

A world to reclaim!

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A world to reclaim

We live in uncertain times. That was the first sentence in our 2021 electoral programme, *Plan B*. Now, two years later, this uncertainty has only grown. Our planet is increasingly coming under pressure. Everyone on Earth is currently experiencing this first-hand. Swelteringly hot summers, drought, flooding, and torrential rainfall: the new abnormal cannot be ignored and, every day, we see its impact on the news – from large-scale deforestation for the feed industry in the Amazon to mass migration on account of extreme weather conditions. The security of our continued existence and that of all living beings on this planet is waning rapidly. This can – and must – change. Through a collective effort, we can turn the tide and make the Earth liveable again for its inhabitants.

We all want a good, healthy, and happy life: for ourselves, for our children and grandchildren, and for all the animals whose well-being and even survival are increasingly compromised. We want a future where everyone has a roof over their heads and enough income to make ends meet, a future where all life on Earth is treated with respect. We are all entitled to this future, and it is within our grasp if we dare to make radical choices.

The Party for the Animals is founded on a single, all-encompassing core value: treat the Earth and all its inhabitants with compassion. Our planet-wide vision offers concrete guidelines to tackle the crises we are facing. However, we need to address the roots of these problems rather than simply trying to patch things up. The time for procrastination and compromise has run out: rather than opting for 'low-emission' barn floors we need our livestock population to shrink by 75 per cent. We have to make the transition to a green, healthy, and animal-friendly future – today, not tomorrow.

More and more people feel and understand this. More and more people are expressing their opinions. And more and more people are raising their voices to demand a future for the Earth and all its inhabitants. The Party for the Animals is taking a stand together with these people. We *are* these people. Just like them, we are fighting for what is precious to us, with courage and compassion. Just like them, we want to be a driving force for change, but we also want to cooperate with others. Just like them, we look at things with a critical eye, and just like them we offer solutions. The convictions in our electoral programme are based on our eco-central mindset: everything the Party for the Animals does is in the interest of animals, the climate, nature, and the environment.

We are all part of the Earth, and every time our planet is overburdened it has an impact on all of our lives, too. In the Netherlands, we are noticing the effects of climate change more and more often – but people in less wealthy countries have had to deal with failed harvests or devastating flooding for many years now. This is particularly wry because these are countries that have barely contributed to the climate crisis. The large-scale polluters should be presented with the bill. The first step is to cut their government funding, and instead require that they – rather than the population, who cannot afford it – finance the requisite climate measures. Climate justice starts with polluter liability. Only then can we turn the tide – a tide that we can currently feel swirling at our feet. This is why it is imperative that we adopt an accelerated and targeted approach to solving the climate and nature crisis. We can – and must – do this in conjunction with one another. Animals play a big part in this.

They are living, sentient beings whose rights should be included in the constitution. We can stop animal suffering by liberating them from the food chain. The land currently used to grow animal feed offers space for people and nature in the future. If we were to concentrate on the realisation of a healthy agricultural industry, we would be able to provide enough and affordable food and housing for everyone. We will have to make some radical changes to our economy, in line with the Earth's capacity to provide for us.

This means leaving behind the era of greed and the illusion of a continually growing economy. There is enough for everyone. We are producing more than we can consume. And even against the backdrop of all this waste, an enormous gap has formed between the rich and the poor.

A lot of money is being earned, but it disappears into the deep pockets of major corporations. Prosperity must be distributed more fairly, so that no children will ever have to grow up in poverty again. Aside from that, we also want to guarantee the population a healthy and attractive public sector, in which teachers and healthcare workers get what they deserve: higher wages and more co-workers.

This programme offers a well-considered, clear roadmap to safer waters – towards a just future for every living being, a future in which we really take into account everything that is dear to us and vulnerable. The upcoming elections offer us a new opportunity to create a clean future. The Party for the Animals is eager to set to work on breaking the current deadlock, together with you and on your behalf. Together, we will raise our voices more and more strongly to demand true change.

If there was ever a time to vote for a bright green party, this is it. There is a world to be reclaimed. Join us and turn the tide.

1. A liveable Earth

Solving the climate and nature crisis, fairly and honestly

The greatest challenge facing our generation is to make our planet liveable again, and to keep it that way. We can solve these problems together, but not if we refuse to let go of the mindset that has caused them in the first place. A radical change of tack is needed. We will need put an end to the persistent misunderstanding that man is elevated above nature. What we need to realise is that we are completely dependent on the ecosystems of which we are a part. This is why the Party for the Animals has opted for a guiding principle that does not in any way reflect that of any other political party. We are the only party that does not focus on the short-term interests of the prosperous and their money but bases its choices on the broad perspective of a liveable Earth. We believe in an eco-centric rather than ego-centric approach, in which animals, climate, nature and the environment and humans are all considered equally important. We are the first generation to experience the consequences of the climate and nature crisis, and we are the last generation that can turn the tide. Now is the time for change. Together, we can opt – and vote – for a green and social future, for everyone.

The consequences of the climate and nature crisis can be seen everywhere. Flooding, forest fires and devastating hurricanes are taking their toll all over the globe. Hot summers, long periods of drought and torrential rainfall have become the new normal. Plants and animals are becoming extinct at an alarming rate. Tropical rainforests are disappearing, the oceans are heating up and are becoming acidified. If all of us do not take action soon, our planet will heat up by 2.8 degrees Celsius by the end of this century. Large parts of the world will become uninhabitable or submerged beneath the sea.

The people who have contributed least to climate change are being hit the hardest. In poor countries, people's very survival is under severe threat due to failed harvests, a rising sea level, extreme heat, and the spread of infectious diseases. Climate disasters have caused entire habitats, including all living beings in them, to disappear in a single blow. Poorer countries do not have the funds to protect themselves from the consequences of climate change, while the richer ones contribute most to global warming. In the Netherlands, too, the more vulnerable rather than the more resilient groups in society are being hit the hardest by the consequences of climate change. The rising price of food due to climate change is affecting the socio-economic security of those with the lowest incomes even more severely. A heat wave is far more problematic for someone who has to live in a poorly insulated flat in a concrete-dominated neighbourhood than someone who can sit in the cool, shady garden adjoining their villa.

Looking at it this way, the climate crisis is increasing inequality, and if nothing changes this gap will only grow wider in the Netherlands. Citizens and small businesses pay energy tax, while large-scale polluters do not – or only to a limited extent. In fact, they are even given grants for 'greenification'! While data centres slurp valuable wind energy thanks to government funding, people will literally be left in the cold this winter because it is taking too long to make rental and social housing more energy-efficient. And while the wealthiest 1% of the population can fly around the globe in private jets, public transport for the rest of us is only becoming more and more expensive. These sorts of political choices – because that is what they are – are infuriating. The Party for the Animals is striving for a radical change of tack.

And while large-scale polluters (e.g. agribusinesses) are let off the hook and ordinary citizens have to pay for the consequences – all thanks to the same political choices, our country is still covered by a suffocating nitrogen blanket. Nature is on the brink of collapse. The number of plant and animal species faced with extinction is increasing at an alarming rate. Habitats are fragmented, have shrunk immensely, or are under threat of disappearing entirely. Ever since the Council of State's ruling in 2019, the government has not made the slightest progress in nature conservation and restoration or in creating a viable revenue model for sustainable farmers. They, too, are victims of this situation. Farmers have nothing to gain from animal feed factories, agricultural toxins, or artificial fertilisers. However, they can benefit immensely from clean water, healthy soil, and unpolluted air. In order to

grow healthy food, now and in the future, they need nature.

The problems facing us today have a common denominator: the livestock industry. The fact that we in the Netherlands cram so many animals in barns is not only disastrous for the animals themselves; the livestock industry is one of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases and the principal cause of the nature crisis. This has led to the pollution of our ground water, our drinking water, to offensive odours and health hazards for residents living in the vicinity, and to a loss of fertile soil, deforestation, and an increased risk of ensuing pandemics. All of these problems can be tackled by reducing the number of animals in the livestock industry by 75%. Not only that: sustainable agriculture translates into a normal income for farmers and affordable, sustainable food on our supermarket shelves.

As far as the Party for the Animals is concerned, if we want a fair transition to a green, clean, and animal-friendly country, the polluters will have to pay for the damage they have caused: the plants where livestock fodder is produced, slaughterhouses and barn builders that benefit from our large-scale livestock industry at the expense of the animals, the farmers, and our nature; the polluting manufacturing industry and the fossil energy companies that benefit from fossil fuel subsidies and refuse to adapt their climate-destroying revenue model; and the financial sector, which plays its part in making this crisis possible.

If we were to solve the climate and nature crisis fairly and through a collective effort, we would get a clean, green, and animal-friendly country in return – with help from the sun and wind, allowing us to be fully self-reliant with respect to our energy supply while simultaneously ensuring that this energy is clean. Through insulation and renovation, so that our houses will be more comfortable and our energy bills smaller. With healthy and plant-based food, good for the animals, good for our nature and climate, and good for us. In brief: with economic development contained to the limits of what our planet can manage and with security of existence for everyone. A country where everyone has a place to live, work and be themselves, without depleting the Earth's resources to achieve this goal. This is why we are definitively changing tack – from economic growth to ecological growth, for a green, clean, and liveable planet for all its inhabitants.

Stop global warming

The Netherlands has the responsibility to make every effort to restrict global warming as soon as possible. This requires nothing less than a crisis approach. Everyone will contribute to the transition to a sustainable society.

- The Netherlands will do everything in its power to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. We will be climate neutral by 2030. This new reduction goal was set down in the Climate Act. The Netherlands will take on a pioneering role in supervising the global execution of the Paris Climate Accord.
- We want to engender citizen involvement in solutions for the climate and nature crisis through a Citizens' Assembly. The Citizens' Assembly represents a cross-section of the population and is founded on clear integral conditions: contributing to the solution of the climate and biodiversity crisis and a habitable planet for all living beings. It is the government's duty to transform proposals into policies and regulations.
- A Ministry of Climate and Biodiversity will be appointed.
- The Prime Minister will present a press conference focusing on climate developments once a month.
- No sector will be exempt from realising our climate goals. The aviation, shipping, and financial sectors as well as the livestock industry will lose their special status.
- An obligation to meet climate goals will be imposed on large-scale polluters and financial institutions. Companies will be required to present a climate plan to demonstrate how they will cut back their emissions throughout the chain. A convincing climate plan will serve as a strict condition for the allocation of sustainability grants.

A just climate policy: the polluter pays

A just transition is a transition in which the polluter pays, instead of the people who never caused the problems in the first place. The majority of greenhouse gas is emitted by only a handful of companies. For decades, these companies have been earning piles of money while polluting the atmosphere at no cost and sabotaging climate policy. There are still many of these fossil fuel companies that have no intention of giving up their profitable revenue model. Aside from this, the fossil fuel industry and the livestock industry are still raking in billion of euros in tax benefits, grants, and discounts. One cabinet after another has presented the bill for this to people elsewhere, people with low incomes and the next generations. This is unacceptable, whichever way you look at it. A good climate policy is urgently needed to curb this crisis.

- A climate justification assessment will be imposed on all climate plans and grants.
- Subsidies for fossil fuels and other forms of preferential treatment for fossil-fuel driven companies will be abolished. The money thus saved will be invested in a socially justifiable energy transition.
- The carbon tax will be expanded to apply to all types of greenhouse gases and sectors. Free rights will be revoked.
- An additional profit tax will be imposed on fossil-fuel driven energy companies.
- The current energy tax is unjust because large-scale users pay relatively less – a lot less, actually – than ordinary citizens and SMEs. We aim to introduce a progressive energy tax that will protect people with low incomes and ensure that large-scale users will pay more.
- The concept of the polluter paying will also apply to the agricultural industry: large-scale businesses that have earned piles of money for decades from intensive farming (such as animal feed suppliers, slaughterhouses, and agricultural development banks) will be contributing financially to the agricultural transition.
- The wealthiest 1% of the population is the most polluting and has failed most severely in meeting sustainability goals. We will put a stop to the unnecessary and extremely polluting consumption of luxury goods. Private jets and super yachts will be abolished.
- Advertising by the fossil fuel industry and for fossil-fuel based products and services is making the climate crisis worse. We aim to prohibit advertising in relation to fossil fuels and warnings will be displayed at sales outlets for fossil fuels, air travel, cruises, and vehicles with fossil-fuelled engines.
- By no longer allocating government grants to polluters but requiring them to pay for the damage they have caused instead, a great deal of money will become available for a just climate policy. Climate regulations for citizens will become affordable and people with low incomes will be spared financially. A comfortable and warm home, fast and sustainable transport and access to healthy and organic food should be in reach for everyone. We will put an end to energy poverty.
- There is a tremendous shortage of manpower for the sustainable transition. This is why we will be offering attractive retraining courses, coaching and a wide range of customised options for the many green and meaningful jobs that a sustainable society has to offer.
- The least polluting countries are hit hardest by the climate crisis. We aim to contribute fairly to global climate financing, to benefit the transition as well as for the adaptation and restoration of the damage that is the consequence of the natural disasters caused by the climate crisis. In addition to the above, we will be imposing a tax on fossil-fuel driven companies for the restoration of such damage.

Saving energy pays off

Every sound energy policy has three measures at the top of its list of priorities: saving, saving, and saving. No matter how we generate energy, this will inevitably create an impact on our living environment. It goes without saying that there is no need to generate energy you aren't planning to use. This is why the Party for the Animals is an advocate of making courageous choices. A mega

data centre in Zeewolde for the US-based company Meta (previously Facebook)? For which 115 (!) wind turbines were needed? We will not even consider it. Together with the local population, we were able to stop the establishment of this energy-guzzling hyper-scale data centre, thus saving a tremendous amount of space and energy. Is it necessary? Is it important? Or could we do without it and build fewer wind turbines (for example)? This is how the Party for the Animals regards the energy issue. It's a question of daring to choose.

In those instances where energy is important and necessary, we can still achieve a lot of savings: making our homes and offices more energy-efficient pays off. Our energy bills will be lower and our homes more comfortable, not to mention the resulting reduction in CO2 emissions and lesser dependence on oil and gas-producing countries. That, in a nutshell, is why the Party for the Animals considers saving energy a priority.

- In 2030, the Netherlands will be using 50% less energy in comparison to 1990.
- A national plan for saving energy will be drafted. Large-scale energy consumers will be obliged to present an energy savings plan.
- The obligation to conserve energy imposed on companies will be strictly enforced and the pay-back period extended.
- We will be making strict choices about which sectors can (and cannot) be part of a sustainable society. Unnecessary energy-slurping sectors such as the conventional floriculture industry and the artificial fertiliser industry will be gradually phased out. Ice skating rinks and indoor ski slopes will be closed in the summer, and the catering industry will retain its outdoor seating areas – but not its patio heaters.
- The manufacturing industry will achieve energy savings 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 and a greater emphasis on re-use and recycling.
- A data centre consumes as much energy as hundreds of thousands of households. As a result, green electricity can no longer be used to supply homes with clean energy and to enhance the sustainability of other industries. Therefore, the construction of data centres will be restricted.
- The Netherlands will adopt strict standards for the energy consumption of appliances and vehicles.
- Air conditioners lead to an extreme increase in electricity consumption. In warm weather, a big tree has the same cooling power as ten energy-guzzling air conditioners. We will therefore discourage the sale of air conditioners and encourage making buildings and houses more impervious to heat through the implementation of sunshades, sustainable cooling, and natural solutions such as trees and green roofs.
- Unnecessary energy consumption will be discouraged. Superfluous lighting in offices, lit-up shop windows or light-emitting advertising will be restricted.

Accelerating the transition to a sustainable and fair energy system

The energy system of the future is sustainable, clean, and affordable. To achieve this, we need to rapidly phase out fossil fuel sources and step up on renewable energy and a transformation of the manufacturing industry (energy and raw materials), our transport system and our buildings. This transformation requires carefully considered political choices.

As far as the Party for the Animals is concerned, energy is a fundamental human need and should be in the hands of us all – of ordinary citizens as well as government bodies. Energy can no longer be a trade commodity in the hands of multinational enterprises. We will make an end to this clash between commercial and social interests. Therefore, we will invest in an energy system close to home, generated on our own roofs or under the management of our neighbourhoods or districts. We aim to make the energy system fairer by ensuring that all citizens are given a say in it, are entitled to become owners (or co-owners) and can share in the profits. Additionally, we will invest in the fair production of solar panels, wind turbines and batteries. This will be done as close to home as

possible, and always pursuant to strict requirements in terms of sustainability, environmental conservation, and human rights.

Energy – including sustainable energy – is not always available in limitless quantities. Therefore, it would be wise to switch to a smart energy system that is adapted to this scarce availability. We aim to ensure that peaks in electricity consumption match peaks in availability – when the sun is shining or the wind is blowing – and vice versa with respect to troughs. This will prevent problems on the grid, restrict our use of resources and prevent shortages for households and essential facilities. To keep essential facilities supplied with electricity in times of limited availability, we will invest in energy storage facilities (heat and heat-cold storage units, batteries, hydrogen).

- Our energy system will come into public hands. Residents will be given a say in how and where their energy will be generated; they will be the primary consumers and should be able to determine how the proceeds are spent: on a local library or football field or invested in new sustainable energy projects.
- Cheap loans and good tax and other schemes will be made available for the generation and storage of energy at neighbourhood level. Cooperative ownership will be encouraged and the grant scheme for cooperative energy generation (*subsidiering coöperatieve energieopwekking*, SCE) will be expanded.
- Sustainable energy will be given priority on the energy grid with smart grids fed by small-scale and decentralised sources of green energy. The privacy of the users and suppliers must be safeguarded during this process.
- Solar panels on buildings will become the standard. All new-build housing will be equipped with solar panels. No solar parks will be built in nature preserves or on agricultural land, except specifically in the area surrounding Schiphol Airport.
- Everyone will be given the opportunity to install solar panels. Particularly those people who do not have solar panels yet must be able to benefit from the financial benefits of net metering in the future. The current net metering scheme will therefore remain in place for people who do not have solar panels yet. The scheme will be phased out for people who do have solar panels, taking into account the payback period. Additional policies will be implemented for housing corporations, tenants and homeowners who are unable to afford solar panels with a view to generating solar energy and net metering. Self-generated electricity and heat must be returned to the central grid, free of charge and taxation. Tenants will also be given the possibility of returning energy to the grid and benefiting from lower energy bills.
- We will also invest in wind farms at sea, whereby the rules and regulations for the protection of nature and animals should be deemed just as important as solutions for our climate. Prior assessments will be conducted on the ecological effects and no wind parks will be built in nature preserves.
- Wind parks on land are an important source of energy for a sustainable future but should not produce any adverse effects on human health or nature. We will ensure that nearby residents are involved in the process at an early stage and will have the chance to become co-owners of the wind park, so that they can be the first to benefit from it.
- Energy companies will be obliged to provide a minimum percentage of sustainable energy produced in the Netherlands. This percentage will be increased annually.
- Any demand for electricity not met through serious energy savings and our own wind and sun will be compensated for by importing green electricity from abroad. Where necessary, we will make use of green hydrogen. The hydrogen infrastructure will remain in public hands.

A sustainable electricity grid in 2030

Electricity will become the most important energy carrier of the future. This is why the electricity grid must be expanded and reinforced. Our existing grid is already reaching the limits of its capacity. Ordinary citizens, SMEs and large companies are all having to deal with the consequences of an

electricity grid that is becoming increasingly overburdened. Because the electricity grid cannot be expanded overnight, we need to set some priorities. We will have to accept that there are limits to what is possible. This means that we will have to make choices about who will be entitled to access the grid, where, and to what extent. Considering that the greatest percentage of the Netherlands' energy is consumed by the manufacturing industry (over 40%), we take a critical approach to identifying which sectors have a sustainable future and which do not. The following also applies here: the closer energy is generated to where it is used, the better, as this eliminates the long-distance transport of energy.

- Focusing on saving energy and decentralised energy systems will make this goal a lot less daunting. We will be making strict choices about which sectors will and will not be part of a sustainable society and will therefore be entitled to make use of the electricity grid. Citizens and facilities that serve social interests, such as hospitals, sports associations, and natural gas-free residential districts will be given priority access. The Netherlands will be pushing for this in the EU. The first come, first served rule in relation to this will be abolished. This will prevent scarce resources on the grid from being granted to data centres and cryptominers.
- We will expand and strengthen international, national, regional, and local electricity grids. In addition, we are committed to using the grid efficiently by avoiding peaks and promoting daytime as well as night-time use of the electricity grid to the greatest extent possible.
- The landfall of electricity from offshore wind will be aligned to the locations where the electricity will be used in the future. These are not automatically identical to current fossil energy clusters.

An end to fossil fuels

We need to eliminate our dependence on oil, coal, and gas as soon as possible. Currently, our country is among the poorest performing in Europe in the area of sustainable energy. If we intend to achieve our climate goals, oil, coal, and gas must remain in the ground.

Which energy-intensive companies will survive cannot be determined by the market. After all, the government has to invest heavily in new energy infrastructure. Not everything is possible. This will allow us to free up capacity to strengthen the infrastructure for citizens and sustainable, circular business enterprises in due time. Current energy infrastructure plans are based on the current demand from the existing branches of industry. These will be adapted.

- In 2030, oil, coal or gas will no longer be used in the Netherlands. An ambitious plan will be drafted for phasing out fossil fuels, in which the manufacturing industry will be the first to be held accountable. The phasing out of polluting, energy-slurping sectors, such as the artificial fertiliser and conventional floriculture industries, will definitely be included in this.
- We will stop extracting gas and oil on land and at sea. No permits will be issued, including near Ternaard in the Wadden Sea. No more gas will be extracted in Groningen.
- Coal plants will be closed down as quickly as possible and will not be converted into biomass plants.
- The use of empty gas fields for the storage of natural gas, whether imported or not, will be phased out as soon as possible. An immediate stop will be put to dumping (injecting) contaminated water in empty gas fields, such as in Twente and Schoonebeek.
- A ban on the extraction of shale and coal gas will be imposed; these will remain in the ground. No permits will be issued for exploratory drilling. All existing permits will be revoked.
- The cross-border transport of heavily polluting fossil fuels such as oil sands and shale gas will be prohibited in Europe. Additionally, the Netherlands will do its utmost to prevent this at international scale. LNG imports from shale gas will be phased out as soon as possible.
- Banks and shareholders take risks and have thought for too long they could make a profit for their own benefit at the expense of the Earth. Banks and companies that continue to enrich themselves at the expense of the planet no longer deserve government protection for their corporate freedom

and capital. The government will stop granting export loan insurance for fossil-fuel based projects.

Stop investing in false fixes

During a crisis, you must have the courage to make the necessary choices. We have only a few years left to prevent the most serious effects of the climate crisis. Therefore, we must invest in solutions that work now, and do not result in the emission of even more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Moreover, we have to realise that climate and nature cannot be seen as separate entities. If nature is not healthy, the Earth will lose its capacity to absorb carbon dioxide. We are making every effort to protect nature and make it more resilient.

- Regulations intended to protect nature will not be relaxed for climate measures.
- Carbon capture and storage (CCS) of greenhouse gases encourages companies to continue polluting. We aim to abolish CCS and put a lid on the proverbial subsidy barrel.
- The Netherlands will not build any new nuclear plants, and its existing plants will be closed as quickly as possible. Constructing a nuclear plant takes decades, while the climate crisis needs to be solved as quickly as possible. It costs billions in taxpayers' money, which would be better spent on reducing emissions at an accelerated pace. Burdening future generations with even more nuclear waste is immoral.
- We will ban heat grids connected to the fossil fuel industry, such as refineries, or to waste incinerators.
- We will not allow hydrogen based on fossil fuels or nuclear energy; the Dutch energy transition must be based exclusively on green hydrogen.
- The Party for the Animals has always been a staunch supporter of banning biomass power plants. Burning wood for the production of energy is never a good idea: it exacerbates the climate problem, contributes to the biodiversity crisis, and has a negative effect on the health of residents in the area. The certification system can be circumvented far too easily. Fortunately, awareness of this has been growing. As far as the Party for the Animals is concerned, a ban will be imposed on burning woody biomass to generate heat and electricity as soon as possible. A stop will be put to the construction of new biomass plants, and grants will be revoked immediately.
- Biofuels are not a sustainable solution for the transport and mobility sector. Using agricultural crops for biofuels contributes to a loss in biodiversity and threatens our food supply. Biofuel blending obligations will be abolished.
- Green gas derived from manure and other agricultural waste is keeping intensive livestock farming alive. Manure fermenters will be abolished.
- Our commitment to the recyclability and recycling of solar panels and other electrical infrastructure will contribute to the prevention of new raw material shortages and environmental problems caused by electrical waste.

Climate justice for the Caribbean Netherlands

The Caribbean Netherlands are in the frontline with regard to the climate crisis. One-fifth of Bonaire could become submerged due to rising sea levels as early as this century. Coral reefs are suffering from the heating up and acidification of seawater. Long periods of heat and drought make life more difficult for people, animals, and plants. Moreover, the effects of the climate and nature crisis could exacerbate the poverty already affecting the island populations, i.e. due to the disappearance of coral and, arising from this, a large portion of the tourism trade. However, hardly any central government funds are allocated to facilitate these islands' adaptation to the worsening conditions. As municipalities with a special status, Bonaire, Saba and Statia (Sint Eustatius) are part of the Netherlands and should not be disadvantaged compared to the rest of the kingdom. The other countries that belong to our kingdom, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten, also deserve our support in this regard.

- A fair share of the climate budget will be made available to Bonaire, Saba and Statia (Sint Eustatius) for the transition to a sustainable economy and energy supply and for their adaptation to the rapidly changing climate. Protecting the coral reefs is of the utmost importance, not only because this is a unique natural environment but also because they offer natural coastline protection. The central government will also provide expertise in fields such as water management for the conservation of these coral reefs.
- We also plan to invest in a sustainable food system for the islands to give their inhabitants access to affordable food.

Circular production and consumption

Measures against climate change and biodiversity loss have little effect if we keep producing and consuming goods we do not need. If everyone in the world were to live according to the prevailing standard of prosperity in the Netherlands, we would need multiple Earths. Moreover, to make all these products we need raw materials, and the Earth' capacity to supply us with these resources is finite.

The Party for the Animals aims to follow the example of nature in this. In nature, evolutionary processes generate no waste whatsoever. We are therefore committed to creating a circular economy that uses resources as sparingly as possible. That will take a great deal of effort because we have grown into an out-of-control, wasteful consumer society – at the expense of everything that truly matters. This balance urgently has to be restored. The Party for the Animals does not shy away from taking the lead in this and asking us to take a critical stance in distinguishing between what we really need and what is wasteful nonsense. Cars that have become so big that they no longer fit into normal parking spaces, fat bikes and electric scooters that not only use a lot of resources but also obstruct ordinary cyclists and walkers, a never-ending volley of new fashion collections when we already have more than enough clothes – all of this demands that we dare to set priorities and make choices. After all, citizens should expect the government to protect the very bedrock of our existence and set limits on what poses a threat to this for the financial gain of only a tiny percentage of the population. As with energy, realising savings – on raw materials, in this case – is of paramount importance to achieving a circular economy. Reducing our consumption of raw materials and energy also reduces our dependence on countries outside the EU for the raw materials that are important to the energy transition, for digitisation and for the use and production of medical equipment. Pursuant to the strategies on the R ladder (refuse, reduce, reuse), we aim to drastically reduce the amount of raw materials we use each year.

- In 2030, the Netherlands will have a fully circular economy.
- There will be a Raw Materials Act with binding obligations to restrict our use of raw materials and other resources.
- The national budget will include a resource ceiling in addition to existing expenditure ceilings. The government may only implement its policy and carry out its plans if these are in line with the constraints imposed by the resource ceiling.
- There will be a national plan with enforceable targets to reduce the amount of goods we produce and consume. The sustainable, circular option will become the more attractive option, and environmental damage will be factored into product prices.
- We will put an end to the 'throw-away' society. We do not want telephones that need to be constantly updated or fast fashion; we want to eliminate the use of disposable products to the greatest extent possible.
- The design of new products will be subject to continuously stricter requirements. As little material as possible must be used for the manufacture of products, and the materials that are used must be easy to recycle. Products should also last as long as possible and be easy to repair.
- Reuse and reparation will become the standard once again. This is affordable for everyone and will result in the creation of attractive jobs. We will promote the second-hand market, barter and exchange platforms and repair services. Repair work will be exempt from VAT. Materials

passports will be imposed on the manufacturing and construction industries.

- Taxes will be adjusted to make recycled raw materials cheaper than those used for the first time, such as steel, glass, and plastic.
- The current deposit programme for plastic bottles, tins and cans will be expanded to all types of beverage packaging, such as juice bottles and milk cartons. We will work to improve the current system so that all plastic bottles and cans can be returned to the facility where they were purchased, even if they are dented. Responsibility for the deposit system will be placed in the hands of the government rather than the corporate community.
- Transparent resource flows are of crucial importance to the creation of a circular economy. Therefore, the Netherlands will strive for an expansion of legislation for the labelling of consumer goods and food products in Europe. In addition to the current 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 obliged to reduce packaging made from mixed materials.

Stop plastic pollution

Plastic feeds the climate crisis and pollutes nature. It ends up on a gigantic landfill, or floats around in the ocean to contribute to the plastic soup. Animals become trapped in it or swallow it. The production of plastic only continues to increase exponentially. If we do nothing to put an end to this problem, we will drown in it. We wholeheartedly say 'no' to the use of plastic.

