decreases. No less than two-thirds of the total surface area of the Netherlands is used for agriculture. In most cases, this land is used for the cultivation of animal feed that not only literally swallows the available ground whole but also facilitates the emission of fine particles, nitrogen and greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. All those vast green swatches of English ryegrass and silage maize serve no other purpose than to feed the overabundance of animals in the livestock industry, depriving people, animals, trees and plants of the space necessary for a natural living environment. At the same time, homes and nature areas are scarce. There are plenty of opportunities here. By keeping fewer animals in the livestock industry, we can convert some of the Dutch agricultural fields to make room for other land uses. For the most part for nature areas, but also for the construction of homes so that we can meet the housing need. Together with the conversion of transformation areas into residential areas and the densification of urban areas where possible without disrupting the greenery and liveability of the area, we can generate enough space to provide the necessary homes at an affordable price with a quality boost for the landscape. We will create space for nature and the construction of houses without denying anyone anything while improving the living climate, living environment and biodiversity.

Better space distribution: more homes!

The housing market has completely stagnated. The demand for homes is greater than the supply, and many people are no longer able to find an affordable home. The housing market should no longer revolve around generating maximum profit for investors but around public housing: finding a suitable home for everyone! We will ensure the availability of enough affordable housing that can easily be transformed as the demand for homes changes.

In the Netherlands, the landscape is under great

pressure. We urgently need more space for our natural environment. Climate measures also require space. That is why it is essential for us to take a critical look at the current division of land in our country, and replace our current, visionless land policy with a sustainable plan. We need a fairer, smarter, and more sustainable distribution of land in urban areas. Examples are splitting up houses, making use of vacant spaces, limiting the renting out of homes to tourists and encouraging households to share living space instead of discouraging people from different households from living together.

To keep the cities habitable, we will not develop areas where there is little greenery or where the pressures on the existing infrastructure are already high. Where there is room for densification, we will invest in extra greenery to keep the city habitable. We will primarily focus on transformation areas. By restructuring business parks to accommodate two or even three different land uses, these areas will be used much more effectively, making expansion unnecessary. We will convert obsolete business areas into green residential areas. Offices and shops that continue to remain vacant will be converted into living spaces. This entails accepting that not everyone can live in and around the historic city centres. If we can build in cities, then we will choose to build houses rather than hotels or offices as we do now. These measures will help resolve the housing crisis, but it will not be enough!

It is impractical and indefensible that almost half of Dutch soil is used for the livestock industry while our natural environment wastes away, and we are faced with a distressing shortage of living space. By helping farmers convert to sustainable agriculture, land will become available that we can then distribute more equitably. We will convert most of this land into nature areas for biodiversity recovery. This will also provide more space for homes in or instead of former farms and on the outskirts of existing residential areas, without this coming at the expense of the

liveability, landscape, cultural history, and the natural environment of the area.

In this way, more people will be able to live in a pleasant green environment while we resolve the housing shortage issue at the same time. And the city will always be nearby. With proper public transport connections and cycling highways, we will make sure that the urban areas remain easily accessible for everyone. By working more often from home and conducting meetings online when your work permits it, commuting to and from work every day is no longer required in many cases. Formerly shrinking regions will become appealing again and will be given a fresh boost. The increased number of residents in these areas will form a lifeline for the facilities whose existence was threatened by the decreasing number of residents, such as supermarkets, primary schools, hospitals and libraries.

- We will make room for housing.. By opting for a drastic reduction in the number of animals in the livestock industry, we will free up plenty of agricultural lands and buildings (and finally put an end to the odour problem). This will not only allow nature to recover but creates space for homes. A proper public transport system and high-speed cycling connections will ensure maximum, sustainable accessibility.
- To facilitate this creation of living space, a ‘living space ladder’ will be developed. First, existing structures will be used more efficiently, for example by converting office buildings, making use of existing vacant spaces and encouraging people to move up the housing ladder. Then we will look for opportunities for the densification of urban areas, in areas where liveability will not be compromised. Finally, construction will take place on the outskirts of existing residential areas. In areas where the natural environment will not be adversely affected, agricultural buildings can be converted into homes. Public transport investments will ensure proper accessibility to these areas.

- Business parks that are no longer in use or cause too much inconvenience to the surrounding residential areas will be transformed into residential areas and green spaces such as parks, or into areas with a combination of clean, circular businesses and homes. The liveability of the area and the effects on the city infrastructure will be taken into consideration. The green area surrounding cities will remain green.
- The shortage of student housing will be resolved by quickly creating sustainable housing, preferably in vacant buildings such as office buildings. In areas with an acute housing shortage, temporary accommodations can be introduced, provided they're sustainable and fully recyclable.
- Buildings will be constructed in such a way that they can easily be converted for another type of use.
- Vacant office buildings will be redeveloped and given another function, as housing, for example. The construction of new office buildings and business parks will be discouraged. Experiments with living arrangements and communities can be conducted on former farms, where young and old can live together and support each other.
- Multi-generational housing will be encouraged, and a substantial part of new builds will be reserved for this purpose, just like other types of housing where living and care are combined.
- It should be easier to take out a mortgage with more than two people, and this should be possible at all mortgage providers.
- We are against the 'boxification' of our landscape. The construction of distribution centres and large office buildings will be suspended. No new industrial buildings will be built as long as empty industrial buildings are still available in the region.

Putting an end to speculation

Houses are meant to live in, not to be used to generate a profit. The housing market has hit a

brick wall, while a small group of people makes vast amounts of money from the current housing need. Some speculators own hundreds of houses. We will discourage rack-renting and speculation by implementing measures for the distribution of homes at a local level.

- Affordable owner-occupied homes are nowhere to be found, especially in large cities. By implementing a residency obligation and setting a maximum on the number of buildings an individual or business in a city may own, we will break up the housing sector and make it accessible for people who are actually looking to live in a home.
- Regulations will be put into place for the temporary renting out of living space to tourists. Municipalities will be given room to limit holiday rentals and even prohibit holiday rentals when they are a source of disturbance and degradation in the area.
- A levy on vacant buildings and lots in construction projects will make it unappealing to keep buildings empty and to speculate with construction sites.
- Rental prices will also be limited in the free market sector.
- The conveyance tax will still be differentiated: investors pay more, residents pay less. The conveyance tax will be reimbursed wholly or in part if buyers have made their home energy-neutral within a year.
- The government will crack down on fraudulent rental scams and rent-racking practices.

A suitable home for everyone

Moving up the housing ladder will be made easier by offering enough homes in every segment of the housing market. The fact that some people now have to wait 15 years for social housing is unacceptable. By improving the general flow and building more houses, we will reduce these waitlists. This will allow young people who would like to stay in their home town to remain in their familiar surroundings

and thus contribute to the social cohesion in city neighbourhoods.

- A Ministry for Housing and Spatial Planning will be implemented.
- We will build more social housing. With a financial incentive from the central government, housing corporations will be assisted in their task of building new homes.
- By raising the maximum income level, social housing will become available to more people.
- A growing number of people are struggling with high rents. We will freeze rental fees for the next five years.
- We will limit the market mechanisms operating in the rental sector by putting a cap on prices. Rental homes in the private sector will also fall under the home appraisal system. The appraised value of a house (WOZ-waarde) will no longer be taken into consideration in the home appraisal system. This will prevent homes in popular areas from gaining too many points with skyrocketing rental fees as a result. These measures will decrease the rental prices.
- Social housing will no longer be sold off unless it is replaced on a one-on-one basis in the same municipality. In this regard, the proper distribution of social housing per district will be taken into consideration.
- Gentrification will be combated with the development of mixed neighbourhoods, where residents with different incomes, backgrounds and lifestyles come together. The character of these neighbourhoods and the rights of the people who already live there will be protected.
- Evictions and out-of-home placements will be prevented by offering adequate and timely debt counselling. Immediate out-of-home placement due to late payments will be prohibited.
- Nobody should have to sleep on the streets. Each municipality will have sufficient free beds for those who need them, including self-sustaining homeless people. In adverse or cold weather conditions, a pet should

never be grounds for refusal when taking in a homeless person. A suitable shelter such as an animal shelter, for example, will be found for pets if they cannot be taken in by the homeless shelter.

- People without a valid residency permit will receive day and night shelter and will receive legal and social counselling. Municipalities will receive support from the central government to facilitate this.

Green cities and villages

Green surroundings make us happier and healthier, but there is not enough greenery in and around our cities. This fact became abundantly clear during the first weeks of the coronavirus crisis when even city parks had to be closed off, and visits to nature reserves were restricted. That is why we are going to implement more accessible nature areas around the cities and radically introduce greenery into towns and villages. Green facades, roofs, pavements, canopies, natural playgrounds, neighbourhood vegetable gardens: they all make life in urban areas more pleasant and more social. Now that we see a rise in the number and duration of heatwaves, green in urban areas is particularly important for providing shade. During heavy rains, that same greenery helps prevent flooding. Moreover, urban nature attracts animals and making our living environment green gives a much-needed boost to Dutch biodiversity.