- A ban will be imposed on single-use plastic. In those cases where plastic is still used, it must be recycled plastic. We will drastically reduce the use of packaging materials by promoting the use of reusable packaging and refillable packaging in supermarkets.
- A ban will be placed on the addition of microplastics to cosmetic products. Regulations will be imposed on manufacturers to combat the release of microplastics arising from the use of their products.
- A tax will be imposed on virgin/new plastic.

A world without waste

The world's ever-growing rubbish heap is growing faster than its population. Many hazardous substances are released when waste is incinerated, such as CO₂, nitrogen, and particulate matter. Litter pollutes nature and our water and is hazardous to animals. If we truly commit ourselves to a circular economy, waste will become a thing of the past.

- The overcapacity of waste incineration plants will be phased out as soon as possible and we will stop importing waste from foreign countries. We will prevent dependence on waste incineration as a source of heat energy.
- Companies will pay for the waste they create. Buying out of this obligation will not be permitted. The government must take the lead in this and ensure that companies produce substantially less waste and switch to recycling.
- Cigarette filters rank highest on the list of the ten most commonly found types of litter. A ban will be placed on the sale of cigarette filters and – just as in other countries – beaches, parks, nature reserves and other areas on the water will be designated as non-smoking areas.
- The release of gas-filled balloons will be prohibited, as well as the sale and launch of sky lanterns, as well as the sale and outdoor use of water balloons. Balloons often land in water and in nature preserves where they can be fatal to animals. Biodegradable balloons are not a solution: they break down only under the right natural conditions, and this process often takes years.
- The 'ja-ja' sticker (a letter box sticker consenting to the delivery of door-drop marketing materials) will be implemented nation-wide. The rule will be: you will not receive any unsolicited marketing

materials unless you specifically consent to this by affixing the 'ja-ja' sticker on your letter box.

- The sale of bird feed in plastic nets will be prohibited. Birds can become trapped in these nets and sometimes swallow the net along with the feed. Empty nets sometimes end up as litter polluting nature.

Rights for nature

Nature is fundamental to our existence. Without nature, there would be no clean air, water, or food. The regulations we currently have in place for the preservation of nature do not offer adequate protection for current and future generations. Nature suffers under increasing drought and extreme weather conditions, nitrogen, and human activities. Sometimes, legal proceedings are needed to enforce compliance with nature regulations. By recognising the constitutional rights of nature, the importance of nature will be taken into account in advance, rather than afterwards by a court of law. People or companies that seriously damage nature must be punished.

- Rights for nature must be included in the Constitution.
- By giving natural areas such as the Wadden Sea rights, these areas can be better protected against hazardous activities.
- The conscious, large-scale damaging of ecosystems – ecocide – will become punishable. Ecocide will be included in our Criminal Code as a crime. The International Court of Law will be given the authority to persecute businesses for ecocide.

Give nature room to breathe

Nature has an intrinsic value. Nature can do perfectly well without humans, but humans cannot do without nature. Nitrogen emissions are causing nature to deteriorate enormously. This is a symptom of a much bigger problem. What has come to be called the 'nitrogen crisis' is a tangible consequence of an economy that has grown far beyond the carrying capacity of the planet. It is not only nitrogen that has a negative impact on nature. Other factors include increasing drought, partly explained by the climate crisis, dramatic water pollution, huge quantities of manure and damage caused by agricultural toxins. All of these are examples of human activities that are overburdening our planet.

There is an urgent need for measures to protect nature, including, of course, in relation to nitrogen. The Dutch livestock industry is by far the greatest contributor. A serious decrease in the number of animals in livestock farming is therefore necessary. But other sectors will also have to sharply reduce their nitrogen emissions. The maximum speed limit will be reduced, the aviation industry will be downsized, biomass plants will be abolished, and we will force the manufacturing industry to drastically reduce its nitrogen emissions. We will once again make room in the Netherlands for everything that grows, blooms, zooms, and sings. Infinite monocultures and grey landscapes will become colourful and lively again through the restoration of robust and resilient nature, which will be cherished and given space for expansion.

- The total number of animals bred and killed in the Dutch livestock industry will be reduced by at least 75% in the next two years. Nitrogen emissions will, in any case, be 70% lower in 2030 than in 2020. These goals will be regulated by law.
- The concept of the polluter paying will also apply to nature: big businesses that have earned piles of money for decades from intensive farming (such as animal feed suppliers, slaughterhouses, and agricultural development banks) and therefore from damage to nature will be making substantial financial contributions to its restoration.
- This means that nitrogen deposition on the most highly burdened types of nature, which according to ecological research would otherwise be irreparably damaged, must fall below the safe nitrogen limit (the critical deposition level) by 2025 at the latest.

- Both for the sake of nature and to restore our confidence in the government's intention to pursue a fair policy, nitrogen-emitting sectors other than livestock farming will also be obliged to reduce their emissions. There will be a ban on burning woody biomass for heat and electricity production, Tata Steel's permits for its most polluting divisions will be revoked immediately, the Dutch aviation industry will be downsized, Lelystad Airport will never open, we will stop incinerating waste imported from foreign countries and automotive transport will also make a much greater contribution to our sustainability goals.
- The central government will no longer shift the responsibility of compliance with the far-reaching measures needed to get out of the nature crisis to the provinces. The central government will assume responsibility for reducing the number of animals in livestock farming and implement this policy.
- The Dutch agricultural industry will become healthy and diverse again. This will be done by producing primarily crops for human consumption and creating closed circuits at regional scale.
- The government will tell it like it is: breeding, using, and killing animals for the production of meat, dairy, eggs and fish irrevocably equates to animal suffering. Not only that: it is also highly damaging to nature, the climate, soil, and water. A cabinet will be elected that dares to break the taboo on reducing our meat consumption, and that fearlessly defies counter-campaigns on this topic by certain media. It is only logical that a healthy future (with affordable food) for all of us (including farmers!) is impossible if we keep including animals in our food chain on this scale. The central government will therefore commit itself wholeheartedly to stepping up a reduction in the production and consumption of animal proteins and the sorely needed transition to a more plant-based and therefore animal-friendly and sustainable society.
- Relocating megabarns and technical workarounds, such as air washers and 'low-emission barn systems' will not solve the nitrogen problem, are horrendously expensive and only lead to more animal suffering. This is why these are unacceptable to the Party for the Animals.

More nature

Large, robust natural areas are better equipped to handle negative environmental influences such as nitrogen emissions and climate change. They are also more favourable for biodiversity. One of the reasons for this is that plants and animals can spread themselves out better in larger areas. The National Ecological Network (*Ecologische Hoofdstructuur*, EHS) was once the foundation of Dutch nature policy and essential to the retention and strengthening of nature. However, under pressure of the agribusiness lobby it was abolished by the first Rutte cabinet. To counter the fragmentation of nature preserves and large-scale biodiversity loss in the Netherlands, we want the EHS to be reinstated. We will better protect existing nature and promote biodiversity within the built-up area.

- Nature policy will once again become the responsibility of the central government. The decentralised approach to nature policy, in which each province is responsible for its own territories, will be reversed.
- We will have more nature! Fragmented nature preserves will be connected. The original National Ecological Network (EHS), a network of connected nature reserves, will still be implemented: in 2027 at the latest. We will also strengthen biodiversity outside the designated nature preserves.
- Natural areas that have been almost irreversibly damaged will be given priority with regard to restoration and connected with other nature preserves where possible.
- A percentage of the Dutch agricultural land will be given back to nature. Owners will receive compensation for the change in function of their land.
- Nature preserves belonging to the government will not be sold.
- Landscapes will be made insect and animal-friendly with a view to creating an ecological network of habitats and corridors.
- The use of agricultural toxins will be prohibited.
- Shoulders along roads and strips of lands along railways and other infrastructure 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.

- 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.
- Light pollution is disturbing to the biorhythm of people, plants, and animals, and poses a threat to biodiversity. Artificial lighting will be kept down to a minimum everywhere outside wherever this is possible, and nuisance caused by lighting will be combated. If lighting is truly necessary, the most animal-friendly alternative will be chosen.
- Mining activities (such as gas or salt extraction) will be prohibited in and surrounding nature preserves. The same applies to conventional floriculture (due to the high amounts of agricultural toxins and artificial fertiliser used in this sector).
- The Netherlands will adopt a pioneering role geared towards a more ambitious nature protection goal and supervising global compliance with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in the UN Biodiversity Treaty.
- The deep sea (i.e. the ocean floor) is one of the last undamaged areas on Earth, with valuable life and many species that are still unidentified. These areas must be left in peace and all activities that could be hazardous to these areas, such as deep-sea mining, will be prohibited here. Outer space must also be protected from mining for new resources. The Netherlands will commit itself internationally to the prohibition of deep sea and space mining.

More trees

Neither humans nor animals can do without trees. Trees create oxygen, take up carbon dioxide and offer shelter to numerous animals. Trees and natural forests are of inestimable value. They are also immensely important in an urban environment. A single tree can keep us as cool as ten air conditioners. This is why we will be planting lots of new trees and protect and strengthen existing trees and forests.

Considering that the Netherlands contributes substantially to global deforestation, it can also play an exemplary role in stopping this. Tropical rainforests are being destroyed for the large-scale cultivation of soybeans to feed the hundreds of millions of animals in the Dutch livestock industry every day. Food and feed manufacturers still put a lot of palm oil in their products – not because this is necessary, but simply because it is a cheap ingredient. On top of that, our biomass plants produce energy from wood derived from trees that are felled in nature preserves in Estonia and the USA. As far as the Party for the Animals is concerned, the Netherlands should stop these practices immediately and start genuinely protecting our world's forests.

- Indigenous and climate-proof trees and forests will be planted on a large scale in our own country and accorded the status of protected species.
- Our existing forests will become genuinely protected forests. This means an end to felling trees for the production of wood, that dead trees will not be moved, and that animals will not be disturbed. In other places in the country, space will be created for production forests where trees are grown to be felled for use in the construction industry, for example. Thanks to the large-scale investments in more nature in our country, more space will be created for recreation in areas where this does not disturb animals and nature.
- Permit conditions for felling trees will be stricter. As a result, trees will no longer be chopped down unless there is an extremely good reason to do so. If a tree cannot remain standing in its current location, relocation will always be considered the preferred option. Nesting and brooding sites of animals will be protected with an obligatory quiet period during the brooding and lactation season. Severe penalties will be imposed on the illegal felling of trees.
- A law will be implemented to prevent products or financial services from contributing to local

and global deforestation and the destruction of ecosystems and species.

Protection of nature in the Caribbean Netherlands

The Caribbean Netherlands boasts 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, sharks, and sea turtles. This unique nature and its many animal species are under threat from climate change, overfishing and mass tourism.

- In consultation with the inhabitants of these islands, the central government will ensure the conservation of nature on these islands through better regulations and enforcement, and by contributing the requisite knowledge and financial support. The Netherlands will stop facilitating illegal coastal developments on Bonaire.
- The sale and import of sunscreens containing hazardous substances 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 will be given protection. Dogs and cats must be microchipped, and the central government will finance a sterilisation and neutering programme to reduce the number of stray animals. Animal shelters will receive adequate funding to care for animals that are injured, sick or in need of help.

Stop the water crisis

Water is of vital importance. Clean water is of crucial importance to our drinking water, our food security and the survival of plants and animals. Nature in the Netherlands, however, is sick. This is due to polluted water and drought, which is disastrous for biodiversity as well as human life. Our drinking water is coming under pressure because water treatment is becoming more and more difficult. The quality of water in the Netherlands is worse than anywhere else in Europe. Currently, not even 1% of our surface water satisfies the criteria imposed by the Water Framework Directive.

One of the big polluters of our water is manure from the livestock industry. In addition to this, our surface water is also polluted by agricultural toxins, medicine residues, chemical waste products, and microplastics. This is why a serious decrease in the number of animals in livestock farming is imperative. We also need to realise a toxin-free agricultural industry, the manufacturing industry needs to stop dumping toxic waste, and we have to curb plastic waste. Groundwater levels can no longer structurally be kept too low to benefit the agricultural sector, as this will lead to the structural desiccation of nature.

We are rapidly approaching a water crisis, with unprecedented consequences for our country. If we ensure that our surface water and our groundwater is purified without delay, life in this water can recover from the tremendous loss in biodiversity, and our drinking water supply will be safeguarded.

- We will ensure an adequate supply of genuinely clean drinking water in the Netherlands. A cabinet will be instated that makes every effort to achieve the goals of the Water Framework Directive by 2025. This will give us enough space to resolve any remaining bottlenecks before the statutory deadline in 2027, when a lockdown will be imposed on our country because the government has dawdled too long in ensuring the much-needed protection of our water.
- The intensive fertilisation of agricultural areas will be put to a halt and the number of animals kept in barns will be radically decreased.
- The production and use of harmful PFAS will be fully banned. Businesses will be prohibited from

emitting PFAS into the atmosphere or discharging it into the water. We will force Chemours to adopt a zero-emission policy as soon as possible.

- Business enterprises that pollute our water will be called to account. The central government will take 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 business undertakings.
- A ban will be placed on the addition of microplastics to cosmetic products. Regulations will be imposed on manufacturers to combat the release of microplastics arising from the use of their products.
- The agricultural and horticultural industries will stop using toxins. The enforcement of and control over the use of pesticides will be intensified. The sale of pesticides to private individuals will be prohibited.
- The guaranteed seats on the water boards, which until now have been reserved for farmers and management organisations, will be abolished. Water boards will have a democratic distribution of members.

More water for nature

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 that increasingly heavy 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. As a result, the surrounding natural areas are drying out, wildfires are occurring more and more frequently, biodiversity is being reduced even further, buildings are collapsing, dikes are becoming increasingly unsafe due to cracks and soil settlement, and the quality of the water and aquatic life in our country's network of ditches and canals is diminishing at a rapid pace. Due to the oxidation of peat, large amounts of CO₂ are emitted from peat bogs each year. Moreover, we have organised our water systems in such a way that sweet water is discharged into the sea as quickly as possible, rather than retained in our soil. In addition to this, the agricultural sector and the manufacturing industry are bulk consumers of ground water, surface water and tap water. All of this is seriously jeopardising animal life, nature, and the availability of drinking water. Within just a few years, we could be faced with shortages of drinking water due to drought and the pollution of our sources of potable water. The Party for the Animals asks for a water distribution policy in which the maximum protection and conservation of nature and our sources of drinking water are given priority. A decisive climate policy is an essential condition for the prevention of drought.

- By maintaining a natural water level and safeguarding the equitable distribution of water, we can restore our water management to its former healthy state. This is beneficial to the diversity of species and could be the salvation for woodland bird species, many of which are currently suffering so seriously from long periods of drought that they are dying from malnutrition.
- The distribution of water will be based on a policy that assigns priority to the preservation of a natural water level. 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 inundated with fresh water and can serve as climate buffers.
- In the event of a serious drought, the distribution of water will be organised in such a way that nature is given priority over agriculture. Drinking water will always be prioritised.
- Access to water will no longer be an automatic entitlement. The extraction of ground water will be subject to permits, in which priority is given to nature and drinking water.
- The illegal extraction of large amounts of water using pumps (illegal wells) will be prohibited.
- Rainwater can get polluted by waste lying about on streets, or pollution on industrial estates. Rainwater run-off on company premises will be separated from the sewer system, and the proper disposal of polluted water will be made compulsory.
- Making gardens green again will be strongly encouraged so that water can be absorbed into the

ground more easily. We will be delivering newly built houses with turf-free soil, rather than sand. Paved areas in public spaces will also be reduced and replaced by plants.

- Big businesses must pay more for drinking water. The supply obligation for new (non-crucial) businesses will be abolished.
- Companies using more than 300 cubic meters of tap water will no longer be exempt from water tax. Instead, a progressive water tax system will be implemented in which bulk consumers, such as the chemical and food production sectors, will pay the costs of their high water consumption.

Protection of marine life

Half the Earth's oxygen is produced in its oceans. Currently, these oceans are having a cooling effect on our planet. This precarious balance is, however, being disrupted at an alarming pace due to climate change. If we do nothing, the consequences will be disastrous. The North Sea is the Netherlands' largest nature reserve, and formerly home to an enormous diversity of species. Unfortunately, this area is in a critical condition. Not only have the North Sea and the Wadden Sea been hit hard by pollution, but these areas are also suffering from overfishing. Some fishing practices cause horrendous damage to the ocean floor. Many species of fish are at risk of extinction, and large fish such as sharks and rays have become rare.

- More protected sea reserves will be created. In these areas, fishing, gas extraction or other detrimental activities will be prohibited, also to give plants and fish a chance 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 ladders will be constructed, 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.
- 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 transition zones (*Fauna Uittreed Plaatsen*, FUPs) will be realised in areas with elevated quays to enable animals to exit the water.
- The natural environment will be protected from risks during shipping accidents. The southern shipping route along the Wadden Islands will be closed off to container ships.
- Ecologically valuable shipwrecks will be protected.

Curbing hazardous industrial practices

Environmental policy should put the protection and health of all living beings in first place, rather than the interests of the manufacturing industry. The precautionary principle will be given precedence in drawing up environmental standards, issuing permits, and environmental policy. The Party for the Animals strives for the strict enforcement of environmental regulations. Action will be taken immediately against the pathological pollution caused by Tata Steel and Chemours to prevent an even greater disaster for the surrounding residents, nature, and the environment. We will be changing course towards a living environment that promotes our health rather than impeding it.

- Business enterprises will be prohibited from discharging substances that are foreign to the environment into the water or the atmosphere. No new discharge permits will be issued, and existing ones will be revoked.
- The permits for the most polluting divisions of Tata Steel will be revoked with immediate effect in the interest of public health, climate, and nature. Tata Steel may only continue to exist if it can explain, in the short term, how it intends to become clean, climate neutral and circular by 2030.
- The application and use of harmful PFAS will be fully banned. Businesses will be prohibited from emitting PFAS into the atmosphere or discharging it into the water. We will force Chemours to adopt a zero-emission policy as soon as possible.
- The disposal of industrial waste materials, such as granulite, steel slag and construction rubble into the environment will be prohibited.
- The central government will take control of the supervision and enforcement of environmental laws and combating environmental crime. More capacity and expertise will be made available to the supervisors. Inspections will no longer be announced and the businesses themselves will be held to pay for the costs of these inspections. Fines will be increased substantially and adjusted in line with the revenue of the relevant business enterprises. The permits of habitual offenders will be revoked sooner.

Affordable, green, and better transport

Safe and easily accessible transport is a fundamental requirement for our well-being. This is why we must ensure the accessibility of affordable mobility for everyone. We aim to do this as sustainably and efficiently as possible to encourage the sparing use of energy, resources and public space.

The Party for the Animals opts for a radical, sustainable shift with regard to our mobility. This means: more space for pedestrians and cyclists (electrically powered or otherwise), less road traffic, fewer flights, and fast, affordable and comfortable public transport.

We opt for smart solutions rather than simply replacing every single fossil-fuelled vehicle with an electrically powered one. Cars are not driven 95% of the time, which means they use an unnecessarily high amount of resources and public space. With the prevention of pollution as a clear goal, higher taxes will be imposed on SUVs than on more energy-efficient cars. Major polluters and energy slurpers such as private jets will be banned in their entirety. Smart logistics and transportation will allow us to spare the climate and make the air healthier again while travelling just as comfortably. More space will be made available for greenery on our streets, and it will become safer for children to play outside. In 2030, mobility will be wholly sustainable. All traffic will run primarily on electricity, except for a small portion, which will run on green hydrogen (in sectors where enhancing sustainability through electrification is barely possible, such as international shipping and air traffic sectors).

More space for pedestrians and cyclists

It will make a world of difference if we give pedestrians and cyclists the right of way in all our cities and villages. The air will become cleaner and the roads safer. More space for cyclists and pedestrians also means a different role for the car. With less motorised traffic, there will be more space for greenery and meeting places in urban settings. For many people, the combination of cycling, walking and public transport is potentially an easy, healthy, clean, and pleasant mobility alternative.

- We will invest in safe, fast, and green bike lanes. Traffic lights will be programmed to give priority to pedestrians and cyclists.
- We will continue to provide financial incentives for cycling.
- By investing in new high-speed bike routes and bike streets, the commuting distance that can be

covered comfortably by bicycle will become larger.

- The possibilities for taking bicycles on public transport will be expanded.
- To further facilitate and encourage the use of the public transport bicycle (OV-fiets), investments will be made in more bicycles and their pick-up and drop-off locations.
- More residential neighbourhoods will be created where pedestrians always have right of way and vehicles are not permitted to drive faster than walking pace. As a result, playing outside and contact with neighbours will become safer.

More and better public transport

Public transport, particularly in combination with a bicycle, is potentially the cleanest and cheapest mobility alternative. Unfortunately, more and more bus lines are being struck, trains are becoming shorter and public transport tickets are substantially increased in price. This is not an economic mechanism; these are political choices. We will therefore choose to invest substantially in affordable, comfortable, and accessible public transport. This contributes to our sustainability goals and to keeping our cities liveable. We will also ensure that public transport is a good and accessible mobility option in rural areas.

- Public transport will be 50% cheaper and VAT on public transport tickets will be abolished. People whose income is equal or below 150% of the social minimum will have free access to public transport.
- Trains will no longer be divided into first and second-class compartments. Everyone must have access to a proper seat at a reasonable price.
- The travel time by rail between the Randstad in the west and the eastern and northern regions of the Netherlands will become shorter. The Lely and Nedersaksen railway lines will be constructed as quickly as possible. A new high-speed train connection between Utrecht and Breda will be established.
- Train travel must be comfortable and 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 railway carriage will be equipped with clean toilets, electrical sockets, and an internet connection. Train stations will be made more easily accessible to the elderly, 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 facilitated.
- Through the expansion of light rail connections such as the Randstadrail, we can improve accessibility to smaller residential areas, thereby reducing commuter traffic by private car.
- More buses will be deployed to expand the public transport network to a fine-mesh network. From now on, only 100% electrically powered buses will be purchased. All buses will be 100% electric by 2030. On multi-lane roads, lanes will be designated as bus lanes, making public transport a faster and more reliable alternative than a car, particularly during rush hour.
- Educational institutes, care facilities and public services will be easily accessible by public transport from every residential area, including for persons with a physical disability.

Fewer cars

The passenger car will be given a new position in the sustainable mobility system. Our goal is not to simply replace every fossil-fuelled car with an electrically powered one. Thanks to better public transport options and more shared mobility alternatives, we will need fewer cars. Not only will this result in more room on the street; shared mobility will also cut motorists' expenses considerably as they will only pay when actually using their shared car.

- The speed limit on motorways will be restricted to 100 km per hour both day and night, and 70 km per hour on ring roads. The difference between driving 130 and 100 km per hour is equal to

- a 15 to 25% reduction in emissions.
- City centres will be made car-free to the greatest extent possible. Cars can be parked outside the city limits at car parks with good Park+Ride facilities. The speed limit in all built-up areas will be 30 km/hour.
- Replacing every car in the Netherlands with an electric vehicle will place too great a strain on the global supply of the requisite raw materials. This is why we are committed to reducing vehicle ownership by investing in public transport and encouraging shared mobility through tax benefits.
- In sparsely populated areas, substantial investments will be made in public transport and shared mobility to reduce residents' dependency on privately owned cars.
- Car owners who drive fewer kilometres will be less heavily taxed than people who spend more time on the road. The new pricing model will be subject to strict privacy safeguards.
- Heavier and more polluting cars should be taxed more severely. With a revision of motor vehicle tax, we will curb the sale and use of large and polluting cars (such as SUVs) and reinstate fuel-efficient cars as the standard.
- Commuting by car will be discouraged and flex working and working from home will be encouraged.
- Tax benefits for cars will be phased out.
- Constructing more roads will not resolve the constant traffic jams in this country. Instead, it will encourage people to drive more, resulting in a further increase in particulate matter and greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, no more new roads will be constructed, and no existing roads will be expanded. That means the discontinuation of the expansion of the A27 motorway near Amelisweerd, and the extension of the A15 through the Rijnstrangen area.
- We will actively collaborate with municipalities and provinces to designate and expand strict low-emission zones.
- Night-time speed limits will be imposed in the vicinity of nature preserves in the interest of the safety of all living beings.
- A speed limit will be imposed on cars to improve traffic safety. There is no reason why a car should be able to drive 180 km/hour.
- Considering that 30% fewer accidents occur on roads on which speed cameras are installed, more such cameras will be installed.

Fewer flights, more trains

We will make the train the fastest, cheapest, and most pleasant means of international travel. This will turn the train into a fully-fledged alternative to the aeroplane. 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. Flights over densely populated areas also pose considerable safety risks for the people living there. A sustainable aviation sector cannot be realised within the next few decades. Therefore, the sector needs to be downsized in line with the capacities of the climate, the living environment and human and animal health.

- We will invest in an affordable and accessible European railway network. Train tickets will be exempt from VAT. The EU will ensure the online availability of train travel information throughout Europe to facilitate the convenient booking of train tickets.
- The Netherlands will invest in frequent international connections to Hamburg/Copenhagen (north-east), Berlin/Prague (east), Munich (south-east), Paris (south) and London (west) to better connect the country to the European railway network.
- More and better international night trains will be facilitated. The car train will be reintroduced.
- In border regions, (short) international rail connections with our neighbouring countries will also be improved or reinstated.
- The aviation industry will be downsized in line with the limits of what the climate, our living environment and our safety can handle. The Netherlands will opt for the much-needed downsizing of its aviation industry.

- A progressive air passenger tax for consumers will be introduced, which increases every time you fly.
- Lelystad Airport and Vliegveld Twente will not be opened up to commercial flights. Maastricht Aachen Airport, Groningen Airport Eelde and Rotterdam The Hague Airport will all be closed down. This will create space for residential housing and nature.
- Flights covering distances of less than 750 kilometres, for which train travel is an excellent alternative, will be prohibited.
- Private jets will be banned.
- The aviation sector will lose its special status and start paying for the emissions it causes. Tax incentives for air traffic, such as exemption from VAT and excise duty, will be abolished. The proceeds from this will be invested in sustainable public transport.
- Apart from CO₂, aviation also contributes to global warming through other emissions. The combustion engine of an aircraft also releases water vapour, nitrous oxides, sulphur oxides, soot particles and hydrocarbons into the atmosphere. The effects are even worse than those produced by CO₂ but are not calculated into the total emissions caused by the aviation industry. We will take the aviation industry's non-CO₂-related contribution to the climate crisis into account and address it.
- The total sum of all air traffic above the Netherlands adversely affects the health of both its residents and nature preserves. The fourth approach route will not be realised.
- We will invest in retraining aviation industry staff and offer them support in finding other employment with better future prospects, such as public transport.

Less freight transport

The transport of goods and/or other resources will become quieter, cleaner, and climate-neutral, whether this is done by train or by road, or via inland waterways or through pipelines. We opt for an economy in which products last longer and are preferably produced locally. This way, the unnecessary transport of goods all over the world is avoided.

- A carbon tax will also be imposed on the shipping industry, and on freight ships in particular.
- The shipping industry will invest in more energy-efficient practices, such as sails that help propel the ship and robots to keep the hull clean and smooth.
- Tax benefits on fossil fuels for the shipping industry will be eliminated. The income thus generated will be used for the further development of a sustainable industry. Sustainable freight and passenger transport over water, including ferry services, will be encouraged. The use of shore-based power (cold-ironing) will be made compulsory for all docked ships.
- Commercial cruise ships are among the largest polluters on our planet. Therefore, cruise ships will no longer be permitted to dock at or depart from Dutch ports.
- Super yachts are extremely polluting. They use thousands of litres of fuel per hour, and some take five times as much fuel as a Boeing 747 when refuelling. This is why we will prohibit super yachts in Europe.
- Ships will be prohibited from discharging hazardous waste. A stop will be put to the degassing of vessels at sea, their discharge of paraffin and other chemicals into the sea and the use of open-loop scrubbers as soon as possible.
- 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.
- In 2030, practically all new vans and lorries in the Netherlands will be electric. A small percentage will run on green hydrogen generated from solar and wind energy.

2. Animal rights

Animals have the right to live according to their nature

Apart from almost 18 million humans, the Netherlands is also inhabited by hundreds of millions of animals. A healthy democracy looks after the interests of all its inhabitants – both human and animal. This is only logical, considering that a country's political system has an impact not only people, but also on the lives of animals. Animals are conscious, sentient individuals. We need to treat them and their lives with due care. The Party for the Animals wants to ensure that all animals can live according to their nature, and that they have enough space to do so. A re-evaluation of our relationship with animals is also in the interest of human beings. A country where values such as compassion and justice are given priority and applied equally to humans and animals is a more beautiful and healthier country.

Animals can tell us, through their behaviour, that we should treat them differently – when they liberate themselves on their way to the slaughter or escape from their cages. This behaviour gives us an opportunity to look differently at how we treat animals; it holds up a mirror to us. As a result, animals are also catalysts of social change. We share the same habitat, but there is tremendous legal injustice in how we do this. Animals are often considered mere 'objects'. So many animals lead a deplorable life because they are bred, traded, used, chased away, hunted, and killed by humans. In our country each year, more than 500 million animals die after enduring a miserable existence in the livestock industry. The law, which ought to protect animals, is currently still lacking in many respects. It moreover contains many exceptions, in which economic interests are systematically prioritised above animal health and well-being.

A world that is safer for animals is also safer for people. Our treatment of animals has been shown to be one of the biggest culprits of many of the big problems we are facing today – climate change, loss of biodiversity, infectious diseases such as COVID-19 and avian flu, and the depletion of the soil, to name a few. Liberating animals from the food chain will solve many of these problems in one fell swoop. In the meantime, the animals in the livestock industry must be given a decent existence, and their suffering limited as much as possible. Fully transparent and clear information must be provided to the public about the suffering and killing of animals for the production of meat, fish, dairy, and eggs, which is currently concealed from consumers. We are striving for a society where the least possible use is made of animals. A society where all living beings live together in harmony.