We must also develop a Delta plan for renewing nature. The Netherlands is home to about 300 million trees; that's 17 trees per resident. We need to treasure those trees because it takes years before a tree is large enough to become truly valuable. But every time we find new reasons to chop down trees. Dutch elm disease, the oak processionary caterpillar, the European spruce bark beetle, road expansion and construction projects are all reasons why trees are not safe in the Netherlands. Therefore, the Party for the Animals wants to strive for a substantial growth

of our forests and the protection of existing trees.

- A large tree removes CO2 from the air, promotes biodiversity, has a mitigating effect on flooding and drought, and has the same cooling power as ten energy-guzzling air conditioners in warm conditions. We should be planting trees instead of chopping them down! We will enforce stricter criteria for felling permits and encourage the large-scale planting of trees: at least one new tree per inhabitant per year, not only in natural areas but especially in urban areas.
- Each year, the cabinet further decreases the annual government budget for greenery and recreation without good reason. We are a long way from meeting the challenge of providing enough accessible greenery, as the overcrowded parks during the coronavirus crisis have shown us. We are going to make sure that there is enough money available to preserve and create nature reserves. Because we urgently need more natural environments, both in large interconnected areas and in and around our urban areas.
- New building projects will be made nature-inclusive through measures such as green roofs and walls, nesting opportunities for animals, trees and shrubs in the street and natural play areas just around the corner. Consideration for nature will be compulsory for the renovation and insulation of existing buildings. If, for example, a nesting opportunity for birds is no longer available because of roof insulation, an alternative needs to be found nearby.
- Each municipality should meet the standard of at least 50 m2 quality green per resident.
- Vacant lots will be actively used for urban agriculture, the development of natural areas, tiny forests, food forests, and collectively managed parks and natural playgrounds. Sites that have not been assigned a purpose will be developed as bee and butterfly-friendly meadows.
- Municipalities will give support to residents'

ideas for green initiatives and will not create barriers to their implementation.

- Permit proposals for construction plans will be denied if the quality of the living environment is at stake. This also applies to permits for renovations or below-ground construction.
- We will encourage and inform citizens about ways to add green to their gardens. Municipalities will set an example and will remove tiles from paved areas to make way for more greenery. The construction of green facades, green roofs and detaching rainwater run-off from the sewer grid (using bioswales, for example) will be encouraged through subsidies.
- Government institutions will maintain public spaces without the use of hazardous substances. They will take measures against litter and the illegal dumping of garbage on the street and in municipal green areas.
- The protection of our public health, the environment and the landscape should come first in the Environment and Planning Act. The proposed act cannot take effect until appropriate agreements have been made in this regard.

An energy-neutral housing stock by 2030: we can do it!

The built-up environment is currently responsible for 30% of national CO2 emissions. We still have a lot of ground to cover to meet our climate goals. If we are smart about our approach, our housing stock will be energy-neutral by 2030. Making our existing homes more energy-efficient generally leads to greater living comfort. The challenge to make our homes energy-efficient requires a notable investment from the government and homeowners alike. But every tonne of CO2 we continue to emit will cost us more in the future – as it contributes to the worsening of climate change – than any sustainability efforts we undertake now. At the same time, sustainable investments will pay for themselves in the long term. That is why this will

be given the highest priority. It is time for a Delta plan for sustainability with smart, measurable goals. The techniques are already available and have become more feasible and affordable in recent years. Therefore, setting this development in motion is primarily a matter of political will!

- All new building projects will be gas-free, at least energy neutral and, where possible, energy positive. These buildings will compensate for the older buildings that cannot be made energy-neutral before 2030.
- We don't have to produce energy that we don't use. That is why we will commit ourselves fully to energy conservation, where we strive to decrease energy consumption by 65% by the year 2030. We will do this by insulating homes on a large scale, providing better education about conscientious energy usage, and establishing requirements relative to the energy consumption of domestic appliances and lights.
- Housing corporations will be allowed to keep their landlord levy if the amount is used for sustainable housing and for overdue maintenance on houses. This will lead to reduced energy consumption and greater living comfort. A clear step-by-step plan will be drawn up to make the housing corporations' housing stock energy-neutral by 2030. The landlord levy will eventually be abolished.
- We will start putting our roofs to good use. Solar panels on buildings will become the standard. All new builds will be equipped with solar panels and green roofs, and the storage of rainwater will be made compulsory for new builds, as is already the case in Belgium.
- Insulation and improving the sustainability of homes will be made financially attractive by increasing subsidies and sustainability loans that will ensure that the monthly costs remain the same. Moreover, renovations to improve energy efficiency will fall under the lower VAT rate.
- Proper regulation, including fiscal agreements, will be made for the generation

and storage of energy at a district level. Such rules will allow entire districts to generate and share their energy sources.

- Government buildings will meet class A energy rating standards or will be renovated to meet these standards.
- Property taxes (ozb) will be differentiated according to the energy rating and energy consumption of the property.
- We will maintain the current system of giving compensation for the excess production of clean energy. Any electricity that you generate yourself must be returned to the central electricity grid and subtracted from the price that you pay for your energy. Tax-free!

Sustainable construction

Traditional construction materials such as concrete and steel have a large carbon footprint. In recent years, the construction sector has worked hard to improve recycling, innovations and techniques that use less energy, and materials that can easily be reused. We are going to take full advantage of these developments by promoting the implementation of bio-based construction.

- We will build towards a circular construction sector. Recycled and natural materials will be used as much as possible, and buildings will come with a materials passport, so that the materials can be reused after demolition. These practices will also apply to the renovation and insulation of existing buildings.
- Construction materials will be produced using methods that are as climate and environmentally friendly as possible, and we will choose the least harmful materials during contracting.
- Self-sufficient living arrangements, communities and 'off-the-grid' homes such as Tiny Houses will be encouraged. Laws and regulations that discourage such sustainable initiatives will be amended accordingly.

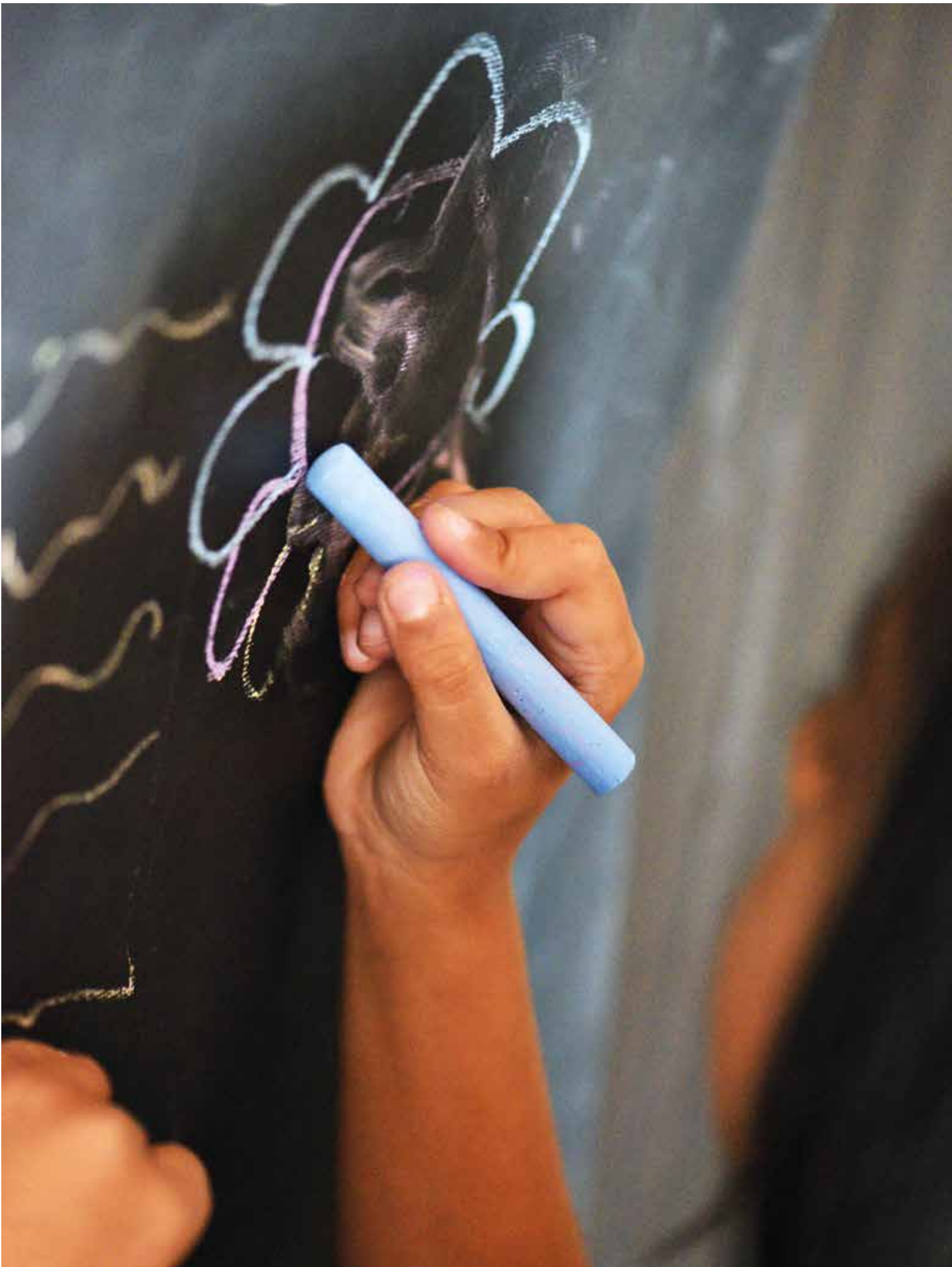
8 More knowledge, wisdom and beauty

87

Education, science and culture

Accessible, quality education is fundamental to a free, democratic society.