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. Fire safety rules have been set down for the storage of toilet rolls, but no such rules apply for live animals kept in a barn. It is an absurd political choice that has led to tens of thousands of victims each year. Once the rights of animals have been secured, cruelty to animals can be prevented or punished.

- Animal rights will be recognised and set down 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.
- All relevant resolutions adopted by the cabinet will be assessed on how they impact the interests of animals.
- If any policies are proposed that touch on the interests of animals, the central government will proactively ask for advice from animal rights organisations before taking further action.
- A Ministry of Public Health and Animal Well-Being will be established. This ministry will be tasked with facilitating the well-being of people and animals.

An end to the livestock industry

The breeding, use and killing of animals in the livestock industry is unethical and untenable. Many animals hardly ever see natural light. The sheer number animals that are bred, used, and killed for the

production of meat, fish, dairy, and eggs is so enormous that not a single environmental, nature or animal well-being regulation is sufficiently adequate to tackle the problems arising from it. 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. 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 livestock industry will be abolished. The total number of animals bred and killed in the Netherlands livestock industry will be reduced by at least 75% in the next two years.

Right to natural behaviour

As long as animals have not yet been liberated from the food chain, their suffering must be limited to the greatest extent possible. Today's livestock industry has no relationship whatsoever with nature. Millions of ducks never see natural light, and they have no water to swim or clean themselves in. The first time in their lives that they see water is when they are dragged through an electric shock water bath at the slaughterhouse. Calves and kids (baby goats) are separated from their mothers immediately after birth, so their mothers' milk can be consumed by people. Cows and goats rarely have horns in today's livestock industry: they are either bred hornless or their horns are removed (i.e. they are 'disbudded') with a hot dehorning iron.

Thanks to an amendment to the Animal Act, initiated by the Party for the Animals, it is now illegal for animals to be adapted for the benefit of the livestock industry. This means that inflicting pain on animals or allowing them to suffer – with a view to cramming as many of them into a single barn as possible purely for economic gain – should be prohibited from now on. Barns must be adapted to the animals instead of animals to the barns. Painful procedures will be prohibited, as well as excessively small cages and closed barns, with a view to allowing animals to exhibit the same behaviour that is natural to their species. 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 sheds. The amended Animals Act must be formulated taking into account scientific knowledge about the natural need of animals.

- This revised Act will be implemented as soon as possible. The requirements emerging from this will be taken into account as strict conditions in the agricultural transition. A clear step-by-step plan and schedule will be drafted alongside, so that livestock farmers are aware of what will be imposed on them.
- 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 barn, animals should have enough space, hay, and diversion. They should be given the freedom to isolate themselves or not, as they wish.
- Calves and lambs will no longer be separated from their mothers after childbirth but remain with their mothers in the fields and drink the milk that was intended to feed them in the first place. This should also apply to young bulls, rams, and billy 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 disbudding of cows and goats.
- A ban will be imposed on the gassing of newly born roosters in the egg industry.
- The production of white veal will be prohibited. It is unacceptable that calves are deliberately made ill by force-feeding them an iron-deficient diet that causes anaemia 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 this leads to severe suffering. Duck and rabbit farms will therefore be immediately

prohibited.

- The Netherlands will commit itself to phasing out intensive livestock farming and to imposing requirements on animal well-being in the livestock industry. It will urge the other EU member states to follow its example. Imported products of animal origin must meet the same requirements as European products.

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 give birth naturally. An animal-worthy existence also means that animals should be able to reproduce naturally without repeated artificial insemination.

- Breeding for extremely rapid growth (chickens and pigs) or high yield (dairy cows) will be banned. A maximum 'product yield' will be implemented per animal.
- The systematic breeding of sows to produce increasingly large numbers of piglets per pregnancy will be put to an end.
- There will be a ban on the insemination of animals and artificial methods of harvesting semen.
- The Netherlands will commit to banning the production of foie gras (goose or duck liver) and will implement a trade and import ban on these products, urging the other member states of the EU to do the same.

Stop 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. By definition, animal-friendly slaughtering is not possible. However, as long as slaughterhouses continue to exist, suffering during the slaughtering process must be prevented to the greatest extent possible.

- A two-hour limit will be imposed on animal transports. Animals may not be transported on warm days (i.e. days with an expected temperature of 25 degrees Celsius or higher). Inspections and enforcement will be tightened considerably with respect to compliance with Dutch and European transport regulations.
- The transport of living animals to countries outside the EU, such as Turkey and China, will no longer be allowed. The import and transfer of animals via the EU, i.e. from the United States to China, will be prohibited. 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 duration of the transport.
- We will put an end to the transport of young calves. The import of young calves for the purpose of fattening and slaughtering as veal will be abolished with immediate effect.
- A slaughter tax will be imposed on slaughterhouses.
- Slaughtering and stunning methods that cause pain and fear among animals, such as the water bath method for chickens and CO₂ sedation for pigs, will be abolished immediately.
- The ban on the unanaesthetised slaughtering of animals will apply to everyone: the exception made for the religious slaughtering of animals will be revoked. As long as animals are still slaughtered without proper sedation, the product should be labelled as such. Unanaesthetised slaughter is unacceptable, whether for export or the regular domestic market.
- Livestock markets cause a lot of animal stress and suffering and will be prohibited.

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 inspections will take place, both in the livestock industry and in other situations

where animals and humans converge. Violation of the rules must be severely punished. To improve enforcement, the Party for the Animals wants the relevant legislation to be clarified and given more concrete shape. Open-ended standards and self-regulation leave too much room for discussion and often render enforcement impossible. Moreover, any imposed sanctions can easily be appealed when the law is not clear on the matter. Animals do not benefit from legal ambiguities.

Reams of research reports have shown that supervision in respect 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, rendering adequate supervision impossible, despite the fact that the extreme speed has significant adverse consequences for the animals, for food safety and even for the health of slaughterhouse employees. There are increasing occurrences of sick or pregnant animals being slaughtered, despite this being strictly forbidden – or of animals in the slaughterhouse still being conscious while being killed due to stunning mistakes.

- Barns, sheds, and slaughterhouses will be placed under permanent camera surveillance. This measure will be implemented in addition to on-site inspections by veterinarians carried out by the Dutch Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (NVWA).
- The NVWA will be restructured. Any members of its failing management and NVWA employees who refuse to implement new measures will be dismissed. The department will no longer fall under the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality.
- 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 of the sector itself.
- The rate at which animals are processed through slaughterhouses will be decreased substantially. The number of animals to be slaughtered will be adjusted according to the level of surveillance that can be guaranteed by the NVWA.
- To prevent fraud and corruption, inspectors will rotate between slaughterhouses. The appointment of a permanent inspector to a slaughterhouse will no longer be permitted. In slaughterhouses and at points where animals are driven together, the four-eyes principle will become the norm: two vets, or a vet and a member of the animal police, will be present to supervise the process.
- Slaughterhouses in severe violation of these measures will be closed with immediate effect. Employees found guilty of cruelty to animals in addition to the suffering they are forced 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 revenue of the slaughterhouse and will make the details of the inspections, as well as the register of antibiotics in the livestock industry, publicly available.
- Earmarking animals will no longer be compulsory. As long as these rules still apply, conscientious objectors will be exempt from the earmarking obligation. The cabinet will plead at European level for the development and implementation of animal-friendlier alternatives, such as microchip registration.
- Legal measures will be put in place to guarantee fire safety in barns, such as imposing a strict limit on the number of animals in a single barn, mandatory sprinkler or misting systems, compulsory emergency exits such as retractable walls, and a ban on air washers.

The true story of animal suffering in the livestock industry

Every consecutive cabinet in our government has agreed that consumers should be aware of the origin of their food. However, the everyday reality behind the production of meat, dairy, eggs, and fish is actively withheld from the general public. There is a huge gap between the dreadful reality faced by hundreds of millions of animals in the livestock and fishing industries and the positive image disclosed to consumers. Free-range eggs, for example, don't come from chickens that are permitted to 'range

freely' outdoors, but from chickens that spend their entire lives cooped up in an overcrowded barn. Through misleading campaigns like these, many consumers haven't a clue about the real origin of the products they buy and eat. The animals in advertisements and on packaging look happy, content, and healthy.

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 provide information to raise awareness about what animals in the livestock industry go through before their meat or other products end up on the supermarket shelves. Journalists should also be given better access to information about what happens in the livestock industry. Consumers have a right to know the real story behind the production of items such as milk and cheese. A cow in the dairy industry, for example, is impregnated each year and her calves are separated from her almost immediately after birth. Young bulls and female calves that are not kept as dairy cows are fattened before being slaughtered for the production of veal, most of which is exported. As Paul McCartney once aptly said: 'If slaughterhouses had glass walls, everyone would be a vegetarian.'

- We will put an end to misleading communication, euphemisms, and advertising in relation to animal products.
- The government will ensure the availability of unbiased images showing what life is really like for animals in barns, slaughterhouses, and the fishing industry, and actively disseminate these to the public. The government will also provide good, accurate information to the public about what animals go through for the production of animal products.
- The government will record 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 barns or are no longer alive by the time they arrive at the slaughterhouse after transport.
- Meat, dairy, and egg products will be clearly marked with a label showing where the animal from which they were derived was born, how and how long it lived, and — if this concerns meat — where and how the animal was slaughtered. A QR code will be affixed to the packaging of meat products with a stream to the slaughterhouse where the animal was killed so consumers can assess the slaughtering process for themselves.

Fish, crabs, and lobsters feel pain

For a long time now, there has been a scientific consensus that fish, crabs, and lobsters are conscious beings that can indeed feel pain and stress. Fish 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 methods of catching and killing that involve long, drawn-out, and severe suffering and end in fully conscious slaughter.

- We want to put an end to cast-net fishing. Apart from the fish intentionally caught, marine mammals 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 prohibited.
- Existing fish, crustacean, and shellfish farms will be phased out, and the establishment of new farms will be forbidden. Eels cannot be bred, but elvers are still caught in the wild and fattened at eel farms. Such 'eel farms' will be prohibited. No permits will be issued to octopus farms.
- Slaughtering fish without prior sedation will be forbidden.
- Recreational or sport fishing (angling) is a pastime that causes profound animal suffering and will therefore be prohibited.

Stop the hunt: leave wild animals in peace

The Party for the Animals wants animals living in the wild to be left in peace to the greatest extent possible. Animals' habitats are becoming increasingly smaller, and when humans encroach on these, the animals are blamed for any inconvenience caused. That is absurd.

Under the guise of 'population management', amateur hunters kill one million animals every year in the Netherlands. 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 policy-making decisions from now on.
- Animals living in the wild will not be killed. Only in the event of an urgent reason, such as when an animal is suffering severely or public health is at risk, can the government make an exception following due consultation with independent experts. Exceptions can only be made by the central government, and 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 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 will be imposed sooner than is currently the case on hunters who severely violate the law.
- Hunting surveillance parties and other special investigative officers will no longer be permitted to be in the service of the hunters they supervise. Fauna management units (hunting clubs) will be abolished.
- The organisation of tourist hunting events, both in the Netherlands and internationally, will be forbidden, as will the advertisement for these activities.
- Animals may not be disturbed during delicate periods such as gestation, moulting, breeding, and lactation.
- A nation-wide network for the care of wounded animals in the wild will be established, in which hunters will not be permitted to participate.
- Animals will be given enough space, peace, and protection to lead a natural life. Nature reserves will be inter-connected to facilitate migration and keep population dynamics in equilibrium.
- Wolves will be considered an enrichment to the Dutch national environment and a contribution to increased biodiversity. Sheep farmers and other farmers will be educated on how to protect their animals without having to kill any wolves. Grants will be allocated for preventive measures where necessary.
- The Royal Hunting Department will be discontinued. The 'Het Loo' Crown Estates will be open year-round to the public, and hunting will be prohibited here.

Prevention rather than cure

Human beings have thrown nature and its ecosystems off balance. Nature reserves have become fragmented and increasingly less diverse. This makes it easier for plagues and infestations to develop. Animals such as the oak processionary caterpillar benefit from this trend. In a healthy ecosystem, animals like great tits, woodpeckers, bugs, and bats keep the caterpillar population in check. However, the monocultural planting of oak trees and the uprooting of shrubs have caused a serious decline in the populations of these natural predators.

Any conflicts between humans and animals should not be resolved with bullets and toxic gases, but with creativity and innovation. The gassing of geese that are creating 'a nuisance' in the areas surrounding airports is cruel and senseless, particularly because the agricultural lands surrounding

the runways are sown with crops that are attractive to geese. The Party for the Animals wants to invest in smart, practical, and animal and nature-friendly solutions and information about how we can share our world with animals living in the wild, peacefully and responsibly.

- Fields surrounding airports will no longer be planted with crops that are attractive to geese but will be filled with solar panels or crops that serve as a deterrent to these birds. A significant reduction in the number of flight movements will also provide breathing room for all living beings.
- The gassing of animals living in the wild, including geese, will be prohibited. If necessary, geese in the areas surrounding airports will be lured away to more attractive areas where they can stay in safety.
- 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 the implementation of preventive measures and increased dyke surveillance.
- Measures will be implemented to prevent accidents with animals living in the wild such as boar and deer. These will include reducing the maximum speed limit, installing wildlife fences and grids, and making use of smart technology.
- Refuse attracts animals. The prevention of litter and illegally dumped waste will be actively enforced.
- 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 installing nesting boxes. The use of toxins and sticky tape 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 health and well-being.
- There is no such thing as 'problematic beavers'. All derogations allowing these protected animals to be killed will be revoked, and no new derogations will be issued.
- To protect the wild bee, all beehives will require registration, and beekeepers will need a permit.

The Netherlands will become a fur and down-free society

Fur, down, and angora are examples of superfluous products that are the cause of unacceptable animal suffering. The use of animal pelts for an item of clothing or a fashion accessory is therefore morally reprehensible. Thanks to many years of effort by the Party for the Animals, a ban was imposed in the Netherlands on the breeding and keeping of mink for their fur in 2021. This is good news, because it means that these animals are no longer kept 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. Horrible violence is used, for example, to strip, shave, or cut the fur off live angora rabbits. Geese and ducks are plucked alive for the collection of down. In Australia, the kangaroo hunt involves gruesome practices and tremendous suffering. Nevertheless, Europe is the largest importer of kangaroo products in the world, and shops still sell items made from kangaroo leather. 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 the realisation of a European-wide breeding ban for animals raised for the production of fur and down.
- The import and sale of fur, cashmere (goat hair), kangaroo products, and angora wool will be

prohibited. The same applies to the import and sale of down from live-plucked and force-fed geese and ducks.

- As long as the sale of fur, pelt, and down products is still permitted, clear labelling will be compulsory. This label will include information about the product's origins, the number of animals that were killed to produce it, and the manner in which these animals were killed.
- Leather products must also be provided with a label clearly stating the origins of the leather. The import and sale of leather from animals bred exclusively for the leather industry, such as crocodiles, snakes, and lizards, will be prohibited. A ban will also be imposed on the import of kangaroo leather.

Animals are not an entertainment commodity

Thankfully, real animals in exhibitions, shows, and films are increasingly being replaced by artful alternatives or computer animations so that audiences can enjoy animal cruelty-free entertainment. The Party for the Animals wants to put an end to the suffering of animals for entertainment purposes.

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 for commercial profit. Breeding programmes 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. Animals that are considered 'superfluous' by zoos and petting zoos waste away in small cages hidden from the public.

- 'Surplus animals' will be given the space, care, and freedom they need. An immediate stop must be put to breeding animals with the intent to populate zoos and petting zoos and for use in shows. Young and new-born animals should no longer be featured as a major attraction. Animals in petting zoos and similar facilities will no longer be taken to breeding farms or slaughterhouses. Animals will only be euthanised – and if so, humanely – if their suffering is unbearable or hopeless.
- The chaining of primarily wild animals, such as elephants and birds of prey, will be prohibited.
- Zoos will be converted into specialised animal shelters, funded by the central government if necessary. Instead of putting financial interests or the interests of visitors first, the health and well-being of the animals will be prioritised.
- The Dolphinarium and other aquariums will be closed immediately. Some of these aquariums could perhaps serve as permanent or temporary shelters for stranded or illegally traded marine animals or mammals.
- Investments will be made in Europe, and specifically in the Netherlands, in the realisation of sufficient and adequate shelters for animals for which zoos, aquariums, and petting zoos, and similar no longer have a purpose. In these shelters, the animals will be given adequate space, adapted as closely as possible to their natural habitat.
- Stricter legal restrictions will be implemented for the welfare of animals in petting zoos, in which the natural behaviour of the animals will be considered the standard. Animals are not stuffed toys, and they will be given the freedom to live peacefully, without continually being lifted up or petted by people.
- The exploitation of wild animals, in whatever form, as a source of public entertainment, such as in circuses and wildlife parks, will be prohibited.
- Traditions and festivals in which animals are exploited or killed, such as living nativity scenes, 'zwientje tikken' (playing tag with a pig), and 'kalle mooi' with live roosters will be abolished.
- 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.
- A decree on horses will be implemented in which the basic principles of equine welfare will be legally established. Horses will be given adequate space for natural and social herd

behaviour and the opportunity to move about 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 are permitted to be burdened.

- A code of conduct will be drawn up for the use of animals in media and the arts.
- The rental of animals will be prohibited.

Stop animal testing

Experiments on animals should be stopped as soon as possible. The tests and the way those animals are housed 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 is why it is important to cease the practice of animal testing, not only from the perspective of animal welfare but because of an urgent need for better models. In many cases, methods that do not involve animal testing provide better and more reliable results. Animal-free testing methods must be developed in areas where these are not yet available. The Netherlands has the potential to be a driving force in the field of animal-free research. The Party for the Animals wants to give the highest priority to investments for alternative methods for animal testing research.

- The Netherlands will commit itself, both within the EU and elsewhere internationally, to accelerating the international recognition and application of animal-free research and testing methods and the phasing out of animal testing.
- A ban must be imposed as soon as possible on conducting research on primates. A plan (including a schedule) will be drawn up to close the BPRC primate research centre as soon as possible.
- The practice of breeding and killing testing animals that are kept 'in stock' will be abolished.
- Biotechnology applications in animals – including genetic manipulation and cloning – will be prohibited.
- Judges will be in a position to assess compliance with the Animal Testing Act. Members of the public and civil institutions will be allowed to object to animal testing proposals.
- The budget reserved each year for animal testing will be gradually transferred to research methods that do not use animal testing.
- The central government will draw up a phasing-out policy, including a clear schedule, geared towards each area of testing in which animals are used (legally prescribed safety research, fundamental scientific research, application-oriented research, and education). Animal testing in higher education (bachelor's and master's degree programmes) will be prohibited with immediate effect; legally prescribed safety research will be prohibited as from 2030.

Protect pets from misuse

Half of the households in the Netherlands includes one or more pets. Aside from dogs and cats, exotic animals are also kept as pets, even though these animals are not in any way suited to being kept in a domestic environment. Their needs and instincts are, after all, similar to those of their counterparts in the wild. A domestic environment simply cannot meet their needs. The Party for the Animals wants to draw up a concise list of animals that, given their natural behaviours and needs, may still be kept as domestic pets. Other animals may not be owned or sold.

Many animals are sold as pets through breeders. The breeding of pure-bred animals focuses primarily on the animals' appearance rather than their health or well-being. 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 must be dealt with resolutely.

- Breeding pets to accentuate extreme physical characteristics will not be permitted. The

announced ban on keeping animals with extreme and disease-inducing external characteristics will be laid down in the law as soon as possible. This ban will be expanded to pets other than dogs or cats.

- The import of foreign puppies from puppy mills will be banned. This will be monitored intensely in collaboration with our neighbouring countries. A DNA databank for dogs and cats will be set up.
- The minimum age at which kittens may be separated from their mother will be raised to 12 weeks.
- The obligation to microchip dogs will be extended to cats as well. Research will be conducted into non-invasive identifications methods such as iris or retina scans.
- An obligatory waiting period, intended to give the prospective buyer time to think things through, will be imposed prior to the acquisition of a companion animal.
- To prevent impulse purchases, the sale of animals at garden centres, markets, and other locations, as well as their online sale, will be prohibited. Animal shelters will be exempt from this.
- Minimum standards will be set for animal accommodations such as kennels and cages. Keeping naturally social animals such as rabbits in isolation will be prohibited, as will the sale of fish bowls and cages or kennels that are too small. New pet owners will actively be offered information about animal welfare standards and rules.
- A short list will be drawn up of animals that, given their natural behaviour and needs, are suitable to be kept as domestic pets.
- Markets or exhibitions where animals are sold or exhibited, such as horse, reptile, and bird exhibitions, will be forbidden, as will online pet animal markets or websites where animals bred for commercial gain are bought and sold.

Better shelters and emergency services

Each year, tens of thousands of pets, many of which were purchased on a whim, end up in animal shelters. Unwanted new-born pets are also regularly brought to or dumped at shelters. In the Netherlands, the care for found or unwanted animals falls under the jurisdiction of municipalities, but they often fail in this commitment. That is why it is primarily hard-working volunteers that run the animal shelters and refuges with donations from private individuals. As funding for the provision of assistance to wild animals in need has not been laid down in the law, financial support from government institutions for these animals is often minimal or non-existent. The Party for the Animals wants the government to take responsibility in this, and provide financial support for rescue centres for wild animals, animal shelters, and animal ambulances.

- Nation-wide guidelines will be developed for the financing of animal shelters and rescue centres for wild animals. The central government will take the lead in allocating sufficient financial support to municipalities and provinces.
- The pet sector will contribute to the shelter and care of unwanted and stray animals. For every pet sold, a contribution will be made to an animal shelter fund.
- The animal shelter and ambulance network will be given national coverage.
- Animal ambulances, just like other emergency services, will be granted additional licenses to allow for immediate emergency assistance to animals, such as a permit to make use of bus and tram lanes and unrestricted parking.
- Saving animal lives will be included as a permanent item in the scenarios used by emergency services and in disaster plans.
- When people require domestic care, adequate care should also be given to any animals present. People will be able to bring their pets along with them to all healthcare facilities or other care institutions.
- Homes for victims of domestic abuse will also welcome these people's pets, or arrangements will be made for these animals to be placed with a foster family, if necessary.

- Animal care is not a luxury service, it is a necessity: just like medical care for humans, veterinary care will also be exempt from VAT.
- The prices of veterinary care will be subject to regulation, and no longer dictated by the free market. The acquisition of veterinary practices by foreign chains will be prohibited.

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 humans is often preceded by violence toward animals. The Party for the Animals wants the police and justice system to attach greater priority to tracking down and penalising offenders of animal abuse and negligence, and that a public prosecutor is appointed specifically for animal welfare.

- More animal police officers will be appointed, who will be granted sufficient authority to track down and arrest animal abusers. Animal welfare should once again become a permanent component in police training. The animal police will also be given the authority to monitor the welfare of animals in the livestock industry.
- Compliance with the new law on dealing with animal abuse and negligence will be strictly enforced. If any neglected and abused animals are found, they must be brought to safety much sooner.
- Animals that are brought to safety will not be treated like goods. The resale of confiscated animals for retail or slaughtering will be banned.
- Now that animal abusers can be banned from keeping animals, whether temporarily or for the rest of their lives, it is of crucial importance that this is actually implemented. Imposing a ban on keeping animals will become a standard element in the training of judges and public prosecutors.
- In addition to harsher penalties and more substantial fines, a lifelong ban on keeping animals will also be imposed on anyone convicted of animal cruelty. 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' or exotic meals, or on the wall as ornaments. Second to the drug trade, the trade in endangered species is the 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 Netherlands is an important transit hub in the animal trade. However, enforcement with regard to the trade in wild animals is weak, the chances of getting caught are slim, and the penalties are minor. The Party for the Animals wants a European-wide import ban on wild animals to put a stop to this trade. Targeted tracking, robust enforcement, and high penalties for illegal traders must drive back this ruthless criminal network.

- The import 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 appointed with sufficient scope and mandate. Illegal traders will be punished more severely, and the hunting tourism industry and the import of hunting trophies will be banned altogether.
- The Netherlands will actively oppose the hunting of whales and seals and 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.

- As a trading country, the Netherlands has become an important transit hub for products of exotic animals. The Netherlands will ban the transit of these products.
- The Netherlands will commit itself to a comprehensive ban on the fishing of bluefin and other tuna species, as well as shark finning.

3. Food and agriculture

Joining forces on the road to affordable, healthy, and sustainable food

Healthy and sustainable food is a precondition for our existence. However, the current agricultural system is heading towards a dead end. The production and consumption of food contributes strongly to the ecological, social, and health crises of our times. Previous governments have either procrastinated in addressing these problems, or attempted to resolve them with provisional measures. At the same time, the way in which our society regards food has undergone a radical change. A growing number of people today opt for a more plant-based and healthier diet, and numerous initiatives have been launched to encourage alternative farming methods. The Party for the Animals has been a driving force for this positive change ever since it was founded, and this is a role it will continue to fulfil. There are fantastic opportunities for a healthy future for an agricultural industry that produces affordable food. We are in the middle of a food revolution.

The food revolution is not coming a moment too soon. The Netherlands has grown into the world's cow, pig, and poultry mega-barn. Nowhere else in the world will you find so many animals cooped up in so few square metres of space, and the animals are paying the highest price for this. Still, farmers and citizens are also burdened with paying an irresponsibly high price. In a country that breeds and slaughters more than 500 million animals on an annual basis the risk of zoonoses such as Q fever and bird flu developing is immense. The environment and climate, the soil, our drinking water, and our health are creaking and groaning under the burden of large quantities of manure and agricultural toxins.

There is no greater waster of food than the livestock industry. Of all the cereals grown in the Netherlands, more than two thirds are processed into feed for livestock. Every hectare used to grow feed for cows, pigs, or chickens, would yield enough food for four times as many people if we were to grow crops for human consumption directly. The enormous demand for animal feed is causing the price of food to sky-rocket all over the globe. It is impossible to explain why we would use valuable food to maintain the livestock industry in this country, while more and more people cannot afford to put a decent meal on the table.

Farmers too are victims of this system. Dutch farmers have been put in a difficult position by banks and the government for decades: they could choose between taking on considerable debts for expensive quick fixes, or closing down their business. It is therefore hardly surprising that, since the beginning of this century, not the number of animals in the agricultural industry but the number of livestock farmers has been reduced by half. Out of the farmers still remaining, half have fallen below the poverty line. The only ones to benefit from the enormous numbers of animals cooped up in the Dutch livestock industry are the agro-industrial giants such as livestock feed companies, slaughterhouses and barn builders – and the banks. Reducing the number of animals in the livestock industry has been considered a taboo for decades, but today almost everyone understands that this is inevitable.

The Party for the Animals aims to solve our problems in conjunction. Only then will we have an agricultural system in which healthy food is grown on healthy soil, based on a prosperous revenue model for farmers. The Party for the Animals has confidence in the expertise of farmers working in harmony with nature. After all, farmers – more than anyone – need nature in order to grow healthy food, now and in the future. They can benefit immensely from clean water, healthy soil, and unpolluted air. Rather than fewer farmers, we need more farmers. And here too applies: the future is plant-based. Studies have shown that the only future-proof revenue model in agriculture is one in which animals are no longer exploited. The Party for the Animals wants to help farmers succeed in the transition to a healthy and future-proof agricultural industry.

There is no other area in which we can reap so many benefits for animals, nature, the climate, the environment, farmers, and our health as the choices we can make about what we eat. If we choose the right path, everyone will have access to healthy, animal-friendly, and affordable food.

Without the need to grow huge quantities of crops solely to feed our livestock, acres and acres of agricultural land could be returned to nature or used to build the homes we so desperately need in the Netherlands. If we were to drastically reduce the number of animals and impose specific regulations on the manufacturing industry, the aviation sector and traffic, we will really be able to solve the nitrogen crisis. We can turn the tide on the biodiversity and climate crises and ensure that farming expertise, quality and the human factor once again become the agricultural sector's standard. This is the systemic change that lies at the heart of the Party for the Animals' mission. Now is the time to make a definitive choice.

The future is plant-based

The challenges inherent to our food system in terms of the environment, animal welfare, society, and health have been considered as individual problems for too long, while they are in fact closely intertwined. This is why the time has come for an overarching policy with respect to food, with plans and goals that will show all actors in the food chain how they can contribute to a sustainable and healthy transition in respect of our food. Food should not only be considered a trade commodity, but a fundamental human right. We will accelerate the transition to a plant-based consumption pattern. A plant-based diet is of benefit to the environment and climate – and obviously to animals as well. Therefore, it is high time that a plant-based diet becomes the norm rather than the exception.