Education could do a lot better than it is now. We currently have a severe shortage of teachers. Teachers are overworked and underpaid. The progression of students from secondary to tertiary education is stagnating. Students are burdened with sky-high debts from the 'social loan system' while their professional careers haven't even begun yet. Special needs education has been stripped down to the bare bones. There is much damage to be repaired. The Party for the Animals believes that anyone who wants or feels the need to develop their talents should be able to do so for the rest of their lives. Our starting point is that you should be able to develop yourself to a level that fits you. That is a valuable right for every individual but also society at large.



Sustainability, food, nature, environmental education and animal welfare are going to be the pillars in our transition to a sustainable society. These fields of expertise will, therefore, become an integral part of the lessons given at primary and secondary school level. Ample attention will be devoted to these areas during teacher training. We will also strive to improve language and math skills, freeing up time and space to encourage reading for pleasure.

The coronavirus crisis has had a profound impact on our education system. We will remember the lessons we have learned, such as arranging distance learning opportunities and classroom management. The importance of smaller classes has become evident. The negative effects of the pandemic, such as the lack of social contact or students falling behind, require a significant catch-up effort and extra investment. Adequate health measures are also needed. Students and teachers are entitled to a safe learning and working environment.

- The arrears incurred in the learning process and other fields require extra investment. The coronavirus crisis should not be allowed to further increase differences in the student population.
- The government will support the education sector in making in-person education possible. Physical learning environments will be adapted to become corona-proof. The educational institutions that are responsible for this enormous task will be given an extra budget allowance to do so. The employees will have the final say in this.
- Reading for pleasure will be encouraged by doing a better job of linking reading to the students' interests. Reading will also be encouraged by the presence of sufficient local and public libraries. Instead of closing libraries, we should be investing in them.
- Schools will educate their students about sex, gender, and sexual diversity (hereafter referred to as LGBTIQA+). The skills required to promote the acceptance of people who

identify as LGBTIQA+ will become part of teacher training courses. Initiatives that will make the education system LGBTIQA+-friendlier will be supported. If schools fail to do so, the schools inspectorate will get involved.

- Schools will devote more attention to the trans-Atlantic slave trade, our colonial history, and the history of labour migration to the Netherlands.
- Freedom of education may not be used to discriminate. Declarations of intent to reject homosexuality are unacceptable. Article 23 of the Constitution will be adapted.
- Information and teaching packages about sustainability, food, nature, environmental education and animal welfare will be made available for educational institutions.
- Lesson material from the fossil fuel industry, hunters, recreational fishing sector, the bio-industry, or other potentially disruptive sectors will be excluded.
- Producers of learning materials will present a representative reflection of the diversity within our society in their educational material for all subjects. Agreements will be made with publishers about this representation. Diversity and inclusion should always be considered.
- 100% organic school canteens and lunch meals will be implemented in educational institutions. Free lunch meal programmes will also be introduced. The rule will be that meat and other animal products become the exception and not the standard on the menu. If you want to eat meat, you need to let your school know: Carnivore? Let us know!
- Primary and secondary schools will offer lessons in digital literacy, where students will learn how to use the Internet and other types of media. Learning to recognise fake news is part of this programme. Philosophy will also be taken up in the standard curriculum, and more time will be made available for art and drama.
- Activities such as school swimming lessons, sports lessons, cultural lessons (theatre, dance, music, painting etc.) and school

gardens will be amply facilitated. Extra funds will be made available for these activities.

- Outdoor lessons will be encouraged because studies have shown that such classes have a positive influence and promote exercise. The combination of natural daylight and fresh air also ensure that children can concentrate better in class afterwards.
- Free childcare for children up to the age of four years for four days a week will become a part of the primary education offered by the government.
- In addition to physical education, room will be provided throughout the entire educational system for the mental development of students, for example, by increasing compassion.
- Segregation in education will be combated. Labels such as 'black' or 'white' school will no longer be used. Moreover, ways will be found to educate children from diverse backgrounds (such as in terms of migration and social-economic status) within the same classroom.

Invest, invest, invest

The government must invest in teaching staff and schools. The Party for the Animals believes that money should be made available for lowering the workload, the creation of extra development opportunities, and higher wages. Before the coronavirus crisis, increased investments were required to reduce the workload and adjust class sizes to fit the type of education. That means in practice that a decrease in class size is more than desirable. The school, in line with the coronavirus measures, will determine the class size. The board of representatives will be given right of approval, however.

Truly investing in education also means that a full-time position should have a maximum of 20 teaching hours. This reduction in hours will give teaching staff enough time to prepare and grade lessons and develop themselves professionally. As a result, the demand for teachers will only

increase, and considering the teacher shortage we're currently facing, that is all the more reason for heavy investments. The number of new teaching staff choosing to leave the profession is presently too high. That is a shame, considering the energy invested in their education, and it will be no longer be an issue if more time is made available for counselling and coaching. New teaching staff will, therefore, be intensively guided by experienced teachers.

- To deal with the shortage of teachers, we will reduce the workload and raise the wages for teachers.
- The workload will not only be dealt with through increased investments but in particular by making teachers owners of their work. The number of teaching hours will be decreased to a maximum of 20 hours per week, so teachers will have more time to organise their lessons.
- The compensation in primary education will be brought in line with the wages in secondary education and ESL teachers will also be given a collective agreement. This will put an end to the wage gap.
- More facilities will be made available for the coaching and counselling of new teachers.
- Merging schools into factory-like institutions will no longer be acceptable. It will become easier for schools to operate independently outside of the greater scope of a school district.

Schools will not be measured by their grades

The Party for the Animals wants education to be geared towards the development of cognitive skills, but also the development of all talents, including social, emotional, motor and creative skills. These skills cannot be expressed in grades.

Schools should by definition not be focused on output, standardisation, control, competition and other business management models, but on the development of the individual student. That will

require investments in the short term that will benefit everyone in the long run. Moving up to the next level in education will be made easier instead of harder.

- Teachers, students and parents will be given much more autonomy in defining school policy.
- Students will be given a say in the curriculum so that they can contribute to their lesson programmes.
- The standard required number of hours will be eliminated, and schools can adapt the number of hours individually to meet exam standards.
- Primary schools will be given the freedom to abandon the final exam if they can show that all the conditions have been met in another way.

Focus on inclusive education

The Party for the Animals wants smaller classes to be able to provide inclusive education that meets everyone's needs. We feel that it is a duty to give students the attention they need to receive instruction in a place that fits in with their talents and possibilities. The output-oriented approach in education has played a role in the fact that class sizes in schools have continued to grow. Budget cuts led to a further lack of focus on specific groups. The numerous regulations are part of the reason why our current system of inclusive education doesn't function properly. Children stay at home and become isolated because of the cut-backs on inclusive education. This trend needs to be reversed, and studies need to be conducted into how inclusive education can be improved.

- Increased investments will be made in inclusive education, leading to more staff in the classroom, smaller classes, more expertise in schools and more attention for individual students.
- Care teams at schools will be large enough. They will have the expertise to deal with the diversity of subjects that come with bespoke

education, such as counselling for learning difficulties and exceptionally intelligent students but also counselling with regards to social-emotional functioning. This will also be incorporated into the curriculum for teacher training courses.

Lower the pressure on students

The Party for the Animals wants students to be able to take their time to develop. However, the pressures faced by students continue to grow. They need to learn faster, borrow more money and find useful work experience to build up their CVs during their studies. The coronavirus crisis has only increased these pressures. This means that the prevention of psychological problems is essential. We need to actively work on changing a culture where the taboos around psychological issues surrounding failure during studies need to be addressed.

- An annual evaluation of student welfare will be conducted within the scope of prevention, early signalling and breaking taboos.
- Every student will be given direct and easy access to a study advisor, student dean or confidential advisor.
- The number of student psychologists will be increased so that students can receive support in a timely fashion.

The basic grant will return

The Party for the Animals has always resisted the 'social loan system' that has been implemented with the help of 'progressive parties.' Increasing numbers of young people are burdened with sky-high debts even before their working life begins. Proper education is essential for society as a whole and should not be an individual's obligation to make this investment themselves. The Party for the Animals feels it is important to adequately compensate students who have fallen victim to

the loan system through a discount on student loans, for example.

- The 'social loan system' will be abolished, and the basic grant will return. Tuition fees will be reduced significantly.
- Generous compensation measures will be implemented for the generation of 'loan system' students.
- Tuition fees will be the same for all students, regardless of the number of earlier studies or diplomas. A compensation arrangement will be set up for students who missed the boat with the new discount arrangement on tuition fees for first-year students.
- Studies will be conducted into whether a development budget for each Dutch citizen is an appropriate potential application of the basic grant. Such a development budget would give every Dutch citizen enough funds to complete an academic education and could be used according to individual needs. University students will have used up their development budget by the time they receive their diploma. MBO (intermediate vocational education) students can make use of the budget at a later point in time to follow any additional courses.
- We will work towards equal educational opportunities for everyone. This means that when developing such a development budget, we will first look at the budget for those who have not been able to make use of educational opportunities up until now.
- Flexible studies will make it easier for students to spend a year combining their studies with a management function or membership on a board, caring for others or other social work, without losing their tuition fees for that year. With the implementation of flexible studies, the interests of the students come first.

Accessible education for everyone

Making education accessible for everyone is a core value. That value is now under pressure.

Accessible education is the only way of reducing the current disparity in our society. This applies to every type of school, but in particular to the transition to other forms of education. Secondary education, including vocational training, is of vital importance to our society. This importance has only increased now that the energy transition requires large investments. The great need for sustainable facilities alone is one example. But such training courses do not always receive the recognition they deserve, while they are the foundation of a sustainable society. The training and retraining of technical personnel in the fields of sustainable energy, sustainable construction and sustainable food are of critical importance. By encouraging combined work and learning opportunities, new technical professionals will be immediately ready to join the workforce.

- Exemption from tuition fees in the first year of MBO courses will help to reduce the scarcity in the workforce of qualified personnel in specific fields (until the development budget has been implemented).
- The moving up of MBO students to tertiary education will be improved through increased collaboration between HBO (higher vocational education) and MBO institutions.
- The public transport pass for students will be converted into a gift and will remain valid as long as the students receive financial aid.
- Universities and institutions of higher education will be further democratised: students and teachers will be given more influence via the boards of representatives. Administrators will be elected instead of being appointed by the minister.
- Opportunities will be made available for the accumulation of credits via volunteer work.
- An officially recognised course will be developed for nature-inclusive agriculture.

Education free of animal testing

The use of animals in secondary and tertiary education, in dissection classes, demonstrations

and tests will be ended. In the meantime, the government will ensure the students' right to refuse the exploitation of animals for educational purposes. This includes secondary education.

- An ongoing campaign will be introduced to make students and educational institutions aware of the rights of conscientious objection to animal testing and the available alternatives.
- Students in medical and biomedical courses will be educated in and with alternative methods to animal testing.

Scientific research as an independent, free sector

The independence and quality of scientific research will be protected and expanded. Science may not become subject to market regulations or profitability considerations. To increase the quality and impartiality of scientific research, a larger portion of this research will be financed via stable, long-term financial frameworks. The pressure on universities and higher vocational schools to produce has also become too great. The government budget for first and second-flow research funding will, therefore, be increased on a structural basis, giving not only professors but also researchers and graduate students enough time to complete their work.

- The government will invest extra money in fundamental research. Financing via second and third-flow funding will be reduced. Matching requirements for research from commercial clients will be limited.
- Stricter impartiality conditions will be implemented for the appointment of special chairs that are financed by commercial institutions or civil organisations and foundations.
- Scientific research should be publicly financed and must therefore be made more accessible to the public. The Open Access and Open Science movements will be supported and

funded. Scientific articles and reports that have been funded by public money should also be free and easily accessible.

- A public register of the related activities of all researchers at universities and higher vocational schools will be drawn up. The ethics committees of educational institutions will monitor any conflicts of interest in teaching staff, particularly concerning any related commercial activities in the fiscal, corporate or economic sciences.
- Research and academic work that leads to a change in economic thinking will be encouraged. Projects that strive to promote more plurality and diversity in economic courses at university level will be supported.

Make art, culture and heritage accessible to everyone

Creativity and freedom of expression are core values for an open society. Art and culture form an unmistakable foundation for a free life in which new avenues can be explored and where people can develop themselves to the fullest. Art and culture give rise to reflection and emotion; they move us and shake us. Art encourages people to think outside the box. Art and culture give new meaning to society, and so also to our economy. They point the way to the transformation, change and innovation society needs to survive. We expressly want to involve the cultural sector in societal issues. For this reason, we will strive to restore the heart of a free society: a flourishing art and cultural sector. During the coronavirus crisis, the wrong choices have been made. Fossil fuel-driven companies should not be the recipient of billions of euros; that money should go to the arts and culture sector. The harsh cut-backs in recent years and the coronavirus crisis have jeopardised the survival and accessibility of art, culture and heritage, and this urgently has to be righted.

- The budget for art, culture and heritage will be increased to make art and culture

accessible to every Dutch citizen. The government will facilitate the provision of art and culture opportunities throughout the Netherlands, not just in the Randstad.

- The central government will encourage municipalities to make cultural participation a standard part of their welfare policy. At a local level, well-distributed, accessible, affordable and varied facilities will become available.
- We will invest in the maintenance and re-opening of free public libraries. The digitisation of the archives of cultural and historical organisations will be encouraged.
- Visiting a museum should be financially accessible for all citizens.
- In addition to pop music, other music genres should have unmitigated support. An equitable distribution of support is required across the various music genres. This includes a proper podium policy, room for all music genres within the Council for Culture and the Podium Arts Fund, attention for the income position of musical artists and, in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, efficient support for the export of the Dutch music sector.
- Copyright law and copyright contract law will be modernised to strengthen the position of authors and artists. Platforms that make money off the provision of films and music will pay out part of their profits to the entitled authors and artists.
- The central government will promote the re-assignment of monuments and will encourage municipalities to draw up cultural-historical and archaeological value maps. Historically valuable buildings will not be demolished but will be renovated in a nature-inclusive manner.
- The government will promote the restoration of cultural landscapes, such as the renovation or implementation of field margins and wooded banks via a generous support programme.
- Culture and music education will be given a permanent place in primary, secondary and intermediate vocational curriculums. Schools will become a place where the

neighbourhood, parents, cultural institutions, libraries, art centres, museums, clubs and theatres come together.

- We will proactively seek out collaboration with various civic networks, councils and organisations in the cultural sector in considering the challenges facing our society.

Protect journalism

Independent, pluriform journalism and media, both locally and nationally, are essential for the proper functioning of a democratic society, not only in the Netherlands but also internationally. The Party for the Animals, therefore, believes that the media should be adequately supported and protected.

- Old and new media forms can draw on the media stimulus funds.
- No further cutbacks will be made on public and regional media channels.



9 A just society

With a government that listens to people, rather than listens in on people

The Party for the Animals stands for a society where everyone can live freely, as long as that freedom does not come at the expense of others. Equal treatment is a constitutional right and a condition for a society where everyone feels at home. Regardless of ethnic background, nationality, social status, religion, belief, gender, language, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, mental and physical acuity or disabilities, and health: we are all equal. The government must deal harshly with discrimination and exclusion. Democratic freedom of speech and an open justice system are essential foundations for a free society.

Unfortunately, freedom and equality are not a matter of course. Article 1 of the Constitution – everyone is equal in the eyes of the law – only achieves meaning once the government acts accordingly. It is a battle that has been raging for centuries, and one that sadly enough continues to be fought to this day. The government keeps dropping the ball and then places it in the hands of the public. At the same time, an ever-growing movement exposes the areas where discrimination and racism are rooted in our society. We need to face these issues and resolve them, and the government needs to lead the way. The Party for the Animals stands for an inclusive society where everyone is equal, is given equal opportunities, and where no one needs to feel left out.

Everyone deserves the same opportunities. Our rule of law exists to make sure that all citizens are treated fairly and equally and to protect society from other interests. We saw this during the Urgenda Climate Case when the judge ruled that the Netherlands was obligated to meet its climate goals for 2020. The rule of law is a major public good, and it should remain accessible for everyone. Until now, we have seen that the government is becoming less and less involved, as they assume that citizens can figure it out for themselves, and we have seen cutbacks in our judicial system. This needs to be reversed. The government should protect the public interest.