- We will develop an integral food policy that focuses on the right to healthy, organic, and plant-based food and the position of sustainable, organic and animal-friendly farmers. A new Ministry of Food and Agriculture will be responsible for this.
- The range of food products available to the population will be geared toward sustainable, animal-friendly, and healthy options.
- The successful 'Carnivore? Let us know!' (in Dutch: '*Carnivoor? Geef het door!*') concept to change food consumption habits by serving plant-based food at catered events by default unless attendees specifically request otherwise, will be fully encouraged.
- All environmental, animal welfare, and health costs will be factored into the prices paid by consumers at the shop. By setting a price on a product's negative impact on society, products that are healthy, animal-friendly, and sustainable will become the less expensive option.
- A slaughter tax will be imposed on slaughterhouses.
- VAT on vegetables, fruit, cereals, legumes, and nuts will be abolished.
- Promotional campaigns for meat, dairy, eggs, and fish will no longer be permitted, in which the first step will be to abolish cheap meat. The millions of euros in European subsidies promoting the consumption of meat and animal products will be converted into campaigns aimed at promoting a plant-based diet.
- We will launch a large-scale, long-term campaign in the Netherlands directed at the general public to promote the advantages of a plant-based diet and organic products. Het Voedingscentrum (the Dutch Agency for Nutrition) will be actively involved in this.
- 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 innovations that lead to such products. Cultured meat and microbial fermentation may also be encouraged, provided that they do not cause animal suffering. The insect breeding industry is a new form of intensive farming and will be closed down with immediate effect.
- An effective and integral approach to combating food waste will be implemented. Due to excessive regulations concerning expiry dates and the appearance of food products, a lot of food perfectly fit for human consumption is being thrown away. Those regulations will definitely be scrapped.
- As long as there are people who are dependent on the charitable distribution of food, the government must guarantee that food banks, both for humans and for animals, are adequately stocked. Supermarkets will follow the example set by France in preventing waste by means of an obligation to enter into a partnership with a local food bank.

- All food purchased by government bodies will be 100% organic, sustainable, and plant based.
- Mobile teams will be engaged by the government to develop tasty plant-based dishes and provide on-site workshops for large-scale catering firms and canteens.
- Like in many other countries, schools will start offering healthy meals made from 100% organic and plant-based ingredients. School milk programmes will be discontinued.
- Hospitals and other care institutes will serve their patients and residents healthy, plant-based, and organic food. Until then, at least one tasty and nutritious plant-based alternative must be included on the menu. Fresh fruit will be made widely available to patients and care facility residents.

The critical choice: stop the livestock industry

A different food system demands a different agricultural system and the courage to discontinue practices that cannot – or can no longer – be supported. Our floundering agricultural model is based on the misconception that the exploitation of animals will lead to more food. That is not true. The livestock industry is not a producer of food: it wastes food. Obviously, anyone raising animals for food will have to ensure that these creatures are well-fed. This costs much more in terms of food than it generates in terms of meat and dairy products. At least 70% of all European agricultural land is currently used for rearing animals or producing animal feed and biofuels. If we were to use the agricultural land currently used to fatten and exploit animals to produce food for human consumption instead, we could provide for everyone and have land left over to give back to nature. We could also resolve all the environmental and other issues in relation to the livestock industry (but not with the production of plant-based protein), such as the nitrogen and the climate crises, in one fell swoop. Therefore, the first critical choice in favour of a sustainable food system is to liberate animals from the food chain and abolish the livestock industry.

- The total number of animals bred and killed in the Dutch livestock industry will be reduced by at least 75% in the coming two years. 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 the cultivation of these crops will be fully encouraged, facilitated, and supported.
- Wherever possible, the production of food will be organised regionally: Dutch farmers will focus primarily on the production of food for the population of the Netherlands and its neighbouring countries. Rather than producing products in bulk to be exported all over the world, farmers will focus on the production of healthy food that stands out for its quality rather than quantity.
- We will make more critical choices about the use of agricultural land. We will stop using cultivation methods that do not promote sustainable means but instead damage the environment through practices such as the excessive use of pesticides and depletion of the soil. The cultivation of lilies will be stopped with immediate effect, and the conventional (non-organic) bulb growing industry will be phased out as a whole. The soil will be given a chance to recover, and growers will be assisted in their transition to growing sustainable crops.
- We will save the taxpayer lots of money and reduce the regulatory pressures on farmers by tackling problems by their roots rather than merely treating the symptoms. Grants will not be allocated for technological stop-gap measures to mitigate the environmental damage caused by the livestock industry. That policy has clearly failed, and only serves to promote further economies of scale.
- The European Common Agricultural Policy will be thoroughly revised. The hundreds of millions of euros available from the current budgets will be allocated to farmers to facilitate their transition to the production of sustainable plant-based food. After this, these grants will be abolished.
- The principle of ‘the polluter pays’ will also apply to the livestock industry. A tax will be imposed on the emission of nitrogen and greenhouse gases. As a result, taxpayers will no longer have to pay the cost of pollution, and the competitive position of sustainable products will be strengthened. Plant-based agriculture does not result in the emission of nitrogen and

- greenhouse gas, and will therefore be exempt from this taxation.
- Farmers and market gardeners will be given the opportunity to collectively take a stand to obtain 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 government will once again invest in an agricultural information service. This will counter the influence of advisers representing the pesticide and animal feed industries, and genuinely help farmers enhance the sustainability of their operations.

Agriculture in harmony with nature

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 pests and diseases. One of the costliest mistakes we can make is to destroy the natural environment and the soil we need for the production of our food. It is time for radical change: stop the widespread destruction of our ecosystems! From now on, we will protect the foundation given us by nature. 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 loop and produce healthy food in harmony with nature. The Party for the Animals says: let these farmers' expertise serve as a guiding principle for agricultural practices throughout the Netherlands.

- Diverse, nature-inclusive agriculture will become the standard, including options such as organic farming, permacultures, agroforestry (the combination of agriculture and forestry on the same plot of land), and agroecological systems. Conventional farmers and market gardeners will be supported during their transition to sustainable forms of food production.
- Soil use will be based on the type of soil and the natural groundwater level instead of the soil type and groundwater level adapted to the purpose. For example: in peatland meadows where the natural groundwater level is much higher, either a transition must be made to crops that require more moisture, or this land will be returned to nature. Such measures are of crucial importance to counter the effects of soil subsidence.
- 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 be replaced by strip farming and other forms of nature-inclusive, regenerative agriculture.
- We will stop cramming manure and fertilisers into our soil. The structural over-fertilisation of soil in the Netherlands will be stopped. Manure injection will be prohibited, as will the use of artificial fertilisers. The fertilisers and manures currently in use will be replaced by plant-based fertilisers and green manure.
- The soil will be given room to breathe. Minimal or non-inversion tillage will become the standard in order to prevent compaction of the soil and promote healthy soil life and root development. This will improve water retention and promote the breakdown and storage of CO₂ in the soil. Intensive tillage methods 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 once more receive water. Water will no longer be drained off as quickly as possible, but stored for dryer periods. The groundwater level will no longer be artificially suppressed; a natural level will be maintained instead. The cultivation of water-guzzling crops such as English ryegrass will no longer be permitted in areas susceptible to drought.
- The agricultural and horticultural industries will become toxin-free. The use of agricultural pesticides will be phased out rapidly, with immediate effect.
- Traditional organic crop improvement methods will be encouraged for the development of healthy and resistant species of crops.
- The principle of 'the polluter pays' will also apply to the greenhouse horticulture industry. A tax

will be imposed on the emission of greenhouse gases. Due to the enormous amounts of energy, artificial fertiliser, and agricultural toxins needed to produce a single bunch of flowers, the conventional floriculture industry will be phased out. Workers in this sector will be given the opportunity to retrain in a more sustainable profession, with retention of income.

- To fully close the loop, nutrients from human excrements should also be used to fertilise our fields. We encourage experiments to achieve this in a safe manner.
- Bio-based building, the use of agricultural crops for more sustainable construction, is the future. A reduction in the number of animals in the livestock industry will result in the freeing up of agricultural land, not only for more nature but also for bio-based production enterprises. Of course, the condition will be imposed on such enterprises that they do not lead to the degradation of nature.

GMO-free

The Dutch government and big businesses have dedicated themselves in the past few years to deregulation with respect to the genetic manipulation of agricultural crops. The Party for the Animals is against the use of genetic engineering, including the new CRISPR-Cas technology. In the past, it has been proven that the developers of genetically modified crops have failed to meet their sustainability promises: genetically modified soy and corn have resulted in an increase, rather than a decrease in the use of toxic pesticides all over the world. Genetic engineering has therefore been of benefit exclusively to industrialised and polluting agricultural practices. Apart from this, genetic modification comprises a threat to both conventional and organic agriculture, because genetically modified crops can become fused with non-GMO crops. Genetic engineering poses a threat to the already limited genetic diversity of crops, exacerbating the vulnerability of our food system.

- The Netherlands will become a GMO-free country. The cultivation and import of genetically modified crops will be prohibited. As long as a European-wide import and cultivation ban has not been imposed, we want member states and regions to get the opportunity to prohibit the cultivation of genetically modified crops. This applies equally to the new generation of new genomic techniques (NGTs).
- The genetic modification and cloning of animals is ethically unacceptable and paired with grievous animal suffering. The Netherlands will commit itself to achieving a European-wide ban on the import of cloned and genetically modified animals, their offspring, and any products made from these animals. The Netherlands will be actively involved in the realisation of a global tracking system to monitor the trade in cloned animals.
- Plant and animal varieties may not be the property of businesses. Patents on life forms are prohibited. 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.
- Labelling will become compulsory for meat, dairy, and egg products derived from animals that were fed with genetically modified cereals. If genetically modified ingredients are incorporated in a product, this will be clearly stated on the front of the packaging or the product itself.

Regional agriculture for a better world

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 poses a threat to the fundamental position of people who live in far more trying circumstances than we do. Through 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. The Netherlands is responsible for depleting the soil and destroying the ecosystems and climate systems on which people in vulnerable areas depend for building a sustainable future. The Party for the Animals pleads for an agricultural policy that is not

detrimental to others but provides people in vulnerable areas with opportunities to improve their standard of living instead.

We will put a stop to the international import and export of cheap bulk products such as milk powder and flowers full of toxins. Under the leadership of the Party for the Animals, we will start putting a stop to free trade agreements that exclusively serve the interests of big business. Trade will be restricted to plant-based products that distinguish themselves through their high-quality standard, and will take place at regional level to the greatest extent possible. The local population and nature should always benefit from this. Both in the Netherlands and internationally, we will restore cohesion in the food system by supporting local food communities.

- 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 produced below our own standards.
- Tariffs will be levied at our European borders on food that we can produce or is already being produced more sustainably here. This will break the downward spiral of bulk production at the lowest possible cost and will benefit the cultivation of high-quality crops, farming expertise, and the human factor.
- 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 gathering forests, and farms where citizens can partner up and collaborate with farmers!
- We will stop the dumping of cheap, subsidised agricultural products on the markets of countries in the global south, and reduce the dependence of low-income countries on the import trade by helping them strengthen their regional production capacity and resilience. These countries must be able to protect their markets against the import of cheap products and be given an opportunity to build up their own food reserves once again, which they were forced to abandon under pressure of the World Bank and the IMF.
- 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 animal welfare.
- The Netherlands will immediately stop promoting the export of systems and products for industrial agricultural practices such as slaughterhouses, mega-barns, and agricultural toxins. The budget for development cooperation will no longer be used to support the expansion of activities by Dutch agricultural and horticulture companies such as rose growers. Instead, investments will be made in regional, agro-ecological, and animal friendly food supply chains and regional infrastructure.
- Healthy food is a fundamental human right. However, investment funds, banks, and traders speculate on commodities that are fundamental to our survival, such as wheat and corn, with a view to making as much money from this as possible. This has resulted in rising food prices and increasing famine all over the world. Food speculation will be terminated with immediate effect.
- Foreign governments and companies often rent or buy agricultural land in low-income countries. However, these lands usually belong to local farming communities. The Party for the Animals wants the Netherlands to lead a strong international front against these land-grabbing practices. Investments in agricultural land should meet the UN human rights criteria on the Right to Food.

Stop depleting the sea of fish

Far-reaching changes are also needed with respect to food from the sea. Most fish species are suffering from heavy overfishing. In fact, so much fish is caught that some 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 sea floor. Fish are killed in an abominably cruel manner. Thanks to European subsidies, seas outside of Europe are being plundered as well, such as those off the coast of Africa. This has a tremendous impact on the local population's subsistence. The world's largest trawlers are in Dutch hands. Apart from that, the international fishing industry is

known for gross violations of human rights. 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 neither sustainable nor animal friendly at all. We can easily fish out the alternatives: the sea offers us plenty of plant-based foods such as algae and seaweed. Plant-based food from the sea is good for our health, 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, crustaceans, or shellfish to stay 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. Plant-based options will become less expensive by no longer imposing VAT on these products.
- Farms growing fish, crustaceans, and shellfish will be phased out. Subsidies for the fishing industry 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 the relevant area. An immediate ban will be imposed on fishing for vulnerable species such as eel, cod, and tuna.
- Boats using destructive fishing methods will no longer be permitted to sail. Monster trawlers and deep-sea fishing, as well as ships with trawl nets that destroy the sea floor (beam trawlers), will not be permitted to fish in Dutch waters or to sail under the Dutch flag.
- The current ban on pulse fishing, a method in which fish are electrocuted in order to deplete our seas of fish even more efficiently, will remain unlifted.
- Fishery agreements between the European Union and other countries are exploitative and will be withdrawn or terminated.

Intermediate steps in the transition

The transition to a sustainable food system will not happen overnight. Apart from the radical changes needed to alter our course, transitions are often preceded by a pre-transition phase that involves a number of intermediate steps. As long as animals are not fully liberated from the food chain, the livestock industry will continue to pose a risk to human health, and zoonotic diseases will remain a threat. As long as the use of pesticides in the agricultural sector has not been banned, the health of the people living near farmlands that are treated with these toxins will be at risk. As long as the fishing industry continues to exist, measures will be required to limit the damage to marine ecosystems. In short, we are heading towards a truly sustainable plant-based future *and* will be taking intermediate steps to preserve the health of humans, animals, and the natural environment as much as possible during this transition.

- The era of the mega-barn has come to an end. These barns will be the first to be sold off as part of our approach to solving the nitrogen and climate crises. No new permits will be issued for the construction of mega-barns or for the expansion of existing livestock farms.
- The fewer animals are cooped up together, the lower the risk of the outbreak of disease and zoonoses. Regional limits will be imposed on livestock. Regulations will be implemented that set out the minimum distance between barns with a view to reducing the chance of animal diseases spreading and the risk of viruses mixing. This reduces the probability of harmful virus mutations.
- To protect the health of residents, statutory regulations will also be adopted to set the minimum distance between livestock barns and residential neighbourhoods, schools, and childcare centres.
- The fewer animals are transported, the lower the risk of animal diseases and zoonoses entering the country and being spread. The import of live animals, such as the import of calves to be fattened up in Dutch barns, will be prohibited as soon as possible. A two-hour limit will be imposed on other animal transports.
- Avian flu is now a year-round occurrence that poses an enormous risk to all living beings. Studies have been conducted showing the areas of the Netherlands that are prone to an

outbreak of avian flu. There will be an immediate ban on the establishment or expansion of farms where chickens, ducks, or turkeys are kept in areas with a lot of water or where many poultry farms are already established. Then the number of poultry farms in these areas will be reduced by prioritising their buyout.

- According to renowned virologists, the Netherlands is an extremely high-risk country in terms of zoonoses because we keep so many pigs and chickens cooped up in small spaces. Pigs can contract swine flu, avian flu, and human flu, which can mutate into a life-threatening virus – also for humans – that can lead to a new pandemic. A new system will be implemented as soon as possible for the monitoring of flu viruses at pig farms. New standardised limits will be imposed on the distances between pig, chicken, duck, and turkey farms.
- Studies have shown that residents living within a two-kilometre radius of a goat farm tend to contract pneumonia more frequently than other population groups. Nevertheless, goat barns are still being expanded, and new ones built. And municipalities are still building houses in the vicinity of goat farms. A nation-wide ban will be imposed on the expansion and establishment of goat farms. Goat farms situated within a two-kilometre radius from houses will either switch to the cultivation of plant-based products or be given a new, sustainable function. A system will be implemented to limit the total number of goats in the Netherlands, identical to the quota already imposed on the number of pigs, chickens, and cows.
- Strict regulations will be imposed on the use of antibiotics in the livestock industry, with a view to the further phasing out of this practice. The pre-emptive administration of antibiotics will be stopped once and for all. Additional inspections will be held in sectors where antibiotics are frequently used.
- The substantially reduced livestock industry will be fully localised. We will stop importing animal feed such as soybeans. The export of fertiliser will no longer be permitted, and fertiliser fraud will be dealt with harshly.
- Manure fermenters help perpetuate the intensive livestock farming industry, generate hardly any energy, and cause a great deal of odour nuisance to local residents. Manure fermenters will be abolished. No more permits will be issued for the construction of new manure fermenters, and existing permits will be revoked.
- 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. Agricultural products may not be sold below their cost price.
- Permanent pastures will no longer be 'broken up' (torn up and sown in again).
- The health of residents living near farms and horticulture businesses will be given priority over the economic interests of the growers. Pesticides may no longer be sprayed in areas in the vicinity of residential areas, schools, public roads, bicycle or walking paths, or other areas where people live and work, children play, or animals are kept.
- Lease contracts will include strict conditions on sustainable soil management.
- The use of agricultural toxins in meadows will be prohibited. In places where the development of ecologically valuable vegetation is in jeopardy, we will bring meadows and pastures back to life by sowing a varied mixture of organic and indigenous herbs and grasses.
- The precautionary principle will be the cornerstone of our fishing policy. In line with this principle, a fishing quota will be imposed to ensure that the number of fish being caught never exceeds the limits deemed justifiable by independent biologists. If insufficient scientific data is available, fishing will be prohibited, or large safety margins will be incorporated with very low fishing quota.
- The Netherlands will rapidly scale down the overcapacity of its fishing fleet. 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 fail to comply with this will be forced to remain in port.
- Bycatch will be significantly reduced by placing a ban on non-selective fishing methods.

4. A systemic change for the economy

Enough for everyone, within the limits of our planet's capacity

There is enough for everyone. We produce much more than we need: more food, more stuff, more electronics. And together, we have more than enough money for everything that's important. Nevertheless, many people still have trouble scraping by every month. We work hard, but our money is disappearing into the pockets of big business and wealthy investors. In the opinion of the Party for the Animals, this is not the definition of wealth. True wealth is healthy air, clean water, more space for nature and more time to enjoy its bounties or spend with your loved ones. True wealth is knowing with certainty that you do not have to live in poverty. True wealth is being able to pass on a beautiful country and a beautiful planet to future generations. There is enough for everyone, here and in the rest of the world, now and in the future.

For a long time now, the current economic system of constant growth and expansion has not been making our lives any better. It has become an economy of waste, dominated by disposable cups, telephones that become outdated in the blink of an eye, appliances that are impossible to fix, furniture that doesn't survive a house move, superfluous packaging and huge mountains of rubbish.

The Earth is bountiful. Its bounties are fertile soil, clean drinking water and healthy air. But what do we do with this bounty? We waste it! We book tax-free flights to London, eat asparagus from Peru and order clothing from China. We offer up half our living environment to cars and half our country to the livestock industry's barns, meadows, and agricultural land for the cultivation of animal feed. In the meantime, big businesses are making more and more profit, while more and more people are living in poverty.

Our current economy does not remain within the limits of our planet and has put an enormous dent in many people's socio-economic security – while there is enough for everyone! However, there is not enough if we persist in maintaining this economy of waste. The Party for the Animals opts for security for the population within the bounds of what the Earth can provide. This is possible, if prosperity is distributed more equitably and those responsible are held accountable: the biggest polluters, who often have the deepest pockets.

A green and fair economy

The time has come to dismantle our current economy of waste and build an economy of sustainability instead: an economy where we work to live rather than live to work. We need an economy that gives us time to spend with each other rather than on our smartphones. We want an economy where goods last a lifetime, we eat green asparagus grown in the Netherlands and a weekend trip to London by train is affordable. What we need is a green economy, where there is enough for everyone. Our tax system will become fairer and greener. Big businesses, millionaires, and polluters will pay more tax, working people less, and those on low incomes, in particular, will be entitled to significant benefits.

- We will ensure that all corporations contribute to society and are no longer able to get away as easily with making a profit at the expense of society. We will do this by imposing a statutory care and climate obligation on companies, and by replacing voluntary and obligation-free agreements by concrete regulations and obligations.

- Profit tax for big corporations will be raised from 25% to at least 35%.
- Environmental taxes will be imposed on big polluters, including a higher carbon tax and a levy on unrecycled plastic.
- Fossil fuel subsidies will be terminated.
- We will support the cooperative management of schools, care facilities, and housing corporations.
- Companies that contribute to the transition to a sustainable economy will be awarded the status 'constructive businesses'. Big polluters will be accorded the status 'destructive businesses'. Constructive businesses will be eligible for tax benefits, while destructive businesses will be subject to progressively higher taxation.
- The central government is too focused on economic growth and increasing production in the Netherlands, for which it uses the gross domestic product (GDP) as a measure of prosperity. Partly thanks to the Party for the Animals, a Comprehensive Well-being Monitor (*Monitor Brede Welvaart*) has been developed for the assessment of prosperity in not only an economic context, but in an ecological and social one as well. The Comprehensive Well-being Monitor will serve as the guiding principle in the development, implementation, and assessment of policy. A mandatory future generation test will also be implemented to assess the extent to which policies have a positive impact on young people.
- The central government and provinces, municipalities, and water boards will set a good example by purchasing only sustainable, fairly produced, and animal-friendly products. Semi-government bodies will be required to follow suit.

Enough for everyone

The number of millionaires in the Netherlands is constantly increasing. The wealthiest Dutch people (1%) own one-fourth of all our assets, and big businesses are reaping excessive profits. If prosperity were to be divided more equitably, no children would have to grow up in poverty. Teachers, healthcare workers and so many others would be paid decent wages and people with physically demanding professions would be entitled to retire no later than after forty years of employment. We deserve better.

- The rate for the lowest income tax bracket will be lowered and the highest will be raised. High earners will contribute more to society, via a third tax bracket with a higher income tax rate. As people with a high income benefit just as much – if not more – from basic facilities (such as proper education and infrastructure) as low-income earners, it is more than reasonable to ask them for a fair contribution to these resources.
- Because inflation is a threat to our socio-economic security, the minimum wage will be increased to 16 euros per hour. Considering that inflation continues to exist, we will apply the rule of thumb that the minimum wage will fluctuate in accordance with other incomes and will amount to at least 60% of the median wage in the Netherlands. Benefits, including those under the Old Age Pensions Act (AOW), the Work and Income according to Capacity for Work Act (WIA), the Disabled Assistance (Young Persons) Act (Wajong), and the Unemployment Act (WW) will be increased alongside.
- The statutory minimum youth wage is putting many young workers in financial straits. The statutory minimum youth wage will no longer be applied to young people from the age of 18: adults are entitled to adult wages.
- A progressive wealth tax will be imposed, ranging from 1% for assets up to 500,000 euros, to 5% for assets above 5 million euros. Exemption from this will be increased, so that people who have lived frugally and saved their money are not taxed for their frugality.
- We want to eliminate people's distrust of social security regulations. People in the same household are entitled to social security payments. The co-resident rule and the partner assessment will be revoked. People on social security should be allowed to earn some money

on the side. We will relax the donation policy for people on social security. Also, we will no longer demand a quid pro quo from people entitled to benefits.

- The retrenchment of the safety net for young people with a disability (Wajong) will be reversed. The government will arrange meaningful and useful day-to-day activities for these people, eventually leading to suitable employment where possible.
- People who become partially incapacitated for work will be entitled to an incapacity benefit (WIA) starting from a 15% incapacity for work.
- We will extend the entitlement to short-term unemployment benefits (WW) to six months.
- People with high debts will receive better assistance quicker. The threshold for debt counselling is still too high for many people. It must be made easier for people in these situations to ask for help, and debt counselling programmes must be accelerated so that people can get on with their lives much faster. This will also result in decreasing social costs.
- Food banks should no longer be necessary. As long as this is not yet the case, we will support food banks and ensure that everyone entitled to them will receive the help they need.
- Wages in the education, healthcare, and other public or semi-public sectors will be substantially increased.
- Childcare will be free of charge for people with low incomes. The requirement that both parents need to be employed in order to qualify for childcare will be abolished.
- Child allowance will become proportional to parental income.
- We will invest in the quality of childcare and alleviate the labour shortage in this sector by making the profession of pedagogical assistant more attractive and increasing the professional autonomy of pedagogical assistants.
- Ultimately, all allowances will become unnecessary. The basic principle behind this is that everyone will have enough income to provide for their basic needs.
- The Party for the Animals is against the new Pension Act, which will make our pensions even more dependent on fluctuating stock market prices and is based on the unrealistic assumption that our economy has the capacity for infinite growth.
- Persons who have worked in a physically demanding profession will be entitled to a state pension (AOW) from the age of 65.
- We want to make it possible for people to opt for early retirement (and state pension) in exchange for a proportionally reduced pension amount. Employees accruing a pension will be able to opt for a flexible retirement age or a part-time pension.
- The state pension amount will be raised. This is a positive development for retired people who receive a low pension or have no additional retirement funds.
- Pension funds will be democratised to give employees a greater say in remuneration and provision policies, as well as in how pension funds invest their money.
- Inheritance tax will be abolished for smaller inheritances and increased for larger inheritances. We will adjust the business succession regulation to put an end to tax evasion through this regulation.
- Self-employed persons will no longer be forced to relinquish their social security in order to be competitive. A public fund will be instated for occupational disability and pensions for all self-employed individuals, to which their clients will contribute.
- The minimum wage on Bonaire, Saba and Statia (Sint Eustatius) is lower than in the Netherlands, while the cost of living is higher on these islands. We want the residents of these special municipalities of our kingdom to have an equivalent social minimum with decent unemployment and occupational disability benefits.
- A basic income can strengthen employee positions in negotiations with their employers and provide everyone with income security. Possible forms for this are a fixed monthly amount for everyone, or negative income tax that would entitle people with a low income or no income to a supplementary benefit from the Tax Authorities. We will launch a pilot with various forms of basic income.

Meaningful work

A considerable portion of our labour force is wasted. It is wasted on jobs that do not make us happy, on employers that exploit us, on corporations that do not contribute to our world but detract from it instead. Even though we need more people to work in care homes, healthcare, and childcare, or to insulate our homes, to work for a sustainable agricultural sector, and so much more. We also need to give people who want to the opportunity to get more time off work, to spend more time with their families, or to perform volunteer work.

- Our transformation to a sustainable, regional economy requires a great deal of manpower. This transformation will result in plenty of green jobs that contribute to a better world, at a decent wage and with good working conditions. Employees whose jobs do not give them the satisfaction they need will be able to embrace other employment opportunities. People who currently work in polluting sectors will be offered retraining courses, coaching, and other forms of personalised assistance, with retention of income, to equip them for the transition to more suitable work with better prospects for the future.
- We will restrict the current proliferation of employment contracts to permanent and temporary contracts for standard employment, a temporary employment contract for replacement during sick leave or to cover exceptionally busy periods, and a contract for self-employed individuals.
- Temporary workers will be entitled to the same terms of employment as other workers. We will combat ostensible self-employment and the practice of forcing employees to become self-employed.
- Employment agencies will be required to obtain a permit to put a halt to the proliferation of employment agencies operating in a questionable manner.
- The labour inspectorate will be given a broader mandate to carry out investigations independently and monitor compliance with the payment of wages as set down in the relevant CLAs, as well as discrimination and social security regulations. Consultation with employees will actively be sought by the inspectorate in this regard.
- Differences in remuneration between employees holding similar positions within the same organisation will no longer be tolerated. The gender pay gap will be closed. An Equal Pay Act will be imposed on companies to implement the European Pay Transparency Directive. In this, the onus of proof for unequal pay will be reversed: employers rather than employees will be required to demonstrate that there is no wage discrimination. Companies with a workforce of over 100 must be able to demonstrate the absence of a pay gap.
- A national fund for flex workers in platform businesses will be provided. Disability insurance and pension fund contributions will be paid from this fund. The fund will be financed primarily by the platform businesses, with supplemental funds provided by 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.
- 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 a useful preparation for a return to the labour market.
- Citizens aged 60 and over will be granted exemption from the obligation to seek employment. They will be at liberty to perform volunteer work, mind their grandchildren, or provide informal care. Unemployed persons providing informal care will be granted exemption from the obligation to seek employment.
- We will investigate methods of accruing 'social capital' by performing activities that are constructive to society, which can be used to 'pay' for fundamental needs such as food and housing.
- Every employee deserves the right not to be accessible outside of working hours, without any consequences. We will therefore formalise the 'right to inaccessibility' through legalisation.
- Parental leave regulations will be expanded: the existing nine-week, partly compensated leave

arrangement will be converted into three months with full wage retention. All parents will be entitled to parental leave.

- Maternal leave and partner leave will be brought into alignment in terms of equal duration and 100% retention of wages.
- Employees will be entitled to one day of bereavement leave on the death of their companion animal.
- We will implement paid informal care leave and paid bereavement leave.
- People with an occupational disability will be entitled to a new type of sheltered employment that will allow them to carry out meaningful work close to home, with proper counselling and a decent wage. In the interest of quality and continuity, we will ensure that municipalities' budgets for social work will not be cut. Awareness will be raised for neurodiversity on the work floor, as well as adapting working conditions to neurodivergent individuals.
- Strong trade unions are important to combat the exploitation of workers. We will therefore prohibit the establishment of ostensible trade unions by companies in lieu of independent trade unions. The right to conclude a collective labour agreement will be vested solely in independent trade unions.
- Employees working at large companies will be given a more significant role when important decisions are made, such as mergers, the acquisition of company shares, take-overs, restructuring activities, and profit distribution. The position of employees in works councils will be strengthened.
- Sex work will be legally recognised as a profession. Sex workers will be accorded the same rights as other people and discrimination against sex workers on the basis of their profession will not be tolerated.

Stop the exploitation of migrant workers

The Party for the Animals wants to substantially strengthen the position of migrant workers. At the same time, the Netherlands must reduce its dependence on the employment of workers from foreign countries. The living and working conditions of a large percentage of migrant workers are abominable. People are brought to the Netherlands to perform the jobs that we consider to be beneath us. Migrant workers perform strenuous and hazardous tasks, are forced to sign dubious employment contracts, pay high rents, and work for low wages. They miss their families for long periods of time. Migrant workers are often pitted against each other, or against Dutch employees. In many cases, their housing and employment are directly linked. And so, if they lose their jobs, they also often lose their homes. Slaughterhouses are hell on Earth not only for animals. While the Netherlands looks the other way, many migrant workers have no choice but to perform the atrocious work carried out in slaughterhouses. The exploitation of migrant workers in slaughterhouses and other sectors is the order of the day. This has to be stopped!

- Migrant workers and Dutch workers will no longer be pitted against one another. Equal pay and equal rights for the same work will be the norm.
- Subsidies and tax benefits granted to companies for bringing in foreign employees, such as the expatriate tax concession, will be dispensed with.
- Migrant workers will be better protected against exploitation. Strict conditions will be placed on the accommodation of migrant workers, such as the right to a non-shared bedroom.
- Commercial businesses cannot simultaneously be the employers and landlords of migrant workers.
- A study must be conducted to assess the feasibility of reinstating work permits for employees from countries within the European Economic Area (EEA). This system is already in place for employees from outside the EEA. The Netherlands will commit itself to realising this throughout Europe.
- Considering that slaughterhouses are among the greatest exploiters of vulnerable migrant workers in the Netherlands, the labour inspectorate must assign priority to their inspection and

monitoring.

Money for a better world

There is enough money for everyone. There is enough money to facilitate the transformation to a sustainable economy, to end poverty and substantially raise wages, to build the houses we need at affordable prices, and so much more. However, the people in control of most of this money (bankers, investors, billionaires, and multinational enterprises) will only spend it if this helps them rake in even larger profits. To many of them, enough is never enough. They are gambling with our money, our pensions, our society, and our planet – and this has to stop.

- 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 Volksbank will not be privatised. It will be given a social purpose and remain a non-profit-making institution.
- The capital buffers of Dutch banks will be increased. Banks will thus become more resistant to sudden changes and crises.
- A bank tax and a tax on financial transactions between financial institutions will be introduced at European level.
- Every employee deserves the right not to be accessible outside of working hours, without any consequences. We will therefore formalise the 'right to inaccessibility' through legalisation.
- We will make 'patient capital' (money that is invested in sectors that do not instantly produce a profit) more fiscally attractive.
- The government and executive bodies will have switched to a sustainable bank for their banking services by 2027.
- A climate obligation will be imposed on banks and other financial institutions for all their activities throughout the chain, as part of their responsibility with respect to the integrity of their business operations. Compliance with this obligation will be monitored by the Dutch Central Bank (DNB) and the Netherlands Authority for the Financial Market (AFM).
- When polluting companies file for bankruptcy, practice has shown that no money is left to restore or compensate for the environmental damage suffered by residents or employees. Victims of environmental damage will therefore be given priority by creditors in the event of such a bankruptcy.
- We will restrict the position of banks in our monetary system. To do so, we will use the insights afforded by the report titled 'Money and Debt: The Public Role of Banks' published by the Netherlands Scientific Council for Economic Policy in 2019.
- As long as the influence of banks is not curbed in the roll-out of the digital euro, and in the absence of a healthy, democratic, European-wide debate on relevant topics such as privacy and the programmability of the currency, the digital euro will not be implemented.
- Bonuses will no longer be allocated in the financial sector, as these encourage reckless behaviour that can lead to substantial consequences for society. Bonus policy will be monitored even more closely.
- Access to cash will be safeguarded and we will ensure that the amount of cash in circulation will not be reduced.
- Pension funds and insurance companies must withdraw from the fossil fuel, livestock, arms, and fast-food industries as soon as possible, and absolutely no later than 2025.
- Employees will be given the option to place their pension with a green investment fund if that is not an option in their current pension fund.
- The Netherlands will no longer serve as a tax haven. We will stop facilitating large-scale tax evasion by multinational enterprises. All tax rulings or other deals with corporations will be made public. The Netherlands will urge other tax havens to do the same.

5. Care for all

Prevention is better than cure

There is hardly anything as valuable as good health. The coronavirus crisis has shown us that the way we treat animals and nature is of vital importance, particularly to us humans. The threat of a new pandemic has not gone away. Due to the enormous scope of our livestock industry, bird flu and other zoonoses pose a realistic threat to public health. The Netherlands is, in fact, a pressure cooker for zoonoses. This is, however, not the only area in which the Dutch central government is failing to observe its constitutional duty to protect public health. Instead of protecting us, it is actively sheltering disease-makers like the intensive livestock industry and companies like Tata Steel and McDonald's. The Party for the Animals wants the government to prioritise public health again. Prevention is better than cure. Therefore, prevention should be the guiding principle rather than an addendum in public health policy. This means that the first step is for the government to put an end to big disease-inducing corporations.

Everyone wants to lead a healthy, energetic life. The Party for the Animals believes that it is of crucial importance that we do more to prevent diseases and to increase collective well-being. Therefore, we will be focusing, above all, on prevention. Fundamental choices are needed for this. We need to call to account companies and sectors that have a detrimental effect on our living environment and food, instead of blaming people for making unhealthy lifestyle choices. A healthy agricultural system with substantially fewer animals is of paramount importance in reducing the chances of a new pandemic. We will make the health of residents living near livestock farms and polluting industrial estates our foremost priority, and we will create an environment where healthy eating habits are encouraged. The right to a healthy living environment takes precedence over corporate profit. Health will be the cornerstone of our policies.

Everyone has the right to loving care. Nevertheless, there is an increasing inequality in both well-being and health. People with financial concerns, who are in debt, or who live in poverty are more likely to suffer from stress, diabetes, or cardiovascular diseases. It is an injustice that a person's health is largely determined by their place in society. The Party for the Animals wants a stable foundation for every member of our society, and to close the health gap.

Our burdens will be distributed more equitably, and we will put an end to the healthcare sector's current dominantly market-oriented approach. People suffering from multiple chronic illnesses currently pay relatively high healthcare costs. This has to be organised more fairly! Healthcare is not a marketplace; it is a basic provision. Additionally, care budgets must end up where they were intended: not with managers and investors, but with care professionals. We will ensure that all people working in the care and healthcare sector are given decent wages and greater professional autonomy.

Reducing the chances of the next pandemic

The coronavirus pandemic has introduced to world to zoonoses: infectious diseases that are transmitted from animals to people. The avian influenza virus (bird flu) also poses a growing risk to human health. Scientists have been warning us for some time now: 75% of all new infectious diseases currently threatening human health are zoonoses. The Netherlands has the highest concentration of livestock in the world. Cooping up so many animals comprises an enormous risk of the development and spread of zoonoses. The two largest European outbreaks of zoonoses both took place in the Netherlands; bird flu in 2003 and Q fever between 2007 and 2010, during which residents living near goat farms died or became seriously, chronically ill.

And yet, scientists are still warning us that we are not taking adequate measures to reduce the risk of a new zoonotic outbreak. In practice, public health has still not become our government's highest priority. In 2020, the Netherlands was the first country in the world where COVID-19 also broke out in the livestock industry (in the mink breeding industry) and where the virus was transmitted from

humans to minks, and from minks to humans.

As long as we keep so many animals cooped up in such small spaces, the Dutch livestock industry remains a ticking time bomb. The Party for the Animals has been warning against this ever since 2006. Research has shown that we are only five steps away from a mutation of the bird flu that, when it becomes contagious among humans, could lead to a mortality rate a dozen times higher than COVID-19.

- The total number of animals bred and killed in the Dutch livestock industry will be reduced by at least 75% in the next two years. To curb the spread of viruses and reduce health risks, standardised limits will be imposed on the distances between livestock enterprises and residential areas. A two-hour limit will be imposed on all animal transports to minimise the risk of the development and spread of zoonoses.
- When the habitats of animals living deep in the forest are destroyed by deforestation, these animals suddenly come into contact with human beings, which can result in the transmission of unknown diseases. The Netherlands will stop importing products that rely on large-scale deforestation.
- Climate change and the biodiversity crisis are throwing the world out of balance. Zoonoses and their rapid spread are one of the many symptoms. And because of the changing climate, exotic diseases also spread faster throughout the world via insects, for example. In the interest of our health, we will do everything we can to curb global warming to a maximum of 1.5 degrees Celsius and we stop the destruction of our natural environment.
- Animals living in the wild can carry unknown diseases. The Netherlands is a transit 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 internationally to improve preventative and healthcare systems around the world.
- The Ministries of Health and Agriculture will be provided with sufficient capacity and expertise to adequately deal with and respond to zoonoses. The Ministry of Public Health will always have the authority to take the lead in the prevention and combating of animal diseases that can be transmitted to humans, and to respond proactively. The precautionary principle will be given precedence in this, and will be legalised.

A healthy living environment

Currently, corporate interests all too often weigh more heavily than the health of local residents. The Party for the Animals aims to reverse this. There is no such thing as a right to pollute – but people do have a right to a healthy living environment. Whether this is about realising a neighbourhood with lots of greenery, clean air, or protection from polluting industries, health should be the cornerstone of all policies.

- To protect the health of residents, statutory regulations will be adopted for the minimum distance between livestock barns and residential areas, schools, and childcare centres.
- Residents living within a two-kilometre radius of a goat farm tend to contract pneumonia more frequently than other population groups. This concerns 1.7 million people and has been known for more than ten years. Nevertheless, existing goat barns are still being expanded, and new ones built. A nation-wide ban will therefore be imposed on the expansion of existing and establishment of new goat farms.
- Various types of agricultural toxins are linked to Parkinson's Disease and cancer. We will ensure a toxin-free agricultural and horticultural industry and, in doing so, protect the health of farmers, residents, and consumers.
- Odour pollution is detrimental to health. It causes lung issues, shortness of breath, and

sleeplessness. In areas where local residents are facing odour pollution from the livestock industry, farms and related businesses will be bought out (at a fair price). Stringent regulations will be imposed to prevent future odour pollution.

- Immediate action will be taken against the disease-inducing pollution caused by Tata Steel to prevent an even greater disaster for the surrounding residents, nature, and the environment. The permits for the most polluting divisions of Tata Steel will be revoked with immediate effect.
- The application and use of harmful PFAS will be fully banned. Businesses will be prohibited from emitting PFAS into the atmosphere or discharging it into the water. We will force Chemours to adopt a zero-emission policy as soon as possible.
- As the current and envisioned new EU air quality standards are not stringent enough to protect our health in the short term, compliance with the stricter WHO standards will be required by law in 2030. Cheating with respect to environmental standards will be dealt with very harshly.
- By making town centres accessible exclusively 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 hazardous, often carcinogenic substances that are damaging to the environment, public health, and the climate are released into the atmosphere. The ensuing high emission of particulate matter can lead to serious health issues in children, older people, and lung patients. Therefore, we will phase out the burning of wood as fuel for heating. Until then, a national standard for the use of wood-burning stoves, campfires, and similar will be adopted and enforced. During unfavourable weather conditions, such as mist or lack of wind, the burning of wood as a source of heat will not be permitted.
- Every municipality must satisfy the norm of at least 50 square metres of high-quality greenery per resident.

A healthy diet will become more easily accessible

Consuming less salt, sugar, and fat is healthier for everyone. Nevertheless, ultra-processed and fast food are still readily available. Not only is healthy, organic, and unprocessed food more expensive; it is also more difficult to come by. The soft drink and fast-food industries spend bags of money on advertisements for unhealthy food. In fact, they are making huge profits from making people sick. We will put a stop to this. If the government were to implement a policy directed specifically at promoting healthy food, a healthy diet would be within easy reach for everyone. Therefore, we will be making our food environments healthy again, and reduce health inequality at the same time. The fact that people with less money are more prone to disease is unacceptable.

- Legal standards will be imposed on ultra-processed food to ensure that we eat less salt, sugar, and fats.
- Our goal is to permit advertising exclusively for healthy products. Until then, the marketing of products containing excessive amounts of sugar, salt, or fat directed to children will be forbidden. There will be no adverts for or featuring sweets and fast food directed at children below the age of 12. This is also extended to new forms of marketing, such as advertising and marketing via influencers and vlogs.
- We will restrict the number of new branches opened by fast food chains and snack bars. A new law will therefore be implemented granting municipalities the authority to prohibit organisations offering unhealthy food from establishing themselves in their municipality for health reasons (and not just based on spatial planning). In any case, they will not be allowed to establish themselves in the vicinity of schools or elsewhere in public areas.
- Producers of unhealthy food will be taxed more heavily through measures like a smart sugar tax. In other countries, such a tax has ensured that manufacturers add less sugar to their soft drinks.
- The current prevention agreement is a covenant that was drawn up in part by the food industry, with the result that little has changed. Health goals will become embedded into law, so that meeting them will become legally binding. According to these goals, the need for

additional (prevention-oriented) policies will be assessed, and whether a different policy results in the deterioration of public health.

- By excluding all vegetables, fruits, nuts, cereals, and legumes from VAT, we will make healthy food affordable again, and a more attractive option.
- All children will be offered the possibility of eating a healthy breakfast or lunch at school, pre-school or afternoon childcare centre. Just as in many other countries, schools will start offering healthy meals made from 100% organic and plant-based ingredients. 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 will replace vending machines selling soft drinks and sweets.
- Space will be made for community allotments. These gardens will bring people back in touch with food, nature, and their neighbours.
- Rather than the highest-bidding multinational, healthy products will be given the most prominent place on supermarket shelves.
- The current lunch culture in the Netherlands should be adapted to include more fruit and vegetables. We will encourage company canteens to offer healthy meals through measures such as tax exemptions.
- Hospitals and other care institutes will serve their patients and residents healthy, plant-based, and organic food. Until then, at least one tasty and nutritious plant-based alternative must be included on the menu. Fresh fruit will be made widely available to patients and care facility residents.

Mentally healthy and less stress

Apart from our physical health, we also need to take good care of our mental health. By adapting our environment in such a way that we can genuinely find peace of mind, we become psychologically healthier. Instead of increasing pressure from work and always being in 'available' mode, we should create space for tranquillity and caring for each other.

- Greenery does wonders in this regard. A residential environment surrounded by nature reduces stress levels. Being in the outdoors reduces pain and negative emotions. This is why spending time outdoors, in a green environment, should be accessible to everyone. Nature is energising and invites people to exercise. We are going to make residential areas and cities a lot greener. Every child will be able to play in a nearby nature playground.
- Mental health starts at school. Time will be devoted during lessons to the pressures created by social media to look a certain way, wear certain clothes, or go to the right parties. Bullying will also be a recurring topic, and this type of behaviour will be actively discouraged at 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 actors in the education, healthcare, and social-economic sectors is needed to reduce the number of suicides. Additionally, access to suicide prevention will be guaranteed by law. Awareness will also be raised for neurodivergent and LGBTIQ+ persons.
- People who need mental healthcare regularly spend years on waitlists, deprived of timely and effective treatment. We will reduce 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.
- Neurodiversity will be included in the curriculum of educational programmes for mental health workers. More awareness will be raised for the different ways in which people's brains function, e.g. in relation to communication, or responding to and processing stimuli and information.

Prevention is better than cure

Turning to a physician or therapist at the right time prevents the exacerbation of physical complaints or psychological problems. The primary care services provided by general practitioners (GPs), for example, are vital to ensure the early diagnosis of conditions before intensive medication or surgery is required. Care providers should be facilitated on all fronts to allow them to perform their work to the best of their ability, without being excessively burdened with administrative tasks that they know will hardly benefit their patients.

- We are going to thoroughly assess the effectiveness of lifestyle interventions and focus more on these in the training of general practitioners and other healthcare professionals. 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.
- The limited budgets for these provided by health insurers means that GPs are limited in their provision of lifestyle interventions. GPs must be fully reimbursed for the 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. In addition, we will also intervene in cases where commercial entities buy up GP practices, resulting in the inability to guarantee the provision of suitable care.
- Fewer patients per general practice will give GPs room to schedule longer consultations with more time to really listen to their patients. We will make sure that standard general practice numbers (the number of patients per GP) are lowered.
- Compensation for contraceptives will be re-included in the basic healthcare package for all ages.
- The HIV prevention medication PrEP will be made accessible and refundable for people at a 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.
- Successful breast-feeding requires proper guidance and support from lactation consultants. This should, therefore, be included in the basic healthcare package. Employers will reserve rooms for lactation, and their availability will be adequately monitored. More research will be conducted into the development of baby formula without cow's milk.
- Extensive information about vaccinations will be made available to the public. Vaccinations, whether directly or indirectly, will not be made compulsory.
- We will provide 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 'Mixed formulas' such as being offered a glass of wine at the hairdresser's will no longer be permitted.
- We are working towards a smoke-free generation. The sale of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and other tobacco products will be licensed, and permitted exclusively at tobacconists' shops. The prices will be substantially increased.
- Sports and exercise play a crucial role in our society. Not only do they improve our physical and mental health; they also contribute to self-sufficiency, like 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. Space will be reserved in every residential neighbourhood for sports facilities for young people, such as public football fields, basketball courts, and skate parks. No cuts will be made to youth centre budgets. Sports canteens will be

encouraged to offer primarily healthy food and drinks.

- The government will take responsibility for proper information about the health risks associated with the use of synthetic drugs, hard drugs, soft drugs, and other drugs. Young people and adults will be exposed to fierce campaigns raising awareness about the impact of drugs on their health, the environment, and crime rates. No new 'coffeeshops' (shops where the sale of cannabis is tolerated by local authorities) will be built in the vicinity of schools.
- Diminishing the livestock industry is also in the interest of food safety. Reductions in the use of antibiotics, prioritising animal health and well-being in the livestock industry, and stricter monitoring in slaughterhouses all help to reduce the risks of multi-resistant bacteria and salmonella.

Focus on care rather than the healthcare market

In an ideal world, healthcare workers have all the time they need to provide care to people with a passion for their profession. Not only is this of benefit to patients, but it also keeps healthcare workers enthusiastic about their profession. A pleasant working environment for healthcare workers is one where employees have more influence on their jobs, and where they can focus on the recovery of their patients. After all, time spent filling out forms and protocols is time that cannot be devoted to patient care.

More attention, inclusive health care, and freedom of choice for patients will lead to higher quality healthcare. That is why we will also strive to promote small-scale, regionally distributed primary care, and prevent the merging of hospitals into mega-institutions. These measures will make bespoke healthcare accessible to everyone.

Healthcare should once again revolve around cooperation in which the patient's recovery is the primary concern, rather than competition among healthcare institutes. This will help keep healthcare accessible for everyone. Ever since 2006, physical and mental healthcare in the Netherlands is paid per treatment, even if this is not in the best interest of the patient. The system of payment per treatment makes prescribing expensive medical procedures more attractive. This is only making medical care in the Netherlands more expensive, which ultimately leads to budget cuts. These budget cuts primarily affect people who have been on waitlists for a long time. As a result, care is not available to everyone who needs it, or the quality of the care diminishes. This market-driven approach to healthcare has not benefited the accessibility or quality of care. Crucial care, such as elderly care or GP care, should not be market driven. Instead, this care should be considered a basic provision, organised locally within municipalities.

- We will invest significantly in healthcare professionals: more opportunities for training (including follow-up training) and proper terms of employment should be a matter of course. Wages in this sector will be increased. Healthcare employees will have a greater say as to the content of their jobs as well as 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 work in paid employment.
- The exorbitant pay, dividends, and bonuses awarded at the top level of healthcare management will be abolished with immediate effect. Management layers will be cut back where possible, and the resulting budget will be invested in the people actually administering care.
- The market mechanism has led to a waste of funds, despite the fact that the financing of the healthcare sector is under immense strain. A task force will be set up to combat waste in the healthcare sector on all fronts and to abolish senseless incentives.
- Extra capacity will be made available 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 so that parents-to-be are always able to reach a hospital on time. Only complex healthcare cases will be treated by specialised hospitals.

- Specialisation within hospitals has become excessive. We will ensure the availability of more general hospitals, emergency ward doctors and paramedics, and encourage them to take a holistic approach to their patients. A holistic approach to patients, rather than focusing only on their specific organs, will become a central theme in medical training. We support the idea of generalisation above specialisation in medical training.
- The breakdown of medication prices will be made public, and cheaper, generic medications will be used wherever possible to prevent sky-high prices for medication. A monopoly on a specific drug should not pose a barrier to its availability.
- Care under the Social Support Act (Wmo) and care for people with a disability (based on the Long-term Care Act (Wlz)) will preferably be offered at a small-scale and regional level and will be the same for every municipality. Which care you are entitled to should not depend on the municipality you live in. Healthcare professionals who are operating under this act will receive better support and higher wages.
- From now on, the care needed by vulnerable elderly people at home will no longer be organised under three different acts and financial flows, but exclusively under the Healthcare Act (Zvw) and the Social Support Act (Wmo).
- Youth care in the Netherlands is sadly lacking on all fronts. We will invest substantially in reducing workloads and shortening waitlists. The differences between municipalities regarding the availability and quality of youth welfare services are unacceptable. We will make sure that every municipality has sufficient means for an adequately organised youth welfare programme. The age limit will be stretched to 21 years, and youth care will be gradually phased out as from the age of 18.
- Informal care givers will be supported both financially and by other means, and more will be done to mitigate the strain on them. For the accessibility and evaluation of healthcare options, the role of informal caregivers will be taken into consideration. People who have to live with the long-term consequences of a zoonosis, such as long COVID or the Q fever syndrome, deserve full support and recognition of their condition. Healthcare workers and teachers suffering from long COVID (who contracted the disease at their workplace) will be granted adequate compensation by the central government. More funding will be made available for post-covid research.
- We will invest in shortening the waitlists for transgender care, e.g. by proactively providing GPs with relevant information, or providing guidance to people receiving hormone treatments, for example. Further to global developments, we will disconnect being a transgender person from the current stigmatising psychiatric diagnoses and will use newer international guidelines such as ICD-11 instead, with a focus on the right to self-determination of transgender and non-binary people.

Affordable for all

We want high-quality healthcare to be accessible to everyone who needs it. The past few years have seen an excessive focus on the cost of healthcare, which has only been increasing due to the way in which it is organised in our country. Health insurance companies have been given too much power.

- The mandatory excess will be abolished, also for chronically ill people.
- The national health insurance fund will be reinstated with extensive coverage, including dental hygiene, physiotherapy, and temporary as well as permanent contraceptives. Contributions will be lowered, and the income-dependent portion will be raised. As a result, healthcare allowances will become redundant, and the probability of people refusing to seek help for their medical needs due to a fear of high medical bills will be countered.
- The healthcare system and the associated compensation from insurers are overly focused on surgeries, treatments, and medications. Preventative measures – such as advice from

dieticians, substance abuse counselling, and programmes to help stop smoking – will remain in the basic healthcare package and will be fully compensated. Healthcare 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.

- Healthcare insurers should not be permitted to make a profit.

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, everyone suffering from a health complaint 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 operate. Municipalities will be given sufficient means to provide proper healthcare, and these means will be used exclusively 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 tax benefits, and there will be more space for the development of other forms of cohabitation where people can care for each other.
- Support will be provided for care centres with a particular identity, such as residential care facilities for the elderly that take into consideration people's gender identity or sexual orientation (LGBTIQA+), or people with different cultural backgrounds.
- To make healthcare more inclusive, awareness will be raised about cultural differences and discrimination in medical training and other healthcare education programmes.
- A National Strategy for Women's Health will be implemented, with measures to promote the improvement of women's health. There will be a greater focus on differences in sex and gender, as well as on women-specific issues.
- We will instate a right of initiative that will give residents more autonomy in how they want care and assistance to be organised in their own neighbourhood.
- More attention will be given to diversity during medical training, healthcare treatment options, and medication development. By diversity, we mean health-related differences in social-economic status, gender, cultural background, and ethnicity. Accessible, bespoke healthcare will be the guiding principle in this.
- All public spaces will be accessible to disabled persons and persons in a wheelchair.
- It should be much easier for victims of domestic violence to report incidences and seek refuge in a crisis shelter. More emergency housing must be realised to facilitate this. Pets should also be welcome at these shelters.
- The elderly will be able to choose between good quality care at home or a place at a residential care facility for the elderly. Enough district nurses will be available. We will reduce the long waitlists for residential care facilities for the elderly by building more but smaller-scale residences, and by offering sufficient daytime activities for elderly people living at home.
- The freedom to opt for alternative therapies must be safeguarded. Further conditions will be imposed on the information provision by healthcare professionals with regard to their qualifications and treatment methods. At the same time, the care provider must demonstrate the existence (or absence) of scientific evidence pleading for the efficacy of the treatment proposed.
- 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 mandatory excess for outpatient deliveries will be eliminated so that everyone is free to make their own choice as much as possible.
- Transgender people will be extensively informed by the physicians involved in their transition process and given more freedom of choice in hormone and surgical treatment options.

A completed life

The Party for the Animals subscribes to the principle that people should have autonomy over their own lives, certainly when this concerns a deep-felt desire to die. However, 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.

- 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-considered process should precede this choice.

Sustainability in healthcare

Healthcare has a considerable impact on both climate and the environment. The healthcare sector is responsible for 7% of CO₂ emissions in the Netherlands, generates an excessive amount of waste and pollutes water with medicine residues. There is widespread support in the field for greening healthcare. Lately, initiatives such as Green Teams, the Green Care Alliance, and the Green OR, a national network, have been playing a pioneering role in enhancing sustainability in their respective fields.

- The agreements in the Green Deal for Sustainable Care are becoming more ambitious and legally enforceable.
- The redistribution of medicines and the reissue of medical aids must be facilitated in order to combat waste in the healthcare sector.

6. Green and affordable housing

Enough space for all of us

Having a roof over your head is a fundamental human right. Nonetheless, for many people in the Netherlands this has become unattainable. There is a shortage of housing almost everywhere, and while housing corporations are being stripped, the red carpet is being rolled out for private investors. The construction of nearly one hundred thousand new houses is being jeopardised due to the excessive emissions of nitrogen, caused primarily by the livestock industry. This industry also takes up almost half the land in the Netherlands. Everything else for which space is required, including housing and nature, has to make do with the other half. The Party for the Animals makes crystal-clear choices to free up enough space for healthy and pleasant housing for all, without jeopardising nature. This is only possible if the space we have in the Netherlands is distributed in a fundamentally different way.

What would you rather have? A roof over your head or a steak on your plate? There is plenty of space available in the Netherlands for the realisation of comfortable, affordable homes in pleasant, green surroundings. However, making clear choices about this requires political courage. Decreasing the livestock industry will free up agricultural land for nature and residential construction. We will make better use of the existing built-up environment to protect nature and undeveloped areas. Construction in city centres will be carried out in a nature-inclusive manner to ensure enough greenery for local residents. Residential construction will also be planned at the edges of existing residential areas. This will create more space for nature, while improving the residential climate, the surrounding environment, and biodiversity at the same time.

Nevertheless, a more equitable allocation of space is not enough. Housing is not a revenue model. The Party for the Animals aims to resolve the housing shortage in a sustainable manner. It is no more than self-evident that investors prefer to build large, expensive residences, as these will bring in more money. The central government must intervene and ensure that the current needs in terms of housing are met. We want students to have access to affordable housing, and we want young families to be able to rent or buy a home that fits their family situation. We will ensure that residential construction meets the growing demand of single-family households, as well as multi-generation households where children and (grand)parents can live together and look after each other.

The housing crisis can only be solved if established financial interests cede to the interests of people who need a place to live, from a housing market to public housing. The agricultural industry and private investors will need to step back to enable the central government to perform its constitutional duty of ensuring that everyone has access to suitable housing.

In order to meet our climate goals and counter the effects of the climate and nature crisis, we will need to renovate our houses, and make them greener and more sustainable. The installation of solar panels on roofs will become standard practice, we will invest in sustainable cooling systems, and we will put an end to energy poverty. All new buildings will be constructed so that they can withstand the climate risks of the future.

There is enough space for more houses

The demand for housing exceeds the supply. Many people are unable to find an affordable home. The scarcity on the residential market is caused in part by the tremendous pressure on space in the Netherlands. In other words, the current lack of vision with regard to our zoning policy must make way for a sustainable plan. It is untenable that almost half the land in the Netherlands is used for the livestock industry while nature is suffering, and we are grappling with a distressing shortage in residential housing. If we help farmers make the transition to sustainable agriculture, acres upon acres of land will become available that can be distributed far more equitably. The vast majority of this will be returned to nature with a view to restoring biodiversity. Space will also become available for residential housing in or in place of former agricultural land and at the edges of existing residential

areas, without this being at the expense of liveability, landscape, or cultural heritage, and nature. This way, more people will be able to live in green environments, and the housing shortage will be resolved. Our built-up environment also needs to be used more intelligently, more sustainably, and more fairly.

- We will make room for houses. By opting for a drastic reduction in the number of animals in the livestock industry (by 75%), the nitrogen crisis will be resolved, we will free up many acres of agricultural land and many agricultural buildings, and we will finally put an end to odour pollution. In addition to giving nature the chance to recover, this will create space for housing.
- To facilitate this creation of residential space, a 'housing ladder' will be developed. First of all, more efficient use will be made of existing structures (e.g. by converting office buildings, making use of existing vacant property, and encouraging people to move up the housing ladder). Next, we will look for opportunities for the densification of urban areas where liveability will not be compromised. Lastly, 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. Investments in proper public transport and bicycle connections (e.g. fast bike lanes) will ensure proper, sustainable accessibility to these newly built or renovated houses.
- Business parks for which we have no use in the future or that are a nuisance to residents will be transformed into residential areas and green spaces (such as parks) or into areas offering a combination of housing and clean, circular businesses. The liveability of the area and the impact on the urban 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 where there is an acute housing shortage, temporary accommodations can be introduced, provided they are sustainable and fully recyclable.
- Vacant office buildings will be redeveloped and given another function (such as housing). The construction of new office buildings and business parks will be discouraged. Experimentation with living arrangements and communities can be conducted on former farms, where people of all ages 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 for more than two people to take out a mortgage, and this should be possible at all mortgage providers. This would facilitate the practice of co-housing, a measure to combat the scarcity of housing, as well as encouraging diversity in family make-up.
- We are against the 'boxification' of our landscape. The construction of distribution centres and large office buildings will be suspended. No new industrial warehouses will be built as long as empty industrial ones are still available in the region.
- Residential housing will be built in climate-proof locations. Polders that are situated below sea level do not satisfy this criterion. Neither will residential housing be built outside of our dykes.