Digitalisation has given rise to new opportunities, but also threats. We can use the time freed up by automation to make time for each other, for sustainability and for meaningful work. We can share knowledge from all over the world with each other to help facilitate sustainable transitions. If we are not careful, however, the adverse effects are equally great. Large-scale data collection by multi-nationals and governments is putting the privacy of private individuals on the line. The Party for the Animals stands for a society where the right to privacy and self-development is respected.

Racism and discrimination

The government needs to be inclusive and committed. Although many people don't discriminate consciously, racism and other forms of discrimination continue to exist both directly, in visible ways, and indirectly, woven into our systems and structures. The heating up of the current societal debate is a logical consequence of our continued inactivity. It is time for self-reflection and decisive action from the government. They are no longer allowed to watch from the side lines.

- The government will treat all citizens equally. In the past, ethnic profiling has led to stigmatisation and other serious issues for individuals. Therefore, ethnicity and nationality should under no circumstance play a role in selection decisions and risk profiles. Ethnic profiling by the police will also be combated through a registration system where the reason someone is taken into custody will be registered. Preventive searches promote ethnic profiling and stigmatisation and so will no longer be allowed.
- Background, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious beliefs or skin colour should not pose a barrier to any individual for finding a traineeship, job or home. People with a disability also have the right to a sustainable career and fair compensation. Clear regulations and strict enforcement will ensure that discrimination in the labour and housing market is dealt with.
- Everyone has the right to an anonymous job application. The motivation and the qualities of a candidate should become the guiding principle for inviting job applicants, and discrimination based on characteristics such as ethnicity should be prevented. Every job applicant has the right to a fair and transparent process and job interview, in which the interests of the employer founded on generalisations and assumptions should not be the foremost consideration.
- Disputed cultural heritage will be identified,

and we will find other self-critical ways to deal with this heritage using democratic means. Sinterklaas (the traditional Dutch celebration of Saint Nicholas) will be a fun event for all children: Zwarte Piet (Black Pete) will be banned and replaced by 'sooty' Pieten, for example. Our colonial past will be given a permanent place in school lessons.

- The government will act decisively against any form of discrimination and will come up with a plan to ban constitutional racism. A national coordinator for racism and discrimination will take the lead and ensure more inclusivity within the government. The civil service will become a balanced reflection of the population's demographic profile.
- In teacher training courses, attention will be given to combating discrimination and promoting equal opportunity.
- Machine-learning systems in which computers make decisions about people without human interference will be subject to strong ethical and privacy monitoring restrictions. Monitoring to make sure that these systems do not unconsciously make discriminatory decisions will also be implemented. The government will not use any black-box algorithms.
- People with a disability should be allowed to function fully in society. Access to government buildings and public facilities – including educational and public institutions as well as public transport – will be a matter of course for every individual. Ableism will be considered a serious form of discrimination.
- All couples will be given the same rights as heterosexual couples. Other forms of parentage will be legally recognised and with the same rights.
- The government will execute a strong LGBTIQ+ emancipation policy and will invest in LGBTIQ+ emancipation programmes in our education system. LGBTIQ+ students and teachers will be welcome at every school.
- We will abolish the official gender registration register. Until then, anyone who wishes to be officially registered under a different gender identity will easily be able to do so.

- Violence against LGBTIQ+ groups will be centrally registered. We will make sure that reporting any form of discrimination will be facilitated, and that the willingness of victims to report these incidents will increase.
- The civil status of an individual will be considered a matter of privacy and can only be specifically requested when there is a legal obligation to do so.

A rule of law that protects society

The rule of law exists to protect citizens, from criminal activities and powerful companies, but also from the government. That is why the justice system remains accessible to everyone. The rule of law is not only there for individual citizens, but also for animals, nature, society as a whole and future generations.

- Legal professionals serving the public should be given sufficient time and due compensation so that everyone is guaranteed proper legal representation.
- A fear of sky-high fees should no longer discourage citizens with meagre means from asking a judge to rule on an issue. To facilitate this, we will lower the standard registry fees and offer improved legal counsel for people with a limited income.
- The financial issues in the administration of law will be resolved, and we will reverse any implemented cutbacks.
- The environment always loses out when confronted with short-term interests. Nature reserves should be granted rights so that the long-term interests of our environment are also taken into consideration.
- A fine is not experienced as a punishment by everyone: someone on social security will feel its effects far more than a bank manager. Fines will, therefore, become income-dependent.
- We are going to increase controls on large companies on the violation of human rights, the destruction of nature and the environment, money laundering practices,

and other types of fraud. Proportional punishments will be implemented for these infringements.

- The use and production of soft drugs will be legalised, making the cultivation of soft drugs legal and its products subject to excise duties.
- We will not expand the authority of the various law enforcement and security services without intervention from a judge.
- Small police stations will be re-opened, and we will invest further in neighbourhood police. Because police officers who are familiar with the neighbourhood can intervene when people are at risk of going astray, thereby acting preventively against criminal activities.
- Police officers have an enormous societal responsibility coupled with a heavy workload, irregular hours and unexpected and sometimes dangerous situations. Hence, they deserve an increase in wages.
- Physical injury caused by the application of violence by the police should be prevented wherever possible. The neck hold will be forbidden, and the police will not have electroshock weapons at their disposal. Special investigating officers (BOAs) will not be armed.

Honest and effective governance

The government systematically fails to protect its citizens as long as it continues to put other interests first. We see this, for example, when our health is at risk from the disposal of hazardous chemical waste in our environment. The enormous delays in the compensation for damages incurred by earthquakes in Groningen is positively shameful. The recent childcare benefit scandal has clearly shown that we have created a bureaucratic monster that is destroying people's lives. Our retreating government is leaving people in the lurch, and public trust in our government is waning. Which makes sense; a government needs to earn the people's trust. That is why we will ensure that the government will put the interests of its citizens first.

- The childcare benefit scandal has shown how negatively people can be affected by the government. All the victims will be immediately and generously compensated so that justice will be done for the damage that the victims have suffered. Besides the costs for legal counsel, the loss of jobs, housing and income and immaterial damages should also be considered.
- The inspection, reinforcement of and compensation for damages made to houses in Groningen will be given priority.
- The government will extend its apologies for the way the Q fever epidemic in 2007 was treated. It will accept the responsibility of failing to take adequate preventive measures and will generously compensate for any damages incurred by victims.
- Government communications will become more straightforward, more transparent and faster.
- A public lobby register will be made available at all levels of governance and public representation. Government documents such as legislative proposals and policy measures will report how much influence lobbies have had on the proposals. An independent body will monitor the integrity of lobbyists and politicians.
- Whistle-blowers are a vital source for the tracking down of wrong-doing in companies and organisations, including government organisations, and will therefore be adequately protected. Foreign whistle-blowers who expose the wrong-doings of a country will not be extradited.
- The tasks and responsibilities of the national government will only be transferred to provincial or municipal governance under strict conditions. The task should be appropriate for the down-scaling of governance, and the governments that will take over this additional task must be adequately equipped to do so.
- Administrators in public and semi-public institutions should not earn more than the prime minister.
- Over the course of time, government

responsibilities have increasingly been held at arms' length and have been partly removed from the democratic control and decision-making process of elected public representatives. The Common Regulations Act will be renewed to strengthen the right to amendment and the budgetary rights of public representatives, making it a compulsory element of collaborations between municipalities, provinces and water boards. The Safety Risks Act will be amended so municipal councils are better equipped to carry out their monitoring tasks.

Democratic renewal

Our democracy is precious. We are all responsible for maintaining that democracy. Nonetheless, many people feel that they are not heard by the political establishment, and that's an issue we need to address. Forms of direct democracy will be given more prominence, and people will have a greater say in their immediate living environment.

- Our political system makes choices that have a significant impact on the future of our youth. The voting age will, therefore, be lowered to 16 years of age.
- Initiating a public initiative will be made easier.
- The advisory referendum will be reintroduced and will be given a role in important decisions.
- We will implement a binding corrective referendum for far-reaching decisions that threaten our democracy, for example.
- Citizens' panels will be implemented where, through a drawing of lots, a cross-section of the Dutch population will have a serious say in important national issues, as an addition to and enrichment of the current parliamentary democracy.
- Small-scale demonstrations will no longer need to be registered. For demonstrations resulting from current events, the advance notice requirement will be reduced.

- People should have a greater say in their immediate living environment. That is why we will strengthen the authority of district and neighbourhood associations, which will be actively involved in decisions concerning their neighbourhood. Neighbourhood associations, following British custom, will be given more rights to determine the function of public buildings.
- Water board administrators will continue to be elected directly instead of indirectly via municipal councils. Water board seats will no longer be reserved.

The monarchy

Our democracy is precious. We are all responsible for maintaining that democracy. Nonetheless, many people feel that they are not heard by the political establishment, and that's an issue we need to address. Forms of direct democracy will be given more prominence, and people will have a greater say in their immediate living environment.