Green, affordable, and comfortable housing

The built-up environment is currently responsible for 15% of the CO₂ emitted in our country. The way in which the sustainability of our housing stock is currently being enhanced is unfair and leads to energy poverty. Social housing tenants are stuck with high energy bills because housing corporations are taking too long in equipping their homes with proper insulation. Aside from that, not every homeowner can afford to invest in solar panels, and tenants who prefer to have a sustainable and comfortable home are dependent on the whims of their landlords. The sustainability challenge in terms of housing requires clearer regulations and substantial investments from the central government. At the same time, sustainable investments earn themselves back, reflected in both a reduction in emissions and a lower energy bill. The technology for this is already feasible, as well as affordable. All it takes is the political willpower to accelerate this development!

- Tenants of poorly insulated homes suffer most acutely from the rising gas prices. They will be granted an enforceable right to substantial rent cuts. This will be realised, for example, by designating housing with energy labels of C or lower as defective, which will in turn be a reason for deducting points from the current point-based housing assessment system (*woningwaarderingssstelsel*, WWS).
- Energy we do not use does not need to be generated. This is why we will be concentrating on saving energy. We will do this through the large-scale insulation of residential property, by launching informative campaigns addressing conscientious energy consumption, and by imposing regulations on the energy consumption of home appliances and lighting.
- A clear plan will be drawn up for enhancing the sustainability of our housing stock, with non-negotiable goals. Our housing supply will be energy neutral by 2030. We will no longer leave roofs unused. Solar panels on buildings will become the norm. All new builds will be equipped with solar panels and/or green roofs, and the storage of rainwater will be made compulsory for new builds, as is already the case in Belgium.
- All new building projects will be gas-free, nature-inclusive, at least energy neutral, and energy positive where possible. These buildings will compensate for the older buildings that cannot be made energy-neutral before 2030.
- Nature-inclusive insulation and making buildings more sustainable will become financially more attractive by increasing subsidies and sustainability-related loans, which will ensure that the monthly cost of living will remain unchanged. Apart from this, the VAT rate imposed on renovations intended to lower energy consumption will be lowered. Interest on sustainability-related loans will remain 0% for collective incomes of 60,000 euros or less.
- Proper regulations, including fiscal agreements, will be created for the generation of energy at district level, and for storing this energy in district batteries or heat pumps. 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. The central government will invest in enhancing the sustainability of schools, sports facilities, care facilities, and cultural institutions.
- Property taxes (ozb) will be differentiated according to the energy rating and energy consumption of the property.
- We will invest in construction (and preferably circular construction) by making a career in the construction sector more attractive, which will subsequently increase our construction capacity.
- Owners' associations often find it difficult to get their energy transition off the ground due to the complexity of their decision-making process, regulations, and subsidy flows. The central government will no longer leave owners' associations in this difficult position but will offer them assistance where necessary.

Homes are not a commodity

Houses are to live in, and not to make a profit from. More and more people are faced with considerable financial difficulties due to high rents, or simply because they are not entitled to a rental home. We will make exploiting rental properties for excessive profits and speculation unattractive by introducing measures to control the distribution of housing (at local level).

- Opportunities to cap rents will remain in place. We will make the housing assessment system (*woningwaarderingssstelsel*, WWS) compulsory to combat excessively high rents and prevent landlords from circumventing the point-based system for rooms. Rental properties in the private sector will also be subject to WWS. The WWS will become mandatory for all houses. The appraised value of a house (*WOZ-waarde*) will no longer be taken into consideration in calculating the WWS. This will prevent homes in popular areas from gaining too many points, resulting in exorbitant rents. These measures will cause rental prices to drop.
- By raising the maximum income level, social housing will become available to more people.
- Rents will be frozen for the next five years.
- Squatting will no longer be punishable by law. The Squatting and Vacant Property Act of 2010

will be abolished. Houses are for people, not profit.

- Regulations will be put in place for the temporary rental of homes to tourists. Municipalities will be given room to limit holiday rentals and even prohibit them when they are a source of disturbance and degradation in the area.
- Rents in the private sector will also be capped.
- A levy on vacant buildings and lots in construction projects will make it unappealing to keep buildings empty and to speculate with construction sites.
- The conveyance tax will still be differentiated: investors pay more, residents pay less. This tax will be reimbursed wholly or in part if buyers have made their home energy-neutral within a year.
- Home mortgage interest deductions will remain unchanged up to the National Mortgage Guarantee amount. Home mortgage interest deduction for amounts exceeding this will be abolished faster than is currently the case (0.5% per year). At the same time, we will strive to make housing affordable again.
- We will place restrictions on the number of buildings a private landlord may rent out. Organisations that are exempt from these, such as housing corporations, will be given more possibilities for investing in the realisation of rental housing in the mid-class segment.

Housing for everyone

The fact that some people have to wait 15 years for social housing is unacceptable. We will reduce these waitlists by making it easier for people to move up the housing ladder and by building more homes. This way, young people who want to stay in their hometown can remain in their familiar surroundings and thus contribute to social cohesion in neighbourhoods.

- We will build more social housing. Thanks to a financial incentive from the central government, housing corporations will be facilitated in their task of building new homes.
- Social housing will no longer be sold off unless it is replaced at least one-on-one in the same municipality. The proper distribution of social housing per district will be taken into consideration in this.
- 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. Homelessness is the most extreme form of social exclusion leading to subsistence insecurity. Unnecessary bureaucracy that impedes the provision of aid to the homeless, such as the self-sufficiency criterion, will be abolished. Each municipality will have a sufficient number of free shelter beds. In adverse or cold weather conditions, a pet should never be grounds for refusal when taking in a homeless person. A suitable place (such as an animal shelter) will be found for pets if they cannot be taken in by the homeless shelter.
- We will combat discrimination on the housing market by making it possible for prospective tenants to respond anonymously on platforms offering residential housing.

Sustainable construction

Conventional construction materials such as concrete and steel have a large carbon footprint. In recent years, the construction sector has worked hard on recycling, on innovations and construction methods that use less energy, and on materials that can easily be reused. We intend to promote the implementation of bio-based construction: the practice of using primarily natural and renewable resources when building, such as wood, flax, and bamboo. This will even allow buildings to store CO₂.

- We will use only circular and nature-inclusive building methods, with the greatest possible use of natural, renewable, and recycled materials. These natural materials must be responsibly grown

and harvested and may not lead to any loss of nature or ecological damage. We will not make use of construction materials of animal origin.

- All buildings will be delivered with a materials passport, so that these materials can be more easily reused after demolition. This also applies to the renovation and the insulation of existing buildings.
- Construction materials will be produced using methods that are as climate and ecologically friendly as possible, and when issuing tenders, we will give priority to the contractor making the least possible use of materials that are harmful to the environment.
- 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.

Green cities and villages

We are healthier and happier when we are surrounded by greenery. However, there is not enough of it in and around our cities – and the greenery we do have is often distributed inequitably. This is why we will create more accessible nature around our cities, and make our villages, towns, and cities radically greener. Green façades, roofs, pavements, greenbelts, nature playgrounds, community allotments: all these serve to make life in the built-up environment more pleasant and social. Now that heat waves are becoming more and more common and last longer, city dwellers need green spaces more than ever to keep them cool. Greenery also has a mitigating effect on flooding during heavy rainfall. Urban nature moreover attracts animals, and greening our living environment contributes tremendously to restoring biodiversity in the Netherlands as well.

- A large tree absorbs 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. We need to plant trees, not chop 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 the built-up area.
- We are a long way from meeting the challenge of providing enough accessible green spaces for all. 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.
- In summer, green roofs and façades produce a cooling effect, thus reducing the need for air conditioners in homes and offices. In winter, greenery has an insulating effect, which can lead to a mitigation of up to 20% in heat loss. Green roofs will be included on the list of compulsory energy-saving measures for owners of large buildings.
- New building projects will be made nature-inclusive with 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 in the renovation and insulation of existing buildings. If, for example, a nesting location for birds is no longer available because of roof insulation, an alternative must be found nearby.
- Each municipality should meet the standard of at least 50m² of proper greenery per resident, in which the equitable distribution of greenery among various neighbourhoods must be a key criterion.
- 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.
- If the quality of a living environment is in danger of being jeopardised, permit applications for construction plans will be rejected. This also applies to extensions, whether above or below ground.
- Citizens will be encouraged to make their gardens greener and will be provided with information to achieve this. Municipalities will set an example and remove tiles from paved areas to make way for

more greenery. The construction of green façades and 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 rubbish on the street and in municipal green areas.
- The protection of our public health, the environment and landscapes should be given priority in the Environment and Planning Act. Until this has been arranged in a satisfactory manner, the effective date of the above act will be postponed.
- The central government will oblige every municipality to draw up a nature ordinance specifying all ecological hotspots that are being protected against urban development.

7. Education, science, and culture

Lifelong development

Good quality, accessible, and inclusive education, science, culture, and media are the cornerstones of a free and democratic society. Nevertheless, this cornerstone has been coming under pressure. We are currently battling a severe shortage of teaching staff. Many of them are leaving the profession, which is partly due to a growing inequality of opportunities. The Party for the Animals wants to structurally invest in education. Everyone should have access to lifelong development, whether this stems from a concrete need or simply a yearning to know more. This requires a strong arts, culture, and media sector that is given ample freedom for innovation and criticism, and in which makers receive fair remuneration for their work. Journalists must be provided protection and should not be impeded in their monitoring of governance.

Children deserve equal opportunities for development. Good education is crucial to this. Nevertheless, access to good education is still not self-evident. Education is severely under strain: there is a huge shortage of teaching staff. The teachers we do have, are staggering under their workload, experience difficulties in finding permanent employment and, partly therefore, find it difficult to find housing in certain areas. As a result, many teachers are opting to leave the profession. Private tutoring or academic coaching agencies are taking advantage of the ensuing deficit and offer their services at exorbitant prices. Good education must be accessible to everyone and should never be dependent on whether or not your parents can afford to pay a tutoring agency. The Party for the Animals wants to structurally invest in education and ensure that teachers get better pay and a smaller workload so that they can focus on what they do best: supporting children and teaching their classes well.

Many universities have become degree factories, where classes are taught in huge lecture halls and students hardly have any contact with their tutors. After all, the larger a university's student body, the more tuition it receives. The huge influx of foreign students is also responsible for problems in our busy cities, such as a shortage of student housing. The Party for the Animals is adamant that quality should once again take precedence above all else in education. Universities are also repositories of knowledge, where a great deal of research is conducted. We will curb the influence of companies and multinational enterprises on this research. Good research should first and foremost serve the interests of society and science, rather than those of businesses.

The student loan system has done a great deal of damage: many students, former students, and graduates have accrued debts, in some cases amounting to tens of thousands of euros. This has greatly increased the inequality among students. The Party for the Animals is in favour of a proper compensation scheme so that the consequences of the student loan system will not keep this inequality unchecked for years to come.

Arts and culture are of inestimable value to our society. After many years of cuts and reduced audience and visitor numbers due to the coronavirus crisis, the sector is gradually on the rise again. We want to invest in makers of art and culture and ensure they receive fair remuneration for their indispensable work. In addition, we aim to encourage sustainability in the cultural sector.

Free and independent journalism is a precondition for the proper functioning of a democratic society. Nevertheless, journalism has come under pressure in the Netherlands. The past few years have shown increasing instances of threats and intimidation directed at journalists and cartoonists. Journalists are also faced with violence more often. It is therefore crucial that the central government facilitates journalists in the independent performance of their important work. Violence, threats, and intimidation directed at journalists, cartoonists, and artists are simply unacceptable.

Invest, invest, invest

We must invest in teaching staff and schools. The Party for the Animals believes that additional money should structurally be made available to lower teachers' workloads, to give them greater professional autonomy, to create more opportunities for development, for higher wages, and for smaller classrooms. The workload is not only excessive at primary and secondary schools; the teaching staff in intermediate vocational education, at universities of applied science, and at research universities are all similarly affected. Teachers in every type of education need sufficient time to adequately prepare for their classes and lessons, to check papers and homework, to provide pupils and students with guidance, and for their own professional and personal development. Presently, the number of new teaching staff leaving the profession is too high. Which is a shame considering the energy invested in their education, and it will no longer be an issue if more time is made available for counselling and coaching.

- We aim to reduce classroom sizes to at most 21 pupils or students. The school may determine the size of each class, but the participation council will be given the right of approval.
- Additional teacher's assistants and support staff will be made available. This will lighten the workload of teaching staff.
- We will make more time for the actual profession of teaching, in which aspects such as preparing for classes and lessons, coaching students, the in-depth exploration of specific subjects, and teachers' personal development will be given priority. The number of hours a teacher actually spends in the classroom will gradually be decreased.
- More facilities will be made available for the coaching and counselling of new teachers. Experienced teachers will be given time to provide new teachers with proper guidance.
- 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.
- We want to get rid of flexible contracts and temporary appointments for teachers. Teaching staff should always have the prospect of permanent employment.
- Essential services (such as schools, cultural institutions, and care facilities) in sparsely populated areas will be retained to the greatest extent possible to guarantee proper access.

Marks are not the be all and end all

The Party for the Animals wants education to be geared not only towards the development of cognitive skills, but also of other talents, including social, emotional, motor, and creative skills, which cannot be expressed in marks.

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

- The Education Inspectorate will assign less value to the marks achieved on tests and exams. This will enable schools to let go of the current exam-based culture. We encourage a broader perspective for assessing a school's performance and expressing a student's progress than looking exclusively at the figures.
- Also, we encourage secondary education schools to create broader orientational classes (*brugklassen*) so that a student's educational pathway will not be decided until after two or three years.
- Teachers, students, and parents will be given greater autonomy in defining school policy.
- Students will be given a say in the curriculum so that they can contribute to their individual lesson programmes. Teachers will also be given more autonomy in composing the curriculum,

based on specific interests or expertise for instance.

- The standard required number of hours will be eliminated, and schools can adapt these individually to meet exam standards.
- Primary schools will be given the freedom to abandon the secondary school placement exam if they can show that all the legal prerequisites have been met in other ways.
- We will invest in maths and linguistic skills. Literacy is a precondition for success in almost all subjects taught at school. The Party for the Animals is in favour of more reading time in the classroom. Reading for pleasure will be encouraged by better linking reading materials to the students' interests.
- Libraries are crucial in promoting reading for pleasure, and they fulfil an important role in society. We will invest in a sufficient number of libraries (including smaller district libraries) and their activities, so that they can continue to fulfil their important role with enthusiasm.
- Critical thinking, digital skills (including digital security), and media wisdom will be prioritised and included in core goals and exit competences. 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.
- In addition to physical education, attention will also be paid to students' mental and spiritual development.
- Practical and cultural skills will be amply represented in the primary school curriculum, such as school swimming lessons, sports lessons, cultural lessons (theatre, dance, music, painting, etc.) and school allotments. Extra funds will be made available for these activities.

Suitable, accessible, and inclusive

Education is a fundamental right. Every pupil or student is entitled to education that meets their individual needs. The availability of suitable, accessible, and inclusive education to all is a cornerstone in the Party for the Animals' policy. The output-oriented approach in education has been instrumental in schools and classes becoming larger and larger. Budget cuts in the past have led to a further lack of focus on specific groups. The plethora of regulations contribute to our current system of education not being suited to all pupils or students. All children and young adults should have access to training and education geared towards their individual capabilities and talents. Special attention should be paid to inclusion, and education must be kept free of commercial influences.

- Education is a fundamental right. Compulsory education is there to give children the right to develop themselves at schools, including the right to individualised education.
- We will invest more in individualised education, through an increase in staffing, smaller classes, more expertise at schools, and more attention for individual pupils and students.
- We want to promote a transition from a system that asks all children to learn at the same pace to an individually oriented education in which personal development and learning at your own pace are the guiding principle.
- We want to stop the proliferation of tutoring agencies. From now on, tutoring will be organised through schools and accessible to all students in secondary education. Children of low-income parents will be entitled to tutoring free of charge.
- The current subsidy scheme aimed at facilitating the transition from lower vocational education (vmbo) to intermediary vocation education (mbo) or senior general secondary education (havo) will also be accessible to students in secondary special education.
- The pro/vmbo pilot, in which mixed classes at junior level are offered for practical education and lower vocational education, will be opened to all schools wishing to participate in this.
- Similar to the current situation at schools for intermediate vocational education, schools for practical education and secondary special education will be given additional resources to facilitate after-care for their former students.

- Care teams at schools will be large enough and have the requisite expertise and resources to deal with a diversity of subjects inherent to bespoke education, such as care, basic knowledge, and early identification in the field of cognitive development, students with a disability, and exceptionally intelligent students. Students' social-emotional functioning is also included in this.
- More possibilities will be created to experiment, in consultation with the students concerned, with customised programmes and cooperation between youth care and specialised education geared towards these students' individual care and educational needs.
- The central government will invest even more in ensuring that all schools are accessible to disabled students.
- Better and more concrete core goals and exit competences will be implemented in education with respect to sex education, breaking taboos (on issues such as menstruation), sexual orientation, gender and sexual diversity, stereotyping, relationships, online sexuality, and communication about desires and boundaries.
- Schools will educate their students about sex, gender, and sexual diversity (hereinafter referred to as LGBTIQ+). The skills required to promote the acceptance of people who identify as LGBTIQ+ will be included in teacher training curricula. Initiatives that will make the education system LGBTIQ+-friendlier will be supported. If schools fail to do so, the schools inspectorate will call them to account.
- Freedom of education may not be used to fuel discrimination. Declarations of intent to reject homosexuality or gender diversity are unacceptable. Article 23 of the Constitution will be adapted.
- Segregation in education as well as discrimination will be actively combated. Schools will devote more attention to our colonial history and the history of labour migration to the Netherlands. Inclusiveness, equal opportunities, and emancipation will also be core topics in every school's curriculum.
- Producers of learning materials will offer a more accurate representation of the diversity within our society in their educational material. Agreements will be made with publishers about this representation. Diversity, inclusion, and awareness of our colonial history should always be considered.

Green and healthy schools

Romping about in a meadow, or a drawing lesson in nature: there are so many ways in which green schoolyards and outdoor lessons can contribute to pupils' well-being. Nor should the importance of healthy nutrition be underestimated. Children concentrate better and are happier if they can eat well at school. We want to reduce inequality of opportunities by giving all schoolchildren access to healthy food. Lesson packs will include information about a greener world, and we will put a stop to the unwanted influence of harmful sectors on pupils. Send Shell out of the classroom!

- Just as in many other countries, schools will start offering healthy meals that are 100% organic and plant-based. Awareness will be engendered for healthy, animal-friendly, and sustainable nutrition. School milk programmes will be discontinued.
- All children and young people who, for whatever reason, cannot have breakfast or lunch at home, will get a healthy breakfast or lunch at school, or at their pre-school or afternoon childcare centre. Only healthy snacks such as fruits and vegetables will be provided at these locations, and sugary drinks will not be served.
- Organic, locally grown school fruit will replace vending machines selling soft drinks and sweets.
- We will invest in green schoolyards. Outdoor lessons will be encouraged.
- Information and lesson packs focusing on sustainability, climate, food, nature and environmental education, and animal welfare will be made available to educational institutes. These will also be included in the curricula of teacher training colleges.
- Teaching materials provided by the fossil fuel industry, hunters, the recreational fishing sector, the livestock industry, or other potentially disruptive sectors will be banned from educational institutes.
- In agricultural education, we encourage the further strengthening of the position of organic

farmer and nature-inclusive entrepreneurship.

Good career prospects for students

The Party for the Animals wants students to have ample time for personal development. 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 prevention of psychological problems is therefore of crucial importance. We need to actively work on changing a culture where the taboos around psychological issues surrounding failure during studies need to be addressed. The current loan system was a bad idea right from the start. What needs to be done now is to permanently reduce the financial pressure on students.

Intermediary vocational education is crucial to our society. How else will we fulfil the demand for sustainable installation companies, for example? Sadly, these institutions are not accorded the recognition they deserve, while they comprise the very foundation of a sustainable society. The training (and retraining) of technical personnel in fields such as sustainable energy, sustainable construction, and sustainable food is of crucial importance. By encouraging combined work and learning opportunities, new technical professionals will be immediately ready to join the workforce.

- The basic student grant should never have been abolished. Now that it is reinstated, it is still too low to enable students to study without financial pressure. We will therefore increase the basic student grant to at least 475 euros a month for students living on their own, and 175 euros for students living at home.
- Tuition will be reduced significantly. All students will pay the same tuition, regardless of their age, the number of study programmes previously enrolled in, or diplomas obtained.
- A generous compensation scheme will be implemented for the generation of 'loan system' students.
- The interest students currently have to on their student debts will be abolished and therefore reduced to 0%.
- The public transport pass for students (in intermediate and higher vocational education and at universities of applied sciences and research universities) will be converted into a gift and remain valid as long as a student remains enrolled. Senior-level students in lower vocational education who are doing a work placement will also be eligible for a free public transport pass.
- The practice of issuing a binding study advice will be abolished. Instead, students will be provided individual and constructive feedback.
- Every student will be appointed a mentor with whom their academic progress will be discussed at regular intervals. In addition, every student will be given direct and low-threshold access to a study adviser, a student counsellor, and a confidential adviser.
- An annual evaluation of student welfare will be conducted within the scope of prevention, early identification, and breaking taboos.
- The number of student psychologists will be increased so that students can receive support before their situation escalates.
- The mobility of students from lower vocational education to tertiary education will be improved through increased collaboration between universities of applied sciences and intermediary vocational education institutes.
- Flexible studies will make it easier for students to spend a year combining their studies with a management function or membership on a board, as providers of informal care, or for other social work, without losing their tuition fees for that year. Student interests are paramount in the implementation of flexible studies.
- Intermediate vocational education institutes, universities of applied sciences, and research universities will be further democratised: students and faculty members will be given more influence through participation councils. Administrators will be elected instead of appointed by the minister.
- We will impose limits on the excessive influx of foreign students. The enrolment of large numbers

of foreign students has become a revenue model, because universities receive extra fees from these students. However, the ensuing mass education is at the expense of quality and has resulted in significant problems with respect to student housing.

- Employers will be obliged to pay their work placement students compensation amounting to at least 500 euros a month for full-time employment.
- Opportunities will be made available for the accumulation of credits via volunteer work.
- A study will be conducted into the possibility of allocating every Dutch citizen a budget for personal and/or professional development.

Animal testing-free education

The use of animals in secondary and tertiary education, in dissection practicals, demonstrations, and tests must be abolished. In the meantime, the government will safeguard the right of every student to refuse the exploitation of animals for educational purposes, also in secondary education. Alternatives must be made available to these persons.

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

Independent scientific research

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, multi-year financial frameworks. The workload has also become too great. The government budget for primary and secondary flows of research funding will therefore be increased on a structural basis, giving not only university lecturers but also researchers and graduate students enough time to complete their work.

- The government will invest extra money in fundamental research. Financing via secondary and tertiary-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 is 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 wholly or partly funded by public money should also be free and easily accessible.
- A public register of the ancillary activities of all researchers, professors, and lecturers at research universities and universities of applied sciences will be compiled.
- The ethics committees of educational institutions will monitor any conflicts of interest in teaching staff, particularly concerning ancillary 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 greater plurality and diversity in economic courses at university level will be supported.
- The role of intermediate vocational education and universities of applied sciences will be acknowledged, and these institutions will be accorded an equivalent position on the agendas of research institutes. Additionally, they will be given opportunities to build a research infrastructure.

Art, culture, and heritage for all

Freedom of expression, criticism, and reflection are all ingredients of a flourishing society. Culture in general and the arts in specific are crucial components in this. They give rise to reflection and emotion; they move us and shake us. Art encourages people to explore new avenues. In an era marked by social transitions, culture and the arts also play an important role in helping us imagine and design the society we are envisioning for the future: a just society founded on eco-centric rather than ego-centric thinking. Culture and the arts have a positive impact on our health. The Party for the Animals explicitly wants to involve the arts, culture, and heritage sector in social issues, such as solutions for tackling the climate, nature and housing crises. Therefore, we will strive to restore the beating heart of a free society: a flourishing, inclusive arts, culture, and heritage sector.

The wrong choices were made during the coronavirus crisis. Fossil fuel-driven companies should not be the recipient of billions of euros; that money should go to arts and culture. The harsh cutbacks in recent years 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 opportunities to partake in art and culture all over the Netherlands, and not just in the west (i.e. the Randstad area).
- The Netherlands public broadcaster (NPO) will retain broadcasting time on the radio for programming jazz and world music as a standard to facilitate an accurate representation of culture in the Netherlands. Attention will be devoted especially to new music by Dutch musicians.
- Cultural education and participation in culture will be incorporated into the law. Until then, 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.
- A flourishing society demands investments in an equal and accessible cultural sector for makers, producers, personnel, partners, and the public. Compliance with the Diversity and Inclusion Code will be encouraged in relation to this.
- Makers in the cultural sector will receive fair remuneration, in line with the Fair Practice Code. The budget for this must be structurally increased. We will also invest in schemes for vulnerable self-employed individuals and in encouraging the possibilities for training and development within the sector.
- With a view to reducing the cultural sector's ecological footprint, climate and environmental policy will be adapted to include this sector specifically. This can also contribute to raising awareness for climate, nature, and the environment.
- 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 becomes within easy financial reach for all citizens.
- Besides pop music, other music genres should also be given unmitigated support. An equitable distribution of support is required across the various music genres. This includes a proper policy for the performing arts, the inclusion of all music genres within the Council for Culture and the Performing Arts Fund, attention for the income position of musicians and, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Affairs, 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.
- Culture and music education will be given a permanent place in primary, secondary, and intermediate vocational curricula. Schools will become a place where the neighbourhood, parents, cultural institutions, libraries, art centres, museums, clubs, and theatres come together.
- The lowered VAT rate for the arts and culture sector will be retained.
- We will proactively seek out collaborations with various civic networks, councils, and

organisations in the cultural sector in addressing the challenges facing our society.

- The creative sector and the heritage sector will be involved more frequently in tackling social issues such as the climate crisis.
- Cross-pollination between artistic and academic research will be facilitated. The national fund for experimental research and projects in the field of art and science will receive reinforcement.
- The central government will promote the re-assignment of heritage listed objects and buildings and will encourage municipalities to draw up cultural-historical and archaeological value maps. Historically valuable buildings will not be demolished but renovated in a nature-inclusive manner.
- Archaeological digs and elements of cultural and historical importance in our landscapes deserve to be protected, and their significance should be widely communicated to the public.
- We support enhancing the sustainability of listed buildings and other heritage objects.
- 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.

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. Unfortunately, the profession is under substantial pressure, many journalists are threatened with violence, and reliable information is increasingly more difficult to distinguish from disinformation. Therefore, the Party for the Animals believes that the media needs to be adequately supported and protected. The childcare benefits scandal has demonstrated how important investigative journalism is in monitoring the government.

- We want to strengthen the accessibility and breadth of funding for independent journalism and support greater investments in investigative journalism, with attention to inclusion and diversity.
- Old and new media forms can draw on the media stimulus funds. Policymakers within media funds will better reflect society.
- We will invest sufficiently in our public broadcasting service and regional broadcasters to guarantee the independent provision of news, reporting, and research. Our public broadcasting service is an independent organisation and will not be impacted by commercial influences.
- We will protect the rights of journalism organisations and makers to ensure fair remuneration by tech giants (Google, Meta, etc.) for the use of their journalistic content.
- Investments will be made in the professionalism of regional and local media, which play a key role in monitoring regional politics.
- A transparency obligation will be imposed on providers of AI (Artificial Intelligence) in relation to their use of news articles and other sources.
- We will actively dedicate ourselves to the prevention of threats of violence directed at journalists. Artists and (political) cartoonists will enjoy better protection. Online platforms will be urged to take measures against threats of violence.
- The lowered VAT rate for new media will remain unchanged.
- The Netherlands will issue emergency visas to foreign journalists in life-threatening situations.

8. A just society

Fighting for freedom, security, and governmental integrity

The rule of law in the Netherlands has come under pressure, and citizens' confidence in the central government has reached a nadir. That is hardly surprising. How can you, as a citizen, trust a government that has been disregarding democratic rule of law for years on end? The childcare benefits scandal made tens of thousands of victims, separated children from their parents, and destroyed lives. The residents of Groningen are both victims of the earthquakes caused by gas extraction and a failing central government. People living in the vicinity of Tata Steel and Chemours are faced with toxic pollution every day. The climate and nature crisis is consistently not taken seriously, to the extent that the government has to be taken to court in order to force it to do what is right. Government bodies such as the Tax Authorities, the police, and the municipalities, intended to be in the service of the people, are found guilty of discrimination. The Party for the Animals wants the central government to once more uphold the principles of honesty and integrity. We believe in a society where everyone is free – as long as this freedom is not at the expense of others, a society in which citizens are protected from abuse of power by the government and the corporate community. To put it plainly: we want a society that upholds our constitutional rights.

Thongs of people are taking to the streets, demanding that the government take concrete action. Organisations and citizens are appealing to courts of law, demanding that the rule of law provide them with the protection to which they are entitled. Citizens still end up with the short end of the stick when they stand up to mighty corporations and the central government. Big polluters can freely destroy the environment for years on end without ever being called to account. Tech companies make a profit from our most private data. With the childcare benefits scandal and the disaster in Groningen, the government demonstrated that its own institutions are instrumental in the injustice done to the people.

The time has come for radically different choices. Nobody is free until we are all free. The fight for a just society is a battle for constitutional rights for everyone. We will put an end to the situation in the current justice system, where the interests of people and companies take precedence over those of animals and nature – simply because they have no legal representation. That is why we want to expand our constitutional rights to include people, animals, and nature.

Just like we will not have true justice as long as we keep discriminating against species, we will not have it until we truly start treating all people as equals. Article 1 of the Constitution will only be truly significant if government and society act accordingly, both in policy and culture. Discrimination and exclusion have nestled themselves in the very pores of our society: in education, on the housing market, in healthcare, within the police force, and even in the central government itself. Therefore, we are committed to an inclusive society with compassion and respect for all.

Digital rights, such as the right to privacy, self-determination, and personal development, will become the guiding principle in how we deal with digital technology. Digitalisation offers increasing opportunities, but also brings numerous risks with it. We can connect with people all over the world at the blink of an eye and learn from each other. We can spend the time we save thanks to digitisation with one another, or on meaningful work. We can share our knowledge and expertise all over the world and, by doing so, accelerate green transitions. However, if we are not careful, there are major negatives. Digital intimidation, deep fakes, and data mining by multinational enterprises and the government are jeopardising the privacy and security of ordinary citizens.

We will set to work on restoring confidence. Peaceful civil disobedience is a crucial part of a healthy democracy when the incumbent government refuses to protect fundamental rights. We will bring laws and regulations in relation to protests in line with international human rights, and these rights will be respected by the authorities tasked with enforcement.

The integrity of the government will be safeguarded by curbing the lobbying power of multinational enterprises, the agro-industry, and other financial interests, and by strengthening civic participation.

Right to equal treatment

Several times, the central government has been found guilty of institutional racism and exclusion. Examples include the childcare benefits scandal, inadequate secondary school recommendations for primary school children of colour, and racism within the police force. Although few people consciously discriminate against others, instances of racism and other types of discrimination are rampant in our society and have pervaded our systems and structures both visibly and invisibly. The time has come for self-reflection, and for resolute action by the central government. Moreover, the Party for the Animals considers self-determination, compassion, and equal opportunities key benchmarks of our society. Everyone must be given equal opportunities and feel free and safe.

- The government will act decisively against religious discrimination (whether this concerns anti-Semitism or discrimination against people of the Muslim faith or any other religious conviction), racism (whether against people of African, Asian, or other descent), and all other forms of discrimination. Investing in raising awareness and consciousness is part of this.
- Ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious conviction, neurodivergence, a disability, or skin colour should never pose a barrier to anyone seeking a traineeship, a job, or a place to live. Discrimination on the labour and housing markets will be dealt with through unambiguous legislation, informative communication, and decisive monitoring.
- The central government's purchase criteria will guarantee that suppliers take measures to promote gender equality, diversity, and inclusion. The central government must set a good example in relation to this.
- Sports matches will systematically be interrupted, or terminated, if necessary, in case of discriminating chants. If nothing improves, sports matches will be played without a live audience.
- Where policy is directed at vulnerable communities (such as Sinti or Roma), representatives of these communities and experiential experts will be actively involved.
- Work will be carried out on a multi-year, nation-wide strategy to improve the position of individuals with a disability and their relatives. Individuals with a disability must be able to participate fully in society. Ableism will be taken seriously as a form of discrimination. The political participation of individuals with a disability will be better facilitated.
- Strict compliance will be enforced with respect to human rights treaties such as the Children's Rights Treaty, the Women's Rights Treaty, and the UN treaty on the rights of persons with a disability.
- Access to public information, government buildings, and public services (including education, public institutions, and public transport) will be self-evident to everyone.
- The government will execute a strong LGBTIQ+ emancipation policy and invest in this accordingly. Special attention will be paid to dealing with discrimination on multiple grounds, such as people who identify as LGBTIQ+ who are also persons of colour or who have a bicultural and religious background. Awareness will also be raised for transgender, intersex, and non-binary persons.
- Discrimination and violence against persons who identify as LGBTIQ+ will be centrally registered. We will make sure that reporting any form of discrimination will be facilitated more easily, and that the willingness of victims to report these incidents will increase.
- Transition leave will be incorporated into the law.
- All couples will be given the same rights as heterosexual couples. A fully-fledged statutory regulation, including a schedule, for multi-parenthood, multi-parent child custody, and surrogacy will be implemented. Artificial insemination for female couples and single women will remain eligible for reimbursement. IVF for surrogate mothers will be reimbursed for all family compositions (e.g. also for male couples and transgender persons). Donor children will be granted better protection, and a statutory maximum will be imposed on the number of donations made by individual sperm donors.
- 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.

- Sinterklaas (Saint Nicholas) will be a fun celebration for *all* children: Zwarte Piet (Black Pete) will be banned.
- The government will treat all citizens equally. Ethnic profiling leads to stigmatisation and subsequently to significant problems among individual citizens as well as entire groups of the population. The prohibition on ethnic profiling imposed on the Border Police will be expanded: a statutory prohibition will apply to the use of ethnic origin and nationality as an indicator of high-risk profiles in the tracking down of potential criminal offenders. Ethnic profiling by the police will also be combated. Preventive searches promote ethnic profiling and stigmatisation and will therefore no longer be permitted.
- We will abolish compulsory identification, and the police will stop retaining the data of people who are not suspected of committing a criminal act.
- The police force will assign priority to ensuring a safe, inclusive work floor. The abuse of power, racism, and other types of discrimination within the police force and police unions will be dealt with more harshly. Anyone expressing themselves in a derogatory manner concerning the rule of law or a discriminatory way has no business on the police force.
- A sufficient number of anti-discrimination investigators will be appointed. Empathy and an effective approach to discrimination will become a compulsory and recognisable part of the curriculum at police academies and refresher training for police officers.
- Special investigating officers (BOAs) are permitted to wear a headscarf of yarmulke or any other item of clothing that reflects their religious conviction.
- Disputed cultural heritage will be identified, and we will find other self-critical ways to deal with this heritage using democratic means.
- We will proclaim 1 July a public holiday. On this day, we will commemorate the suffering caused by our colonial past and celebrate the formal abolition of slavery and our freedom. A recovery fund for the descendants of enslaved persons will be instated.
- Slavery and the slave trade that took place in the past will be classified by law as a crime against humanity.

The right to make your own choices

The Party for the Animals attaches great value to the right to self-determination, such as the right to exercise full control over your own life and body, the right to love whomever you want, the right to believe in what you want, and the right to present yourself as you want. It is the duty of the government to protect and facilitate that right. This includes investing in equal opportunities, equal treatment, and access to unambiguous information so people can make their own choices.

- Abortion will remain included in the basic coverage provided under healthcare insurance.
- Abortion is not a crime: this medical procedure will be struck from the Criminal Code.
- People have the right to protest, also against abortion. However, if they intimidate visitors of abortion clinics, action will be taken against them.
- A statutory regulation will be implemented to restrict the medically unnecessary treatment of intersex children without their explicit and informed consent. Intersex children must be permitted to decide independently what happens to their bodies.
- We will abolish the official registration of a person's gender wherever possible. Until then, a free, low-threshold, official recognition of sex and/or gender identity, including non-binary gender identities, will be available for everyone who wants this. The expert declaration will be abolished, and people under 16 will also be able to change their gender registration with parental consent.
- There will be a legal ban on 'conversion acts' that attempt to change people's sexual orientation, gender identity, or the way they express themselves as individuals.

Security and access to justice

Our rule of law has come under pressure. Due to cutbacks to the police force and the judiciary, there are too few officers on the streets, there is too much work for judges and public prosecutors, and access to justice is not guaranteed.

- Crime prevention will become our highest priority. Investment will therefore be made in equal opportunities and identifying the causes of crime. Local authorities will be given more budget for targeted support to parents with children at risk, preferably by professionals with whom the young people in question can identify.
- Many police stations have been closed in recent years, particularly in smaller municipalities and rural areas. As a result, liveability in these areas has deteriorated significantly. By reopening small police stations, we aim to improve security in rural areas and combat drug dumping, manure fraud, wildlife poaching, and other environmental crimes.
- The diversity of neighbourhood police teams will be promoted.
- We will also invest in positive role models in the neighbourhood.
- Physical injury caused by police violence should be prevented wherever possible. Investigations into this violence must be conducted independently and transparently.
- Cutbacks in mental health services (GGZ) have meant that the police often have to be deployed to people with misunderstood behaviour. This does not always produce the envisioned results. We will ensure that the police are better equipped to deal with these people (e.g. through specific training). We also invest in mental health services to prevent these situations from occurring as much as possible.
- Neck holds will be forbidden, and the police force will no longer have electroshock weapons at their disposal.
- A ban will be imposed as soon as possible on the deployment of animals, such as dogs and horses, by the police force. As long as the police still make use of dogs and horses, the protection of these animals, both during training and police actions, must be prioritised.
- Police tasks will not be taken over by private security agents or special investigating officers (BOAs). The latter will not be armed.
- The police and justice department will focus more strongly on femicide. Measures will be taken to reduce the occurrence of femicide.
- We will reverse cutbacks and make substantial investments in the rule of law and the Public Prosecutor's Office. Additionally, education and training capacity in legal professions will be expanded.
- We will facilitate access to the judicial system. More time and money will be allocated to social legal aid, standard court fees will be reduced, and people with a low income will be offered better legal counsel. Het Juridisch Loket, which provides free legal aid to people with limited financial means, will be accorded an independent status as soon as possible.
- Social organisations are indispensable in a democratic constitutional state. The representativeness requirements will not be adjusted.
- Fines have a greater impact on people with limited finances than people who are wealthy. Fines will, therefore, become income dependent.
- Sexually transgressive behaviour and violence will be combated. Unwanted sex will become punishable. In addition, a cultural shift is needed, focusing on education, awareness, and prevention.
- The use and production of soft drugs will be legalised, making the cultivation of soft drugs legal and its products subject to excise duties. Young people and adults will be exposed to fierce campaigns raising awareness about the impact of (synthetic) drugs on their health, the environment, and crime rates. No new 'coffeeshops' (shops where the sale of cannabis is tolerated by local authorities) will be built in the vicinity of schools.
- A ban will be imposed on consumer fireworks and carbid shooting. Professional fireworks shows or spectacles will be organised at places where no harm is done to people, animals, nature, or

the environment.

The integrity of the government

A properly functioning government is open, transparent, and guarantees equal opportunities for all. The Party for the Animals is here to represent all those citizens who fight the system against all odds. We aim to ensure that the government puts the interests of its citizens first again.

- The victims of the child benefits scandal will receive generous compensation. People in acute financial problems must be able to receive aid as quickly as possible. Individualised counselling, in combination with financial aid, if necessary, will be the guiding principle. This will ensure that each of the five pillars of social work (care, work, income, housing, and education) is addressed. Collective solutions will be implemented in consultation with the parties concerned. Aspects such as emotional recovery, equality, and self-determination are crucial to this process. Repairing the damage caused by this scandal is a valuable and necessary investment.
- Where possible, children who were placed in protective custody will be reunited with their parents as soon as possible. A fund will be established to enable victims of out-of-home placement (both parents and children) to complete their education and/or training, should this have been interrupted.
- Gas extraction in Groningen was the cause of a natural disaster, in which the interests of the municipality's residents were structurally ignored. The recommendations issued by the parliamentary inquiry committee will be implemented in mutual consultation with the residents of Groningen. No more gas will be extracted in Groningen. Reversing the onus of proof will be and remain a guiding principle. Investments in the reinforcement of buildings affected by the earthquakes will be paired with sustainability upgrading.
- The government will apologise for the way the Q fever epidemic in 2007 was managed. It will accept the responsibility of failing to take adequate preventive measures and will generously compensate for any damages incurred by victims.
- Action will be taken immediately against the pathological pollution caused by Tata Steel and Chemours to prevent an even greater disaster for the surrounding residents, nature, and the environment. The permits for the most polluting divisions of Tata Steel will be revoked with immediate effect. We will force Chemours to adopt a zero-emission policy as soon as possible.
- The damage caused by coal mining activities in Limburg will be compensated by the central government.
- In principle, all information issued by the government should be public, accessible, and digitally available. The government is extremely reticent with respect to imposing confidentiality or secrecy. From now on, investigative journalists and critically minded citizens will be assisted rather than obstructed in their endeavours to monitor the government. Strict compliance with the Open Government Act (Woo) will be enforced. This means that information will be available faster, and that less information may be redacted.
- 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 include clarification of the extent to which lobbyists have influenced their proposals. An independent body will monitor the integrity of lobbyists and politicians.
- A constitutional court will be established to assess the extent to which laws comply with the Constitution.
- Further investments will be made in a cultural shift within the government geared towards regaining citizens' confidence in the government. Compassion will become the guiding principle in all actions taken by government bodies. The administrative organisation will be reformed.
- Government communications will become more straightforward, more transparent, and faster.
- We will implement a coordinated strategy regarding the integrity of members of the government or cabinet and other highly placed government officials and will combat conflicts of interest and revolving door constructions.
- Whistle-blowers are a vital source for tracking down wrongdoings in companies and

organisations, including government organisations, and will therefore be adequately protected. Foreign whistle-blowers who expose the wrongdoings 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 downscaling of governance, and the government bodies that 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.
- 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 collaboration between municipalities, provinces, and water boards. The Safety Risks Act will be amended to better equip municipal councils for their monitoring tasks. The tasks executed by the central government will be more closely aligned to the interests of public representatives and subjected to inspection and decision-making by elected public representatives.
- Citizens will be provided with accurate and detailed information about government services and companies that spend public funds. The government will be transparent about how policy is generated. The government will be held accountable to the constitution and may not withhold information from public representatives.

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. There is a huge discrepancy in lobbying power between commercial interests on the one side, and citizens and civil society on the other. The far-reaching influence of big polluters, multinational enterprises, the agro-industry, and the financial sector systematically undermines and postpones all changes that have a positive effect on the well-being of humans, animals, and their living environments or habitats. The Party for the Animals aims to restore this imbalance. Various types of civic participation will be given a more prominent position, and people will have a greater say in what happens in their direct living environment. Investments in early civic participation will earn themselves back through a greater understanding of decisions, and substantial time savings through the prevention of long and costly appeal procedures.

- Initiating a public initiative will be made easier.
- The advisory referendum will be reintroduced and given a role in important decisions. The most effective method of civil participation will be determined for each case individually (a Citizens' Assembly, an internet consultation, or a multiple-choice question if this concerns a referendum).
- We will implement a binding corrective referendum for far-reaching decisions that threaten our democracy, such as trade agreements.
- More 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.
- By consulting citizens and stakeholders, we can be assured that the voices of future generations, animals, and nature are also being heard.
- 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.
- Early civic participation, for citizens and others, will be encouraged and facilitated.
- A platform will be established to lower the threshold for civic participation and make it more easily accessible, including explanations about how to become more politically active, a calendar of political meetings, a job board for newcomers in politics, and calls for events such as citizen forums.

- 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, and the Constitution and the Election Act amended accordingly.
- Investments will be made in organisations committed to youth participation, experiential expertise, and support for young adults in difficult circumstances, and to give them a permanent and equal opportunity to participate in discussions and decisions.
- 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.
- The House of Representatives will be strengthened by increasing the number of seats and expanding the relevant support. This will enable the House to better counterbalance the government and exercise its monitoring and legislative tasks.
- The Party for the Animals is in favour of the modernisation of the monarchy in such a way that the king will be accorded an exclusively ceremonial role. The king and his family members 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. The expenses of the royal family will become transparent. The king will no longer be chairman of the Council of State.
- The Royal Hunting Department will be discontinued. The Het Loo Crown Estates will be open year-round to the public, and hunting will be prohibited there.

The right to protest

The world is at a turning point, and this is noticeable. Everywhere across the globe, people of all ages and backgrounds are taking to the streets to demand that action is taken to keep our Earth liveable, to call big polluters to account, and to protect our health. More and more people are raising their voices against injustice: injustice against people in a difficult position, and injustice against millions of animals.

Demonstrations and protest marches have contributed immensely to society, and it is thanks to them that we have acquired many of our present rights. This is why the right to protest is a great good that must be cherished. However, this right is coming under pressure in the Netherlands.

- The right to protest is a constitutional right. The authorities should make every possible effort to facilitate demonstrations and protest marches, and always assume that the participants intend to hold a peaceful demonstration. The obligation to register prior to participation in demonstrations and protest marches will become voluntary.
- The Public Assemblies Act (Wom) will be amended in line with the obligations arising from international human rights. The text that allows rules to be imposed on demonstrations or to prohibit them due to traffic obstruction, or because they were not announced in advance or in due time, will be deleted.
- Arresting peaceful protesters will be avoided. If a specific group of protesters becomes violent, the police must ensure that all other, peaceful protesters can continue their protest.
- If violence (or the threat of violence) is directed at protesters (by hostile members of the public), the police will protect the peaceful protesters and take action against the perpetrators of violence.
- Employees of municipalities and the police should be better informed with regard to human rights and the statutory frameworks of the right to protest. Inadequate knowledge or ambiguities concerning the right to protest in practice can lead to rules and regulations that are in violation of human rights. An informative website will be created on the right to protest.
- Municipalities and the police will communicate openly about their mistakes and learn from them.
- The privacy of participants will be protected. Checking the IDs of peaceful protesters constitutes a violation of the right to protest, the right to privacy, and the right to data protection. Instructions for checking IDs during protests will clearly state that this is permitted only if the individuals in question

are suspected of committing a criminal act. The surveillance of peaceful protesters will no longer be permitted.

Rights in the digital world

Digitalisation has a lot to offer. It makes it easier for us to stay in touch, to work more efficiently, and we have an unbelievably large source of information at our fingertips. Unfortunately, the disadvantages of digitalisation are also becoming increasingly clear. Digital technology is consuming ever-increasing amounts of energy and water. Creating and spreading fake news was never easier than it is today, corporations are acquiring more and more personal data as well as power, and the Data Protection Authority concluded that just about everyone must have been involved in a data leak by now. The rapid development of artificial intelligence (AI) has demonstrated, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that we need new rules and regulations. We will ensure that positive opportunities, such as better health care and a more effective climate policy, are properly utilised while we limit the risks. In the interest of civil rights, privacy, sustainability, and public interest, we will impose stricter regulations on companies and prioritise data minimisation and data protection.

- Companies will be strictly held to the 'Privacy by Design' and 'Privacy by Default' principles. This means that as little data as possible is collected, and that all default settings are privacy friendly at all times.
- The collection of data is always subject to explicit prior permission, following a brief, easy-to-read explanation to the user about how their data will be used. Refusal must always be an option.
- Citizens have a right to a free Internet without filters, barriers, or the transfer of data by providers.
- 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 make discriminatory decisions will also be implemented. The government will not use any black-box algorithms.
- When new artificial intelligence is developed, it will be subjected to a compulsory ethics assessment.
- It must be possible to identify content created by artificial intelligence, i.e. by means of a watermark or a logo.
- We will invest in scientific research into responsible, safe, and secure artificial intelligence.
- Thanks to artificial intelligence, computers can create art in the style of existing artists at the touch of a single button. We will therefore update copyright laws in line with the requirements of our modern era. It is imperative that authors and artists are given due compensation.
- Today, asking a 'smart' device to switch off a lamp uses as much energy as when the same lamp remains switched on for a whole hour. Strict sustainability standards will be imposed on the ICT sector.
- 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 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. The principles of digital inclusion and accessibility will be observed by and applied at all levels of government.

A safe digital world

Privacy is of inestimable value to a free society and therefore protected in our constitution. Thanks to privacy, we can lead a life that is free from interventions by others and the state. However, the emergence of new technology is putting our privacy under pressure. Technological developments

such as generative (or other) artificial intelligence (AI) and quantum technology are taking place at lightning speed and give rise to crucial cyber resilience issues. The fact that companies collect and sell our data and, in doing so, are seizing more and more power is alarming. Meta (previously Facebook) and Google are turning a profit from the sale of our most private details. Identity fraud poses a constant threat, and multinational enterprises will stop at nothing to influence our opinions and our purchasing behaviour. Even if you have nothing to hide, your data may still end up in the wrong hands. Data protection will be given priority, we will deal harshly with cyberbullying, and we will strengthen civil rights in the digital world. We will ensure that vital digital infrastructure can always fall back on an analogue counterpart.

- Systems that are unable to guarantee privacy will be abolished or adapted, such as national electronic patient records. Medical files will not be made available to third parties without explicit prior consent.
- Apps that cannot guarantee privacy will be prohibited.
- 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 devices.
- Implementation of the proposed EU 'chat control' application for scanning all digital communication will be postponed indefinitely. We will retain end-to-end encryption.
- Businesses will be forced to provide more transparency into the storage and use of data and into how their algorithms work. We will impose restrictions on how our data is used and prohibit the sale of data without explicit prior consent. Dutch data will be stored whenever possible in data centres in the Netherlands so that it does not fall under American or Chinese jurisdiction.
- Students will be allowed to refuse the installation of proctoring software on their computers for their exams. Proctoring software for employees working from home will be prohibited.
- 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 struck.
- Thanks to smart devices such as cars full of cameras and watches that keep track of our health, more and more data is being collected about us. We will ensure that the users, and not the companies, will have control of these data.
- 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.
- Group defamation, cyberbullying, and calls for racial violence on social media will be dealt with harshly.
- Secure further digitalisation requires a cross-domain direction of cooperation, in which cybersecurity, digital autonomy, combating cybercrime, and knowledge development are considered integral components and sorely needed preconditions. Investments will be made in adequate cyber awareness and therefore the digital literacy of all citizens.
- The time when artificial intelligence (AI) exceeds human intelligence is getting closer and closer. It is impossible to predict the behaviour of a system you do not understand. Moreover, people and organisations with malicious intent could use AI as a weapon. All of this poses substantial risks to humanity. The Netherlands joins the call by experts to pause the development of AI systems that are more powerful than GPT-4 for at least six months and cooperates internationally to develop and implement security measures.

A government that respects privacy

The government gladly uses 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 ends up being used against us.

- 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 a greater insight into the data that is stored about them and can have themselves struck from data systems more easily (the right to be forgotten).
- Investigative organisations will not be allowed to sniff around in computers or other electronic devices without a legitimate, legally sanctioned reason. It is imperative that these services are subjected to stricter monitoring. Stricter standards will be implemented for the tapping of phones. Communication secrecy will be respected and protected.
- The functioning of security services will be subjected to more stringent and public monitoring. Additionally, the manner in which people's privacy is guaranteed must be clearly defined in the algorithms used by these services. It must also be demonstrated that the use of these algorithms does not lead to ethnic profiling.
- 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. An envisioned expansion of the Trawling Law will not be implemented. Instead, this law will be revoked and will be replaced by a new privacy-friendly Intelligence and Security Services Act (Wiv).
- Any policy with regards to the tapping, collection, and storage of citizen data will be critically re-assessed in the interests of privacy.
- 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. Initiatives such as landlords giving tenants a discount on their rent in exchange for personal data is undesirable.
- 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 catering establishments. The police will discontinue its 'Camera in Beeld' surveillance network.
- China and the United States rule the digital world. We must remain highly critical of foreign influences on technology and the Internet. We will implement a robust 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.
- 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 Meta and Google provide greater transparency into what they show their users and why. We will also curb microtargeting practices (highly specific advertising).

9. Europe and international solidarity

Towards a green, just, and animal-friendly world

A border-transcending mindset has always been engrained in the DNA of the Party for the Animals. All our activities and all our solutions are based on a planet-wide, eco-centric perspective. Our goals address universal needs. No matter where on the planet, all citizens of the world (both human and animal) have the right to a safe, healthy, and stable living environment. However, various crises have put this fundamental right under pressure all across the globe. We are taking a stand alongside courageous citizens all over the world who are showing us the path to a safe, green, social, and animal-friendly world. Together, we will topple the old hierarchies of power, so that people can reclaim their right to collectively shape our future. Destructive commercial interests will surrender some of their power to the greater good. We will strengthen the position of citizens and civil society organisations. Rather than focusing blindly on economic growth, we want to cooperate at European and international level to promote the well-being of people, animals, and the planet.

Everyone wants a healthy, safe living environment, and the freedom to be themselves. However, for many people the fulfilment of those needs is a long way off. The loss of biodiversity poses a threat to ecosystems and food security. Climate change is making entire regions uninhabitable. Environmental pollution is destroying the living environments and habitats of all living beings. People are no longer sure of their lives due to the war in Ukraine and armed conflicts elsewhere in the world. Human rights and freedom of the press have come under pressure. The dominance of commercial interests is keeping animals trapped in a system that treats them as if they were products.

We cannot view the choices we make in the Netherlands as separate from the problems people face in other parts of the world. Therefore, it is crucial that we remain aware of our own role in contributing to the various problems. We in the Netherlands – and more generally, in the EU – use up more than our fair share of the world's natural resources. This is untenable for our planet and unfair to our fellow humans. The Party for the Animals wants the Netherlands, as one of the richest countries of the world, to take its responsibility and join forces with well-meaning citizens all over the world to work on protecting our common need for a safe and healthy future.

We aim to tackle the fundamental causes of injustice, and to support international solidarity and cooperation with people all over the world who are actively engaged in safeguarding the well-being of all living beings. Internationally, we are cultivating a courageous political movement that puts this well-being first and respects the ecological limits. To accomplish this, the Party for the Animals has been joining forces for many years now with its sister parties and activists in Europe, the Middle East, Canada, the USA, South America, Asia, and Africa.

A bright green Europe, without ulterior motives

Partly thanks to the growing movement initiated and supported by climate strikers, animal protectors, and environmental activists, the European Union has gradually been setting course for a greener world. The European Commission presented the 'Green Deal', which included plans to better protect nature, combat climate change and pollution and increase the sustainability and animal friendliness of our food system.

After decades of inaction, it was finally announced that European animal welfare laws will be revised to tackle malpractices in barns, during animal transports, and in slaughterhouses.

However, this course towards a greener future is still in its incipient stage, and therefore fragile. The Green Deal is under fire from the industrial agro-lobby and its political representatives. Crucial

elements in the Green Deal, such as the new Nature Restoration Act, improvements to European animal welfare legislation, and reductions in the use of agricultural toxins are met with resistance from established industries and conservative politicians. And yet, just looking at the scientific evidence is enough to realise that the Green Deal should be much, much more ambitious.

The EU's green policy is far from consistent. Allocating billions of euros in subsidies to the livestock industry is disastrous for people, animals, and the future of our planet. This applies equally to European free trade policy: consider the Mercosur Treaty, for example. Resolutions adopted by the EU are often driven by economic interests. Economic growth at all costs remains the foremost objective of the Green Deal – and is even one of its overarching goals.

- One of the key pillars of the Green Deal will be changed: rather than striving for economic growth, we will work towards the realisation of an economy that remains within the Earth's carrying capacity, in line with the 1.5-degree goal and without wasting energy and resources.
- European subsidies amounting to billions of euros for the livestock industry and other harmful agricultural practices will be abolished. The resources thus freed up will be used to further the transition to an agro-ecological and plant-based food system.
- The outdated European animal welfare law will be completely revised and expanded, and will enter into effect as soon as possible to put an end to the atrocious suffering of animals in the European livestock industry. All animals in the livestock industry will have the right to roam freely outside, and will be given daylight, enough space, straw, and diversion. As long as animals are bred and killed for consumption, species-specific legislation will be a necessity.
- The Farm to Fork Strategy (the Green Deal's food plan) will become more ambitious. We will stop wasting taxpayers' money on advertisements for the livestock industry, and commit ourselves to the transition to a nature-friendly and plant-based system.
- European fossil subsidies for the aviation, shipping, and manufacturing industries will be abolished by reforming the Energy Tax Directive.
- The Netherlands will pursue a climate policy in line with scientific knowledge and commit itself to the fair transition to a climate neutral Europe by 2030, in which leniency will be applied to member states that need more time but have, historically speaking, played a smaller part in causing the climate crisis than other member states.
- The EU will set itself more ambitious energy saving goals.
- The Netherlands is committed to ensuring that the EU no longer designates nuclear energy, natural gas, and woody biomass as 'renewable' or sustainable sources of energy.
- The train will become the most attractive alternative for international journeys of less than 2,000 kilometres. We will invest in an affordable and accessible European railway network. Train tickets will be exempt from VAT. The EU will ensure the online availability of train travel information throughout Europe to facilitate the convenient booking of train tickets.
- As the current and envisioned new EU standards for air quality are not stringent enough to protect our health in the short term, compliance with the stricter WHO air quality standards will be a legal requirement in 2030.
- Within the context of the European Union, the Netherlands advocates that, through the Industrial Emissions Directive, the strictest possible requirements are imposed on industrial plants and intensive livestock farms in order to protect animal welfare, human and animal health, and the environment in which we live.
- The European Nature Restoration Law will become more ambitious, and will include binding, concrete goals with a clearly defined schedule.
- The Netherlands will commit itself vis-à-vis the European Commission to the implementation of an ambitious soil health law with binding objectives.
- Growing genetically modified crops, including NGTs, will remain prohibited. The labelling obligation for genetically engineered food will remain in place so that citizens can consciously opt for non-genetically engineered food.
- Animals in the livestock industry will no longer be put in cages. The announced EU cage

prohibition, for which 1.4 million people signed a civil initiative, will be made effective as soon as possible but no later than 2027 and extended to a ban on caging all animals. In line with the amended Animal Act, the Netherlands will commit itself to ensuring that the natural behavioural needs of animals are met throughout Europe, as well as a comprehensive ban on all procedures performed on animals for non-medical reasons.