- The king and his family will pay taxes just like everyone else, and we will take a critical look at other financial concessions and compensations. The personal income of the members of the royal family will fall under the Top Incomes Standardisation Act (Wet normering topinkomens).
- The costs of the royal family will become transparent.
- The Royal Hunting Department will be abolished. Royal domain Het Loo will be open year-round to the general public and hunting will not be allowed on its premises.
- The king will no longer be chairman of the Council of State. He no longer will play a political role in the cabinet formation.

The right to adequate information

Digitalisation has a lot to offer us. We can

easily stay in touch with each other, work more efficiently, and we have an unbelievably large source of information at our fingertips. Unfortunately, fake news and algorithms that provide people with misleading information are examples of the increasingly negative consequences of digitalisation. It is in these times when fake information is so readily available, that we need to support independent and critical journalism. Fake news and the monopolisation of a few large digital players can pose a threat to the functioning of our democracy. Citizens should be able to defend themselves against misleading information. Based on clicking behaviour, large online platforms determine what users get to see, and that leads to a one-sided representation of information that is becoming increasingly inaccurate.

- We will research how we can give internet giants greater responsibility in combating fake news without giving them too much power over the content that is shared on digital platforms. In any case, we will ensure that internet companies such as Facebook and Google provide greater transparency into what they show their users and why. We will also curb microtargeting practices through which highly specific advertising is aimed at the user.
- Open source projects offer ample opportunity for sharing knowledge and information. By sharing technological solutions, for example, other countries, entrepreneurs and individuals can build on and develop existing knowledge. The government will encourage and, wherever possible, make use of open standards, open-source software and open hardware.
- Citizens will be provided with accurate and detailed information about government services and companies who spend public funds. The government will be open about how policy is generated. The government will be held accountable to the constitution and may not withhold information from public representatives.
- Investigative journalists and critical members

of the public will no longer be impeded but will be aided in their monitoring of governance. The law on public administration (Wob) will be adjusted so that information will quickly be made accessible and that the number of grounds for exemption from the sharing of data will be limited.

- Independent investigative journalism is a necessary check on the balance of power. No further cutbacks will be implemented on the basic structure of public media channels at a local and national level: regional media will be given a realistic budget for news, research, and preserving the regional identity.
- We will modernise copyright laws so that it dovetails with the digitalisation of information. It is key that authors and artists are given due compensation.
- The safety of international journalists is under pressure. The Netherlands will continue to provide vocal support for international journalism and will offer emergency aid to journalists where required.
- Citizens who are not able to process the digital materials provided by the government can request in-person information at a physical location in their municipality. Communications by post will continue to be an option.

Privacy is safety

Privacy is invaluable in a free society. Privacy is the only way that we can live a free life without the interventions of others and the government. The rise of new techniques poses a threat to our privacy. The collection of DNA, the installation of increasing numbers of cameras, and the digitisation of sensitive dossiers involve a certain measure of risk. But perhaps the most worrying development has been the increasing power of a few gigantic internet companies who collect and sell our data. Facebook and Google are turning a profit from the sale of our most private details, without us having any say about it and without any measure of control from the government.

Identity fraud lies just around the corner, and multinationals will do anything to influence our opinions and our purchasing behaviour. Our personal living environment makes us who we are and is a basic human right. Even if you think you have nothing to hide, your details can fall into the wrong hands if we're not careful.

- Large internet companies will be forced to provide more transparency into the storage and use of data and into how their algorithms work. We will limit how our data is used, and we will prohibit the sale of data without express permission. Dutch data will be stored whenever possible in data centres in the Netherlands so that they don't fall under American or Chinese jurisdiction.
- The collection of data may only take place if express permission has been given to do so, after a brief, easy-to-read explanation to the user about how the data will be used. Refusal is always an option.
- Students will be allowed to refuse the installation of proctoring software on their computers for their exams. Educational institutions will be assisted in the organisation of secure exams so that proctoring software will no longer be needed and potential fraud is kept to a minimum. Proctoring software for employees working from home will be prohibited.
- Citizens have a right to a free Internet without filters, barriers or the passing on of details by providers.
- Banking and payment details from private individuals are confidential. Therefore, third parties should not be allowed to view bank account details without explicit permission. The 'third-party access to current accounts' clause in the new Revised Payment Services Directive (PSD2) will be removed.
- The implementation of camera surveillance is only permitted temporarily, and only in risk areas assigned by a judge. Cameras using facial recognition software will not be allowed in public areas, shops and eating and drinking establishments.

- The Netherlands will protect personal information at the highest level. The government will make structural investments in software projects to improve the security of the digital infrastructure. The Dutch Data Protection Authority will be expanded to monitor GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) compliance.

Violating privacy in the name of a false sense of security

The government gladly makes use of the available possibilities to monitor citizens in the name of security measures and efficiency. We need to be very cautious about these practices. Security cannot be achieved through a violation of constitutional rights. We will make sure that our data doesn't fall into the wrong hands or end up being used against us.

- Systems that cannot guarantee the privacy of data will be removed or adjusted, such as the national electronic health records. Medical records will not be made available to others without express permission.
- Only when there is a question of concrete suspicion after evaluation by a judge will police, legal and intelligence services be able to request information about private individuals from businesses. Members of the public will be given greater insight into the details that have been stored about them and can have themselves removed from data systems more quickly (the right to be forgotten).
- Investigative organisations will not be allowed to sniff around in computers without a legitimate, legally sanctioned reason. Stricter standards will be implemented for the tapping of phones. Communication secrecy will be respected and protected.
- Any policy with regards to the tapping, collection and storage of citizen data will be critically re-assessed in the interests of privacy.

- The privacy and data of users are not secure with many Internet of Things appliances that use Wi-Fi or Bluetooth connections. The government will strive to realise a set of cybersecurity requirements for these types of devices.
- Despite a resounding ‘No’ from the Netherlands during the referendum, the new ‘Trawling law’ for the large-scale collection of data was put into force. This law will be revoked and will be replaced by a new privacy-friendly Intelligence and Security Services Act (Wiv). We will also discontinue the implementation of the proposed ‘Super Syri’ act (WGS) for the mass collection, linking and analysis of data by the government.
- We will proceed with extreme caution with data experiments in the public sphere.
- China and the United States rule the digital world. We remain highly critical of foreign influences on technology and the Internet. We will implement a substantial task force for the tracing and combating of espionage activities. The Dutch General Intelligence and Security Service (AIVD) will exercise extreme caution when sharing citizen data with foreign intelligence services

10 Europe and international solidarity

105

The Earth offers enough to satisfy everyone's needs but not everyone's greed

Everyone requires a safe, healthy and stable living environment. Those are universal needs, regardless of where you call home.

But currently, the fulfilment of those needs is a long way off for many people.

Some areas are rendered uninhabitable through climate change, while the loss of biodiversity threatens food security in other areas. Pollution destroys the local living environments, and the lives of many people are no longer safe because of armed conflict. These problems are often related.

They are often at the root of why people are forced to flee from their homeland. The Party for the Animals chooses international collaboration with people all over the world who are committed to creating a liveable Earth.



The Party for the Animals is firmly committed to creating a liveable planet and to the equal distribution of the resources our planet has to offer. If the entire world lived as we do in the Netherlands, we would need three Earths to sustain us. We are using more than our fair share of natural resources. That is unsustainable for our planet and unfair to our fellow humans. Therefore, we cannot view the choices we make in Europe and the Netherlands independently of the problems that people in other countries face.

A better Europe

The Party for the Animals wants a democratic European Union (EU) that puts the protection of vulnerable values first. As a collaborative platform, the EU is in a position to solve cross-border issues. At the moment, the EU is still too focused on the promotion of global free trade and protecting the interests of large corporations. In this EU, vulnerable values usually lose out against the interests of big money. Through free trade agreements, agricultural subsidies and the promotion of the burning of biofuels, the EU is one of the driving forces behind the climate and biodiversity crisis. Our western addiction to animal proteins – promoted through European subsidies even today – causes us to import animal feed on a large scale from other countries at the expense of the climate, humans, animals and nature.

The European decision-making process needs to be democratic and transparent. At the moment, this decision-making process far too often takes place in back rooms. Rigid legislative processes that are incomprehensible to the public and the enormous influence of lobbyists have ensured that, over the past few decades, the EU has degenerated into a hard-to-control lobby-ocracy. The fossil fuel industry, the agricultural sector and manufacturers of pesticides have far too many fingers in the Brussels pie, with the result that the EU gives these sectors too much leeway. National parliaments have a hard time exerting

influence on the decisions made at the EU level, while those same decisions can severely limit the policy-making freedom of member states.

Even the European Parliament has too few options to keep the European Commission in check. It is not allowed to implement its own laws, something that our House of Representatives does have the authority to do. We should no longer transfer control to the European Commission, but reinforce the role of the European Parliament with regards to the European Commission. The Party for the Animals calls for an end to the growing sphere of influence (the European Commission continues to amass power) and the expansion (more countries are being admitted) of the EU. In an EU that puts vulnerable values first, climate justice, regionalisation of agriculture and production, fair trade, reducing the ecological footprint, animal rights, democratic control and transparency will become guiding principles instead of afterthoughts. The EU will no longer lend an ear to large corporations but will use its authority to make sure that these corporations serve humans and animals alike.

- Subsidies from the Common Agricultural Policy will be abolished. The funds that will become available as a result will be implemented for the necessary transition to eco- and animal-friendly agriculture.
- Funds from the coronavirus recovery fund and future emergency funds will not be used to support activities in sectors that are responsible for the climate and biodiversity crisis, such as the bio- and fossil fuel industry.
- The EU and the eurozone will not be expanded further.
- The European multi-annual budget will not increase, and at least half of the funds will be used to benefit the climate, nature and the environment.
- The communal recovery funds are currently almost entirely geared towards a return to business as usual in a fossil-fuelled economy. Recovery funds should be used to help combat

the climate and biodiversity crisis instead. Moreover, these funds should not lead to a situation whereby member states collectively bear the burden of other member states.

- Courts of audit at a national and European level will play a critical role in monitoring European funds and emergency funds.
- The European Central Bank (ECB) will stop the indiscriminate, large-scale purchase of obligations and other debt securities.
- The ECB will be fundamentally reformed and brought under parliamentary control. This way, accountability can take place for the redistributive effects of ECB policy. Internal minutes will be made public, and it will be possible for national member states to hold ECB administrators to account.
- Scenarios will be drawn up where countries can leave the eurozone should a new euro crisis arise so the EU will not have to implement desperate measures whatever the cost to save the euro in its current state. The EU will give members of the eurozone the opportunity to develop plans for parallel currencies. When a member state decides to leave the EU or the eurozone, this will be facilitated by the EU.
- The remuneration of European funds such as structural funds can be deferred or ended completely if the rule of law in a member state is at stake. Countries such as Hungary and Poland will no longer be able to rely on taxpayers' money, including that of the Netherlands, if they undermine the rule of law and violate the rights of their residents.
- No new competencies will be deferred to the EU. There will be no European Minister of Finance, no European army and no European pension fund. These types of fundamental competencies should remain with national parliaments.

Growing resistance against free trade agreements

The way we think about free trade agreements has

definitively changed, led by the efforts of the Party for the Animals. For the first time in history, the majority of the House of Representatives, thanks to the Party for the Animals, voted against an EU-ratified free trade agreement: the EU-Mercosur agreement with the South American countries of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay.

Where the majority of Dutch politicians used to applaud the ratification of new trade agreements over the past few decades, this time, the sentiment was different. In both the House of Representatives and Dutch society at large, the realisation has grown that free trade agreements only benefit a handful of large multinationals, while vulnerable values are the first to fall by the wayside in these types of deals.

Resistance to these types of arrangements has also grown significantly in the rest of the world in recent years. Farmers, researchers and environmental activists have joined forces. They have proved an increasingly vocal and effective force against these disruptive trade agreements. And the world is a better place for it. Global free trade, primarily in agricultural products such as soybeans for animal feed, meat and palm oil, has led to enormous problems for the climate and biodiversity. Examples include the deforestation and desertification of vulnerable nature areas such as the Amazon, Cerrado (Brazil) and the rainforests in South-East Asia.

The coronavirus crisis has made it abundantly clear: it is in our best interests to leave primeval forests and rainforests alone. Economic activities in vulnerable natural areas result in increased contact between humans and animals living in the wild. Such practices rapidly increase the risk of the spread of viruses and bacteria from animals to humans, which in turn increase the dangers of the development of new zoonoses. A zoonotic pandemic, as everyone has been able to experience, has disastrous consequences for public health, mental health, human interaction, culture and the economy. Keeping our hands off our rainforests is has literally become a matter of life and death for humankind.

The EU is currently involved in free trade negotiations with several countries, including the United States, Australia, Thailand and Indonesia. The Party for the Animals wants these negotiations to stop, as well as negotiations for treaties that serve to protect investments. This protection ensures that multinationals receive additional legal protection in addition to the rights they already have. Under the threat of claims, these multinationals can influence the policy of governments, including the Dutch government, in their favour. This is a substantial barrier for an ambitious climate policy and a threat to the democratic rule of law.

The Party for the Animals wants climate, biodiversity, public health, human and animal rights and regional agriculture to be the guiding principles of trade policy, not the short-term interests of multinationals and the agricultural industry. We will choose to take the side of environmental and human rights protectors around the world. We have listened closely to the distress calls from activists in countries such as Canada, Indonesia and China to stop free trade and investment agreements that come at the expense of local communities, human rights, nature and animal welfare. Now is the time for a cabinet that will do the same.

- The Netherlands will permanently retract its support for treaties with other countries, including the United States, Mercosur, Canada (CETA), Mexico, Thailand, Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand.
- Any free trade agreements entered into by the EU must be approved by all member states, and agricultural and investment protection interests should under no circumstance be a part of that agreement. Ultimately, the Dutch public is given the final say through a binding corrective referendum.
- Treaties that include investment protection measures, such as ICS or ISDS, will be revoked by the Netherlands. Examples of such treaties include CETA and the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT).

- The EU will immediately stop negotiations with China concerning an investment treaty.

Stop the export of a failed agricultural system

The Party for the Animals wants the Dutch government to spearhead a radical reassessment of its trade policy. The trade policy will fully serve the promotion and protection of vulnerable values instead of the suppression of these values, as is the case now.

The Party for the Animals wants the Netherlands to stop exporting the livestock industry. During the trade missions that are organised every year, representatives from the livestock industry travel in the wake of our king and queen to force our completely failed agricultural model on other countries. Dutch manufacturers of stable and slaughter systems sell their morbid trade to countries elsewhere, knowing full well that the livestock industry in our own country is responsible for enormous animal welfare and environmental problems. Flowers and bulbs, cultivated with highly hazardous pesticides detrimental to humans, animals, and the natural environment, are promoted abroad with the help of the Dutch government. Special agriculture-oriented diplomats, the so-called Agriculture Councils, are paid with Dutch taxpayers' money to do nothing other than lobby the private interests of the Dutch agricultural industry abroad. Animals are shipped off on long transport journeys, often to countries far from the EU. That must stop.

- Products that are imported into the Netherlands or the EU must at least meet the same environmental and animal welfare conditions as products that are produced here. If that is not possible within the regulations of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the Netherlands and the EU will ignore these regulations. The Netherlands and the EU will not be afraid of bringing such

considerations to the courts.

- The Netherlands will refuse products that are produced at the expense of humans, animals or the environment and will commit itself in Brussels to making sure that other member states will do the same with each other's products. One example is force-fed goose and duck liver, or foie gras, from France, Spain, Bulgaria and Hungary.
- Animal transport within Europe will be severely restricted. Animal transport will last no longer than two hours. Animals may not be transported on warm days. Transporting live animals to countries outside the EU will no longer be allowed.
- The Netherlands will stop the implementation and facilitation of the livestock industry abroad, such as was the case in, for example, Ukraine, China, and Russia. The export of breeding animals or stable systems for the development of the bio-industry in other countries will no longer be permitted.
- The export of industrial livestock systems that are no longer permitted in the Netherlands will be banned in any case. Pesticides and other chemicals that are forbidden in the Netherlands will no longer be exported.
- The Minister of Agriculture will no longer participate in trade missions. This restriction will also apply to representatives from the livestock industry. The Netherlands will immediately halt the export of the bio-industry to other countries. All current budgets for the promotion of exports will be eliminated. The Agriculture Councils will be abolished.
- Businesses from sectors that inflict irreversible damage on ecosystems and the living environment of humans and animals elsewhere in the world, such as the oil and gas industry, will be excluded from trade missions.
- The Netherlands will cease all involvement with and financing of consultative bodies in which multinationals have a large say in policy regarding the import of resources such as soybeans and palm oil. The round tables for 'sustainable' soybeans and palm oil are simply

no more than greenwashing and will therefore be abolished. This will be replaced by binding agreements that prioritise the health of the planet.

Reinforcing development cooperation

The amount that is spent by the western world on development cooperation will never compensate for the damage the West has done to these countries. Even today, the economic choices made in the West lead to significant problems in other countries, particularly countries in the southern hemisphere.

The wealthiest 1% of the world's population produces as much CO2 as the poorest 50% of the world, while it is this segment of the world's population that is hit first and hardest by climate change. For decades, countries abroad were exploited as producers of raw materials such as ores, soybeans for animal feed and palm oil, while western companies pocketed the profits at the expense of the environment and the population elsewhere. Our colonial history and the slave trade have left deep scars even today.

Development cooperation will therefore start with putting an end to the damage that we inflict on people and ecosystems elsewhere. Moreover, the Party for the Animals wants to get rid of the 'aid-for-trade' doctrine that has in recent years been the hallmark of Dutch developmental aid policy. A Minister of Development Cooperation needs to be reinstated to achieve this. The starting principle of both trade and developmental aid policy will be a strong regionalisation of products and services.