- The Netherlands pleads for an end to the gruesome transport of animals to countries outside of the EU. A two-hour limit will be imposed on animal transports, and the transport of calves and other young animals will be prohibited. Animals may not be transported on exceptionally warm days (i.e. days with an expected temperature of 25°C or higher) or exceptionally cold days (temperatures below 0°C). The import and transfer of animals through the EU, i.e. from the United States to China, will be prohibited.
- Camera surveillance will be implemented in slaughterhouses. Statutory restrictions will be imposed on the speed of slaughtering, and slaughtering methods that cause serious suffering to animals will be prohibited.
- The import and sale of fur, cashmere (goat hair), kangaroo products, and angora wool will be prohibited throughout the EU. The same applies to the import and sale of down from live-plucked and force-fed geese and ducks.
- We will combat the illegal trade in pets and the atrocious treatment of stray dogs and cats in Europe.
- The tracking down and enforcement of the illegal trade in wild animals will be intensified. Hunting tourism and the export of hunting trophies will be banned altogether.
- The Netherlands will push for the termination of the insect farming industry within the European Union.
- The Netherlands will push for the implementation of statutory welfare requirements for fish within the European Union.
- The Netherlands will commit itself to the successful implementation of the European Action Plan for marine ecosystems by prohibiting fishing practices that disturb the ocean floor in protected areas, by better protecting sensitive species, and by taking action to promote the restoration of fish populations to sustainable levels.
- The EU will discontinue the further reinforcement and expansion of internal market enforcement mechanisms and will take action to prevent the corporate misuse of these mechanisms. Companies are appealing to the European Commission to examine national legislation for possible breaches of EU law concerning the internal market, with the aim of blocking or undermining green, social, and progressive legislation at national and municipal level. Further to the recommendations of the report published by the Corporate Europe Observatory, the EU is endeavouring to reverse this.
- From now on, resources from emergency funds will only be allocated to sustainable sectors. The fossil fuel industry and the livestock industry will be excluded from support.
- The long-term budgets of the EU are intended to combat the climate and biodiversity crisis and to promote the transition to an economy that focuses on maximising social value rather than on depleting the Earth's resources. The budgetary framework of the EU will be adjusted in line with this. The current framework is incapable of meeting the challenges facing us today.

A democratic and transparent Europe

The Party for the Animals is in favour of European cooperation, but not of the current, undemocratic structure of the EU. At present, the European 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 sunken into a hard-to-control 'lobby-ocracy'. The fossil fuel industry, the agro-industry, manufacturers of pesticides, and the pharmaceutical industry have far too many fingers in the Brussels pie. This is why we are pleading for

transparent and democratic decision-making and want to put an end to the excessive influence of lobbyists. European politicians must make decisions that serve the common good, rather than dancing to the tune of lobbyists.

- European summit meetings and meetings of the European Council of Ministers must be open to the public, similar to those of parliaments.
- Registration in the lobby register will become compulsory for all EU institutions. As a result, all contacts with lobbyists and other advocates during policy formulation will be more transparent. Registration will be strictly enforced, and the data entered will be monitored. Missions by parliamentarians will always be paid for from their own budget, without financial compensation from third parties.
- The influence of European citizens will be broadened by giving the European Parliament, in addition to the European Commission, the right to initiate new legislation.
- We will set up European citizens' councils for climate, animal welfare, and food policy. They will be supported by a scientific council. These citizens' councils will become an official supplementary consultation tool that can be activated immediately by the European Commission (and at a later stage by the European Parliament).
- The European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) will become more accessible, making it easier for citizens to add proposals to the European agenda. The European Commission's discussions on ECIs will become public.
- We will ensure an open and transparent European Parliament. All votes by Members of the European Parliament will be recorded and made public. It will be made easier for citizens to peruse various records to learn how political groups and Members of the European Parliament have voted.
- Impediments to voting in European elections will be eliminated to the greatest extent possible, particularly in relation to people with disabilities.
- The EU will not be expanded as long as democratic governance cannot be guaranteed, and the internal market is leading.
- The eurozone will not be expanded any further.
- The European multi-annual budget will not be increased.
- Member states will not jointly bear the debts of other member states.
- Members of the European Parliament and other political representatives who are recipients of agricultural subsidies or have a direct commercial interest in agricultural and environmental legislation will no longer be allowed to decide on issues related to this branch of industry.
- It will become easier for civil society to gain access to EU subsidies.

A just and social Europe

In order for Europe to be a just and social society, democracy should be as close to its citizens as possible. This is why we regulate what we can close to home, and everything outside this scope in the EU. Tackling problems that transcend the borders of individual countries, such as the climate and biodiversity crisis, requires pan-European cooperation. It is also crucial that the EU defends fundamental rights such as democracy, the independent rule of law, and free journalism. We believe that social and economic solidarity among European citizens is a great good. In other areas, a more specific approach is needed, at a national level that takes into account how citizens are impacted by policies. The way in which our social security system, our pension system, health care, defence, and other public services are organised should, in principle, be controlled by national authorities. It is then up to the House of Representatives to evaluate the extent to which all of that complies with the principles of democracy. The Party for the Animals therefore reviews European proposals on these policy areas with a critical eye, but takes a constructive approach when plans really do bring about social or ecological progress.

- The EU is committed to strengthening the rule of law and democracy, free media, and human

rights. These fundamental rights must be safeguarded in all EU member states. Countries that fail to do so, can no longer count on subsidies from the EU. We support the punishment of corruption and human rights violations through actions such as European sanctions and boycotts. A binding mechanism will be introduced to monitor the state of democracy and the extent to which the rule of law is upheld in European member states, and to compile an annual report on the related findings.

- The polluters will start pulling out their purses, rather than pulling the strings. We want taxes to be imposed on polluting industries throughout Europe, and that all EU citizens are assisted in the transition to a nature friendly and climate neutral society, whereby member countries remain individually responsible for the collection and expenditure of these taxes.
- The EU will abolish regulations that impose market mechanisms on the public sector. As far as we are concerned, public services should serve the public interest and therefore remain in public hands to the greatest extent possible.
- More financial investments will be made to support the LGBTIQ+ movement in countries where people who identify as LGBTIQ+ are under pressure, such as in Central and Eastern Europe, and to ensure that emergency aid also reaches vulnerable groups like these.
- Current European tendering regulations usually result in tenders being awarded to the contractor offering the lowest price. We will reform the EU tendering regulations to give governments the freedom to protect public interest by opting for the sustainable and social alternative in their choice of contractor.
- Where profits are made, taxes must be paid: this is why strict European agreements will be imposed to combat base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS).
- The Netherlands will commit itself to putting an end to the monthly relocation of the European Parliament from Brussels to Strasbourg and vice-versa. The European Parliament really does not need more than one location, and this would save more than 100 million euros a year, as well as substantial CO2 emissions.

Growing resistance against destructive free trade agreements

Global resistance against destructive free trade agreements has put an end to the matter-of-course increase in trade flows and promoting the interests of multinational enterprises. And that is good news. Today, the main purpose of a free trade agreement is to help businesses trade, invest, and provide their services across borders, and to do so at a lower cost. The winners are the biggest companies that do this in the cheapest possible way. However, 'cheap' in most cases means that costs are shifted to employees, animals, the environment, and local residents. Free trade agreements are often unfavourable for Dutch and European farmers. They are faced with unfair competition from farmers in countries such as Brazil or Canada that can produce their crops more cheaply – because their country does not impose strict environmental or animal welfare standards. Aside from this, many free trade agreements undermine democracy. They are an obstacle for countries in amending their legislation in favour of the well-being of humans, animals, nature, and the environment. Additionally, they give multinational enterprises the power to file billion-euro claims against democratic resolutions if they see their mega-profits threatened.

There are few countries in which political resistance is as great and diverse as in the Netherlands. The majority of the House of Representatives, under leadership of the Party for the Animals, voted against the EU-ratified Mercosur free trade agreement with Brazil and several other South American countries. The Party for the Animals also succeeded in gaining the support of the House of Representatives and the Minister to leave the Energy Charter Treaty, which allowed energy giants in the Netherlands to file billion-euro claims against the Dutch State in compensation for the ban on their use of coal to generate power. Although the Party made every effort to stop the CETA Treaty with Canada, which accords multinationals extra rights, it unfortunately won the approval of the Dutch Senate with a scant majority. Nevertheless, the ratifying process with regard to free trade agreements has become so uncertain that hardly anyone is still seriously considering

entering into a similar treaty with the USA (TTIP).

The Party for the Animals wants climate, biodiversity, public health, human and animal rights, and regional agriculture to be the guiding principles in all trade policy, rather than the short-term interests of multinational enterprises and the agro-industry. That is why we will always choose to side with the protectors of environmental and human rights all over the world. We have listened closely to the distress calls from activists in countries such as Canada, Brazil, Indonesia, and China to stop free trade and investment agreements that are at the expense of local communities, human rights, nature, and animal welfare.

- We aim to promote international agreements that protect people, animals, nature, climate, and the environment and that enhance the sustainability and fairness of the economy, instead of ever more destructive free trade agreements.
- The Netherlands will revoke its support for new free trade agreements that have a negative impact on the well-being of people, animals, nature, and the environment. We are adamantly against the Amazon-destroying EU-ratified Mercosur treaty with Brazil and other South American countries. It not only results in the destruction of precious nature and condones the hunting of animals, but also violates the rights of the indigenous population.
- If the EU is going to conclude trade agreements, these should focus on a green economy and improve the position of vulnerable people. They should include binding and enforceable about sustainability, biodiversity, climate, human rights, and animal welfare.
- Products that are imported into the Netherlands or the EU must meet at least the same environmental and animal welfare conditions as products that are produced here, or they will be subject to tariffs at the border in order to protect farmers from unfair competition. If that is not possible within the regulations of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the Netherlands and the EU will not be afraid of bringing such considerations to the courts for a (trial) procedure.
- During negotiations with developing countries, we demand that civil society organisations, indigenous peoples, and trade unions from those countries are given a strong voice. Decisions that affect them should not be made without their input.
- Free trade agreements often have a restrictive effect on the input of national and local parliamentarians. We want the negotiating mandate for the European Commission to be submitted to national parliaments. As far as we are concerned, the last word also lies with parliaments: treaties should only enter into force subject to the approval of the national parliaments of all EU member states.
- Treaties that allow multinational enterprises to file claims for billions of euros outside of the regular court system through investment protection measures, such as ICS or ISDS, will be revoked by the Netherlands. We will, of course, enter into treaties that are green and just.

Stop the export of a failed agricultural system

The Party for the Animals wants the Netherlands to stop exporting the livestock industry. During trade missions that are organised every year, representatives from the livestock industry travel in the wake of our king and queen to entice other countries into adopting our completely failed agricultural model. Dutch manufacturers of barns and slaughtering systems sell their morbid trade to other countries, 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 pesticides that are extremely harmful to the health of humans, animals, and the natural environment, are promoted abroad with the help of the Dutch government. A network of special agriculture-oriented diplomats, referred to as 'Agriculture Councils', are paid with Dutch taxpayers' money to do nothing but lobby the private interests of the Dutch agro-industry abroad.

- The Netherlands will stop the development and facilitation of the intensive livestock industry abroad, as was the case in countries such as Ukraine, China, and Russia. The export of breeding animals or barn systems for the development of the intensive livestock industry in

other countries will no longer be permitted. All current budgets for export promotion will be struck. The network of Agriculture Councils directed at lobbying for the interests of the agro-industry will be abolished.

- The export of industrial livestock systems that are no longer permitted in the Netherlands will certainly be banned. Pesticides and other chemicals that are forbidden in the Netherlands will also no longer be exported.
- 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.

Imposing ecological restrictions on trade

The Party for the Animals wants the Netherlands to impose strict requirements on the import of resources of which the extraction or production may be hazardous to humans, animals, the environment, or nature.

The era of voluntary International Corporate Social Responsibility (ICSR) has come to an end. As this voluntary approach has failed to produce the envisioned results, the time has come for stricter criteria to be imposed. The conflict resources list will be expanded with resources such as soybeans, palm oil, copper, and coal. Stricter criteria will apply to international trade in these materials. Fresh water will also be added to this list.

- Binding ICSR legislation will be introduced in the Netherlands, in line with the OECD and UN international guidelines for companies and human rights. Companies will be obligated to identify, prevent, and actively address human rights violations – including child labour – pollution, attacks on animal welfare, and loss of biodiversity in their supply chains. Exceptions to this rule will not be made for specific sectors, such as the financial sector. Companies will also be required to contribute financially to restoring any damage they have caused. Additional statutory obligations will be imposed on companies that operate or have business relations in conflict or high-risk areas. ICSR legislation will ensure that Dutch companies established abroad do not contribute to land-grabbing or other practices leading to landownership inequality.
- The Netherlands will commit itself to implementing ambitious ICSR legislation at European level. Parallel to the implementation of national and European ICSR legislation, the Netherlands aims for internationally binding agreements for multinational enterprises within the context of negotiations for a UN treaty on ‘human rights and the corporate community’. Compliance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will be made compulsory. This will equally apply to production processes abroad. Manufacturers in developing countries will receive assistance in meeting these criteria.
- An obligation to meet climate goals will be imposed on large-scale polluters and financial institutions. Companies will be required to present a climate plan to demonstrate how they are cutting back their emissions throughout the chain.
- Mining disrupts local communities, which is particularly detrimental to the well-being of animals and vulnerable groups such as women and children. The input of local communities will be key to the decision-making process, and they will be entitled to benefits from projects.
- 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 that covers their human, animal, natural, environmental, and climate costs. This balance sheet will provide an insight into the impact of the business on welfare in the most general sense.
- Responsible procurement will become the standard. The Dutch government and the EU spend a great deal of money on the procurement of goods and services. It is crucial that this money is spent in a green and just manner to provide small and medium-sized enterprises that operate responsibly with a positive impulse. This is why we will be bringing the Socially Responsible Procurement Policy (MVI) of the Dutch government in line with the OECD Guidelines and animal welfare in 2024. Investigating compliance with the OECD Guidelines and animal welfare will be

included in the Tendering Act and will therefore be compulsory for all Dutch government bodies as from 2025. The EU will also set a good example by complying with the OECD Guidelines and implementing a 100% sustainable procurement policy by 2030.

- 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. They will be replaced by binding agreements that prioritise the health of the planet.

Reinforcing development cooperation

The amount that is spent by prosperous countries on development cooperation will never compensate for the damage done by wealthy countries elsewhere. Even today, the economic and other 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 that are felt even today. Development cooperation will therefore start by putting an end to the damage inflicted by us on people and ecosystems elsewhere. In addition, we will invest in better prospects for vulnerable people and in restoring affected areas, out of compassion.

- At least 1% of our gross national income (GNI) will be spent on developmental cooperation. The percentage allocated to Least Developed Countries, as defined by OECD, will be increased.
- The basic premise in both trade and development policy will be in the extensive regionalisation of production and services. Funds for development cooperation will be deployed in a sustainable manner to the benefit of the local population, ecology, and animal welfare, whereby the reproduction of inequality and new forms of dependence will be avoided.
- The Party for the Animals wants to let go of the failed 'help-through-trade doctrine' that has been the guiding principle behind development cooperation policy in the Netherlands in the past. A Minister for Development Cooperation will once again be appointed.
- All Dutch policy will be evaluated on its effects on developing countries with a view to reducing any negative impact to the greatest extent possible. This includes our ecological footprint, as well as the facilitation of tax evasion, which has effectively cheated developing countries out of billions in tax income.
- Developmental cooperation will be geared towards the interests of people rather than of Dutch businesses. The Netherlands will therefore stop subsidising Dutch business enterprises from its budget for development cooperation. Tied aid, in which recipient countries are required to spend a portion of the funding they receive on goods or services originating from the Netherlands, will be abolished.
- We also aim to strengthen the position of vulnerable groups in society. Women and girls, for example, often still lead lives in the service of others: their husbands, their nuclear or extended family, or the household in which they live. Better and more accessible education, powerful local communities, and strengthening the rights for women and girls enables them to gain better prospects and more freedom of choice, ultimately resulting in greater self-determination.
- Development cooperation policy should also include clear goals for reaching vulnerable youth, such as young people who identify as LGBTIQ+, young people with a disability, or young people from ethnic or religious minorities. Investments will also be made in civil society programmes directed at the physical safety and mental well-being of children and young adults.

- People in developing countries also suffer from mental disorders illnesses, depression, and anxiety disorders. Only a fraction of our development cooperation budget is allocated to mental health. The Netherlands will invest in mental healthcare, whilst taking cultural factors into consideration.
- Although education is one of the biggest expenditures in every government budget, we have nevertheless noted a chronic deficit in government spending with regard to education in developing countries in the past decades. We will ensure that inclusive and affordable primary education becomes one of the primary investment sectors in Dutch development cooperation.
- Within the context of climate justice, the Netherlands will contribute a fair share to climate financing on top of its development cooperation budget. In addition to the above, we will impose a tax on fossil-fuel driven companies for the restoration of the damage they have caused.
- We will involve citizens in negotiations, the decision-making process, and the execution of international and national climate policy. In developing countries, particularly women, youth, indigenous communities, and local civil society organisations play a crucial role in the battle against climate change. Nevertheless, these people are still not accorded an equitable position in terms of esteem or significance in negotiations or decision-making processes. To safeguard the effective and sustainable expenditure of international climate funds, the direct involvement of groups such as these in policy development and the expenditure of resources is of crucial importance.
- Funds for development cooperation are used to offer people better prospects in their own countries – they are not intended for migration or asylum policy.
- Developing countries will have a greater say in the policies of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.
- The Netherlands will actively commit itself to facilitating debt cancellation for countries in the Global South with a view to preventing the further escalation of the global debt crisis, which has been exacerbated by the climate crisis.
- 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 in income through tax evasion by multinational enterprises. The Netherlands will no longer serve as a tax haven. We will stop facilitating the large-scale tax evasion by multinational enterprises.
- We will facilitate easy access to financing for grassroots and other civil society organisations in developing countries, as well as training courses and capacity building, and support democratisation processes.
- The Netherlands will consult civil society organisations, both in developing countries and in the Netherlands, throughout the process of drawing up, executing, and assessing foreign policy.

Migration: tackling the root causes and a fair policy

Many people in other parts of the world lack prospects for the future and a secure livelihood. The climate crisis and the biodiversity crisis have not only caused areas to become uninhabitable and put food security under threat, but have become a source of conflict, and in some cases even 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 world's refugees do not end up in the Netherlands or Europe. Approximately 70% of them find shelter in their own regions, often in wretched living conditions. Most of the countries that take up refugees are low- and mid-income countries. As a matter of fact, this

accounts for 76% of all refugees. So, merely allocating more money for the reception of refugees in their region of origin still does not make refugee policy just. The equitable distribution of refugees, according to each country's means and capacity, should be the guiding principle. Humanitarian aid must consist of two pillars: the improvement of living conditions in the immediate area and the creation of prospects for these people.

We want a world where everyone is treated equally, and where the place you were born does not determine the course of your life. Tens of thousands of people have died in the Mediterranean Sea, partly because prosperous countries refuse to facilitate safe refugee migration routes. People on their way to Europe end up facing inhuman conditions in camps and detention centres. European countries send people back to the dangers from which they fled, for instance to Afghanistan. The Netherlands is also guilty of these practices. It contributes to them financially and urges other EU member states to expand border patrols and conclude deals with third countries such as Turkey, Tunisia, and Libya. Children are dying of thirst and exhaustion at the Tunisian border after having been dumped in the desert by the Tunisian government. In the Netherlands, hundreds of people were forced to sleep outdoors in a field in Ter Apel. An infant died, and Doctors Without Borders had to intervene in one of the richest countries of the world.

- International treaties such as the Geneva Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights will serve as the guiding principle for all decisions regarding migration policy. The Netherlands will not agree to arrangements that violate these treaties, such as the Tunisia deal.
- The Netherlands will contribute to the improvement of living conditions and the creation of prospects for people in refugee camps. The Netherlands will provide money and knowledge to that end.
- Migration policy focuses on eliminating the root causes of why people flee their countries.
- We will commit to facilitating more safe and legal refugee migration routes and the use of humanitarian corridors.
- The Netherlands and the EU will take up their fair share of refugees from all over the world. Refugees will be equitably divided across Europe according to each country's capacity. The UN Human Rights Commission (UNHCR) quotas will be increased.
- People in refugee camps have the right to a dignified existence. This means they are entitled to security, enough food and drink, legal counsel, medical care, mental health care, and decent housing.
- Governments should do everything in their power to save refugees from drowning at sea. As long as they do not, NGOs and other humanitarian organisations may organise rescue activities at sea without being obstructed or fined. After a rescue at sea, people will be brought to locations where they can request asylum.
- The Netherlands will not contribute financially to violence at European borders or elsewhere. Countries that misuse border patrols to combat migration will be called to account. The EU will cease to train and finance the Libyan coastguard. This group has been accused of severe human rights violations.
- Migration deals with third countries such as Turkey, Tunisia, Libya, and Nigeria will be reversed. The Netherlands will stop actively contributing to these deals and will commit itself to ensuring that they are rescinded by all EU member states with immediate effect. No new migration deals will be concluded.
- The European border guard agency Frontex must be replaced by humanitarian missions aimed at helping people in need. Investigations have revealed that Frontex repeatedly refused to help people in need, witnessed human rights violations and refused to intervene, and did everything in its power to conceal this from the outside world.
- We will protect the rights of all asylum seekers by committing ourselves, within the framework of the EU, to monitoring and imposing sanctions on member states that violate these rights, i.e. in cases where people are detained unnecessarily and/or under inhumane conditions.

- Within an international framework, we will commit ourselves to ensuring that refugees fleeing from the consequences of climate change are officially recognised as climate refugees.
- The Temporary Protection Directive (RTB), which currently applies to Ukrainian refugees, will be expanded at European level to nationalities with a high approval rate (e.g. Syria, Eritrea, Yemen). This directive becomes a form of categorical protection.

Humane reception of refugees in the Netherlands

A small portion of the people who flee their countries come to the Netherlands. Apart from 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 in the acceptance of newcomers by the Dutch population. Refugee reception must take place in a well-thought-out manner. Experience has taught us that once we get to know the refugees we have taken in, we often have a better understanding of their situation and are more willing to offer help. The Party for the Animals therefore pleads for the humanitarian reception of refugees, with proper guidance and the rapid provision of information concerning the status of asylum applications. As soon as these people are issued a residence permit, it should not take long before they can fully participate in society.

- The Netherlands will observe UN refugee treaty guidelines and will therefore not deport 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. Conscripts who flee on grounds of conscientious objection will also be granted asylum in a humanitarian manner.
- 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 Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND) will be considerably shortened.
- The Netherlands ensures that the rights of migrants are safeguarded, tackles discrimination with regard to employment, housing, and health care, and actively opposes xenophobia towards migrants.
- The rights of children as established in UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) will be set down in the Aliens Act. Children with roots in the Netherlands will not be deported and be issued 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 can work on their personal development and are entitled to proper counselling, language courses, and healthcare. Minors will also be entitled to education. In addition, more attention will be given to psychological counselling, because refugees have often had a rough journey and perhaps suffer from trauma from experiences in the region they have fled.
- The accommodation of people with a residence permit will be handled with care: we will ensure equal distribution across municipalities and, where possible, at district level. We will also 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 sufficient counselling so that this leads to improved integration and mutual understanding in the neighbourhood. Municipalities should be (financially) facilitated to take the lead in this as much as possible.
- The reception and support of undocumented individuals must be arranged efficiently. Individuals without a residence permit will be given access to daytime and overnight accommodations, as well as legal and social assistance. Municipalities will be given the requisite aid from the central government. To put an end to terrible situations of statelessness, entitlement to a residence permit is crucial to the position of recognised stateless individuals.
- Young people who have grown up and gone to school here must be given access to all forms of secondary education, just like Dutch citizens, even after reaching the age of 18.
- Stereotyping should never be a criterion for rejecting asylum applications from people identifying as LGBTIQ+. Whether or not an asylum seeker qualifies as a LGBTIQ+ person

depends on self-identification. This will be recorded explicitly in our asylum policy.

- The government will ensure the safe reception of asylum seekers that identify as LGBTIQ+. Greater specific awareness will be raised in asylum policy for transgender, intersex, asexual, and bisexual persons.
- LGBTIQ+ persons will be granted asylum if they are persecuted in their country of origin. This means, for example, that refugees from Iran will also be granted asylum.
- Every person needs to eat. Access to food banks and homeless shelters will no longer be linked to nationality or residence status. We will commit ourselves to every homeless person's right to unconditional shelter, regardless of nationality or residency status, both during the day and at night and at the place of the individual's preference.
- All family members of refugees granted a residence permit will be eligible for reunion, including non-traditional families such as 'queer' families and ties outside of a nuclear family.

Support for Ukraine

The Party for the Animals condemns Russia's unprecedented aggression towards Ukraine. In light of the current threat of war on the immediate borders of the European Union, it is imperative that we collaborate and demonstrate mutual solidarity. Ukraine has been resisting the brute violence of the Russian army ever since its illegal invasion. Just as the legal provision of weapons, this resistance is crucial for the protection of civilians. It is of paramount importance that the aggression by the Russian state, which is paired with war crimes, is stopped. Means of exerting pressure, such as sanctions, are justly being applied for this purpose. It is of crucial that we find ways to end this military violence, in which it is imperative that Ukraine retains the power to decide whether or not it is prepared to enter into negotiations, when they should take place, and on what subject.

- It goes without saying we support humanitarian and emergency financial aid to Ukraine. The EU will help to rebuild the areas destroyed by the war.
- We support the supply of arms to enable Ukraine to defend itself. Prohibited weapons, such as cluster munition, will not be supplied.
- Both within a European and an international context, the Netherlands advocates putting greater pressure on Moscow with sanctions to end military aggression more quickly.
- The Netherlands supports the establishment of the Ukraine Court in The Hague.
- The Party for the Animals is pushing for proper shelter for people and animals who have fled their homes as a result of the war. It is cruel when people who flee also have to leave their animals behind. We therefore want to make it easier for refugees to take their animals with them.

Peace and security

When considering whether or not to provide military support, the guiding factors will be international solidarity, self-determination, human dignity, and international law, rather than geopolitical power relations. We support the Ukrainian population in the defence of their country. That does not mean, however, that we should free up as much money as possible for the military without any form of criticism. Military spending in the USA and Europe put together is already 10 times that of Russia.

Arms races are not the solution. Bombing and military involvement in conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq for instance have not made the world a safer place. Instead, many civilians were wounded and killed, and millions of people were forced to flee, whilst the threat of terrorism still looms.

- The Party for the Animals will only support UN peace-keeping operations with a solid political mandate. We will evaluate all proposed UN missions individually on proportionality, effectiveness, and legitimacy, whilst respecting international law.
- The defence budget will not be increased. The NATO norm calling for a defence budget of 2% of the national budget will not be entrenched in the law. In times when the Netherlands is not

- involved in wars, a contribution of this size is a waste of precious taxpayers' money.
- The Netherlands will become transparent concerning its involvement in civilian casualties, both vis-à-vis the House of Representatives and the Dutch population. Victims and survivors will always be entitled to individual financial compensation, for which a civilian casualty fund is set up.
 - There will be no European army. The Dutch parliament will retain full control over the deployment of Dutch soldiers.
 - There will be more commitment to providing assistance in environmental, natural, and humanitarian disasters, including animal rescue.
 - The Netherlands will increase its investments in peaceful instruments such as diplomacy, knowledge sharing, advice, training, civil society and citizen interaction across borders. By offering more and sustainable support to non-violent movements and democratic organisations, the Netherlands strengthens the power of democracy in conflict and post-conflict areas, as well as in EU member states and candidate countries.
 - The Netherlands will no longer purchase new combat material such as jet fighters, military vessels, submarines, and armed drones.
 - The Netherlands will no longer purchase weapons systems from countries that are guilty of violating human rights.
 - 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, including recruitment for pre-military training.
 - The weapons export policy will be adapted to ensure that no weapons are 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 in the Netherlands will be removed with immediate effect. The Netherlands will cooperate 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 (unmanned aircraft).
 - At present, Dutch foreign policy is overly focused on trade over 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 Uyghurs, and the Tibetans, and will not shy away from imposing sanctions such as trade embargoes.
 - The Netherlands will put pressure on the Israeli government to put an end to the occupation and annexation of Palestinian territory, the apartheid regime, and gross violations of human rights and international law. The Netherlands will join the 138 UN member states that have recognised Palestine. The Dutch embassy will not relocate to Jerusalem.
 - There will be an end to military cooperation with the Israeli state, including the trade in arms. We will support civil society in Israel and Palestine, which is currently under pressure from the Israeli government.
 - The Dutch colonisation of West Papua is one of the reasons it is now in the hands of Indonesia. The Dutch government recognises that it has made historical errors regarding human rights and West Papuans' right to self-determination. The government will therefore actively push for the rights of Papuans and the sovereignty of West Papua. The Netherlands will also raise the Indonesian government's local abuses and human rights violations with the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council, and calls on Indonesia, in close cooperation with the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, to allow a UN human rights mission into West Papua.
 - We are calling for tougher sanctions against those responsible for the horrific abuse and killing of women and protesters in Iran, including by revoking visas and freezing assets. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard will be included in the European terrorism list.