The Party for the Animals wants extra attention to be given to the position of girls and women. They currently live their lives in the service of others: husbands, large families, their children, or their household. They will have greater control of their lives if they are given more prospects and freedom of choice. We can facilitate this

through increased access to quality education, powerful local communities, and reinforcement of the rights of women and girls. This will provide more opportunities and a better life for women on a small scale. On a large scale, it will lead to a decrease in the birth rate as women and girls are finally put in a position where they can make their own decisions. The trade in resources such as palm oil, soybeans and ores disrupt local communities where women and girls often bear the brunt of such developments. We will stop this neoliberal trade policy and help people in vulnerable areas to develop a sustainable economy that will benefit them.

- A separate Minister for Developmental Cooperation will be appointed.
- At least 1% of our gross national income (GNI) will be spent on developmental cooperation. If the GNI decreases, no cutbacks will be made on developmental cooperation. Should the GNI decrease, the budget for developmental cooperation will automatically exceed 1% of the GNI.
- Developmental cooperation will be geared towards the interests of people and not towards the interests of Dutch businesses. The position of the more vulnerable population groups will be reinforced, in particular the position of women and girls.
- Within the scope of climate justice, the Netherlands will pay its fair share of climate financing in addition to the existing contribution to developmental cooperation.
- Funds for developmental cooperation will be used to offer prospects for people in other parts of the world, not for a migration and asylum policy.
- Developmental aid funds will be used to develop a regional and sustainable economy and agricultural system. Developmental cooperation will not be used to develop livestock industries abroad.
- Developing countries will have a greater say in the policies of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.
- If developing countries decide to temporarily protect their markets from imports from the

West in order to strengthen their economies, no retaliatory measures will be taken. The Netherlands will help developing countries to process their locally produced products so that they can create their own added value instead of exporting their resources.

- Tax legislation and tax treaties will be adjusted in such a way that developing countries no longer miss out on billions of dollars in income through tax evasion by multinationals. The Netherlands will also no longer be a tax haven for shell corporations.

Helping people by tackling the root causes

Many people in other parts of the world lack prospects for the future and a secure livelihood. The climate crisis and biodiversity crisis has not only ensured that areas have become uninhabitable and that food security is under threat, but they have become a source of conflict, in some cases armed conflict. When people are threatened by war, when land becomes arid or when there is not enough water to drink, people flee. The Party for the Animals wants to tackle these root causes so that people are no longer forced to flee their homes.

Ultimately, a large proportion of the refugees do not end up in the Netherlands or Europe. 85 to 90% of refugees find shelter elsewhere in the region, usually in wretched living conditions. Humanitarian aid must be focused on two pillars: the improvement of living conditions in the immediate area and the creation of prospects for these people.

- International treaties such as the Geneva Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights should be guiding decisions regarding this aid. The Netherlands will not agree to agreements, such as the Turkey deal, that violate these treaties.
- The Netherlands will contribute to the improvement of living conditions and the

creation of prospects for people living in refugee camps. The Netherlands will provide money and knowledge to that end.

- Refugees will be equitably divided across Europe. The UN Human Rights Commission (UNHCR) quotas will be increased.
- People in refugee camps have the right to live a dignified existence. This means they have a right to security, enough food and drink, legal counselling, medical care and decent housing.
- NGOs and other humanitarian organisations may organise rescue activities at sea without being stopped or fined. After a rescue at sea, people will be brought to locations where they can request asylum.
- The EU will cease to train and finance the Libyan coastguard. This group has been accused of severe human rights violations.
- The European border guard agency Frontex must be replaced by humanitarian missions that are aimed to help people in need. Charges of violation of international treaties and maritime law by Frontex will be investigated.

Invest in shelters in the Netherlands

A small portion of the people who flee from their homes come to the Netherlands. Besides removing the root causes of migration, the Party for the Animals wants to invest in the reception and integration of refugees in the Netherlands and invest in the acceptance of newcomers by the Dutch population.

It is in almost every human being's nature to help others in need, but we see that this natural tendency is being put to the test. Many people feel intimidated by the large number of people who come to our country and lay claim to Dutch services and the few homes that are available. That is understandable because many young people, students, and families have trouble finding a suitable home. That is why we need to build more homes, and why taking in refugees needs to be done with care. Once people get

to know each other, experience has shown that we are often understanding and helpful to the refugees that we have taken in. Therefore, the Party for the Animals wants a humane reception with proper guidance and prompt clarity about the status of an asylum request. As soon as people are given a residence permit, they should be able to function in our society as quickly and comprehensively as possible.

- The Netherlands will follow UN refugee treaty guidelines and will therefore not return people to their country of origin if they have been or will be persecuted because of their sexual orientation, religion, political beliefs or ethnic background.
- People who request a residence permit in the Netherlands will quickly receive a carefully considered decision about their right of residence. The wait times at the IND (Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service) will be shortened considerably.
- The rights of children, as established in UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC, IVRK in Dutch) will be set down in the Aliens Act. Children who have established their roots in the Netherlands will not be deported and will be given a residence permit.
- We will put a stop to boredom and lack of prospects in refugee centres. From now on, people staying in refugee centres may work on their personal development and are entitled to proper counselling, language courses, healthcare and education in the case of minors. In addition, more attention will be given to psychological counselling, because refugees often have had a rough journey and perhaps suffer from trauma from experiences in the area from which they have fled.
- The accommodation of people with a residency permit will be done with care: we will ensure equal distribution across municipalities and, where possible, at a district level. Moreover, we will focus on developing small-scale communities where, for example, students and newcomers can share living accommodations, and

projects in which refugees with a certain professional background are linked to potential local employers. We will ensure that there is sufficient counselling so that it leads to improved integration and mutual understanding in the neighbourhood. Municipalities should be facilitated to take the lead as much as possible.

No trade in conflict resources

The Party for the Animals wants the Netherlands to adopt severe restrictions on the import of resources where the exploitation or production thereof is hazardous to humans, animals, the environment, or nature. Resources such as soybeans, palm oil, copper and coal will be on the conflict resources list. Stricter criteria will apply for the international trade of these materials. Fresh water will also hold a place on this list. The era of voluntary International Corporate Social Responsibility (ICSR, or IMVO in Dutch) has come to an end. It hasn't worked.

- Binding Dutch ICSR legislation will be introduced.
- Businesses will be obligated to identify, prevent, and deal with human rights violations – including child labour – pollution, attacks on animal welfare and loss of biodiversity in their supply chains.
- Large companies will provide critical insight into the origins of the materials they use and the circumstances under which their production processes take place. Each year, they will publish a balance sheet for the human, animal, natural, environmental and climate costs. This balance sheet will provide insight into the impact of the business on welfare in the most general sense.
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights will be respected, and that also applies to production processes abroad. Producers in developing countries will receive aid to meet these criteria.

True peace and security

Western governments, including the Netherlands, need to start focusing on removing potential sources of conflict. The Party for the Animals wants the Netherlands to stop supporting combat missions. Western bombardments and military involvement in conflicts such as in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya haven't made the world a safer place. Instead, millions of people were forced to flee, and the threat of terrorism is a shadow that continues to loom over us. The Party for the Animals believes that combat missions and bombardments will never lead to lasting peace and that military involvement in conflicts and bombardments are contrary to the values of compassion and sustainability. During peace-keeping operations, respect for human rights and animal rights will come first.

The Party for the Animals will only support peacekeeping operations from the United Nations with a strong political mandate. We will evaluate all proposed UN missions individually on proportionality, effectivity and legitimacy, and always with respect for international law.

- The Netherlands will not participate in combat missions, including NATO missions.
- The Netherlands will retain full control of its military. There will be no European army.
- The Netherlands will no longer purchase new combat material such as jet fighters and submarines.
- The age at which our military personnel may be dispatched on missions will be increased from 18 to 21 years.
- The Ministry of Defence will refrain from actively recruiting minors in any way, that includes recruitment for pre-military training.
- The weapons export policy will be adjusted so that no weapons will be delivered from the Netherlands or the EU to repressive and authoritative states that violate human rights. The Netherlands will commit itself – also within the EU – to compliance with treaties

against the use of land mines and cluster munition and for the worldwide regulation of the arms industry.

- The Netherlands will sign the UN treaty banning nuclear weapons. Any nuclear weapons will be removed from the Netherlands immediately. The Netherlands will work together with other countries to implement a universal ban on the use of nuclear weapons.
- The Netherlands will take the lead in the development of an international legal framework for the use of armed drones and unmanned aircraft.
- During international humanitarian aid operations, aid for animals will also be offered.
- Dutch foreign policy is currently often focused on trade and not on the protection of human rights. The Netherlands will speak out for human rights and the right to self-determination of oppressed peoples such as the people of West-Papua, the Uyghurs, and the Tibetans.



**Party for
the Animals**

