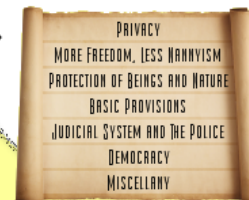


PNVD party programme of May 2008



The PNVD is a humane-liberal party: the government regulates basic provisions and prevents individuals from having to deal with others that step into their world in by them undesirable manners. Apart from that, the government must not meddle with anything. By basic provisions we mean that which is minimally necessary to guarantee a humane existence for everyone.

Government regulates only basic provisions
Abolition of religious primary schools
Young people boss of their own bodies
Leave the EU immediately
Government respects the private life



Privacy

Internet and telephone data will not be recorded. (since 05-2006)

Data concerning telephone and Internet traffic will not be recorded. Apart from objections related to privacy, it is not inconceivable that Big Brother-like practices will ensue.

The legal confidentiality of post will also apply to e-mail and to telephone conversations. (since 04-2004)

In case of a serious suspicion of illegal activities punishable by at least four years, the police may breach this confidentiality.

No legal restrictions will be applied to encryption. (since 04-2004)

Encryption is the encoding of messages or files making them illegible to third parties. Citizens have the right thus to protect themselves from malicious intentions.

No forced chip implantation, not for (ex-)prisoners either. (since 05-2008)

One may choose for implantation from the age of twelve.

Each prisoner will have his or her own cell. (since 04-2004)

Detaining several prisoners in a single cell can be highly dangerous to guards and the prisoners involved. There may be exceptions where both the guards and the prisoners involved prefer shared cells; this is to be judged on an individual basis.

Citizens will be able to review information about them kept by the government. (since 04-2004)

It is a good thing for citizens to appreciate the level of detail of information about them kept by the government, and to be able to review this information for accuracy. In order to prevent abuse, the government may not be given free rein to keep any information about people. The AIVD will have greater freedom in this respect, and will be allowed to collect data needed to guarantee or re-establish national or international security. The AIVD will remain accountable to the ministers involved.

Psychological disorders should not be mentioned on the invoices of specialists. (since 05-2008)

This violates the privacy of patients and the ethical principle of confidentiality.



More Freedom, Less Nannyism

Bar owners decide for themselves whether they want to prohibit tobacco smoking. (since 05-2008)

Customers can choose which bar they want to go to. Owners can make their companies non, completely or partially smoke-free.

Computer games will not be prohibited. (since 05-2008)

(Extremely) violent games, such as Postal 2, Blood & Honour and Manhunt, will not be banned either.

The government will release its copyright on books, among other copyrighted products. (since 05-2006)

At the moment, for instance, the Dutch government owns the copyright of the Dutch translation of "My Struggle" (Mein Kampf), which Adolf Hitler wrote in 1924. By doing this, the government attempts to prevent its reissuing. The PNVD sees this as an attack of the freedom of speech and as direct censorship.

From the age of twelve on, children will be allowed to decide whom they want to live with. (since 04-2004)

An advantage of this is that certain parents will take their children into account more and earlier. Allowing children to make this decision at an early age encourages them to handle freedom responsibly and to make their own decisions. When parents separate and their children are younger than twelve, then a judge decides who will get the custody. The parent who does not have custody will have the right to see the children every two weeks, as well as during ten consecutive (holi)days. In case the parent without custody is not offered this possibility, he or she may demand custody in court, thus reversing the parents' respective roles.

The set book price will be abolished. (since 04-2004)

This will cause free market effects as is the case now with the sale of compact discs.

The government as well may employ people over 65. (since 04-2004)

The government is not allowed to discriminate, which includes a ban on ageism. This is hard in certain cases, such as the age at which people are allowed to vote.

The government will not be involved in employment contracts. (since 04-2004)

Employers themselves decide whether and when they offer permanent employment contracts. They can also decide on the duration of permanent contracts.

There will be no compulsory permits for certain professions. (since 04-2004)

The compulsory permits needed to carry out a number of professions, including day care providers and teachers, should be abolished. Companies and institutions are qualified to determine the requirements their employees must meet. Today, grandparents almost need a permit to look after their grandchildren.

Entrepreneurs will be free to establish the opening times of their business. (since 04-2004)

The Shop Hours Act will be abolished. This may not lead to excessive nuisance.

In principle, it will become possible to start a company anywhere. (since 04-2004)

The conditions are that it not lead to serious nuisance and that safety be guaranteed. People can also start a shop from the home, even if this is a terraced house in a working-class area.

The separate legislation for sex businesses and sex shops will be abolished. (since 04-2004)

Currently, there are unjustified moralistic regulations that make it more difficult, for instance, to open a sex shop.

The legislation setting minimum wages will be abolished. (since 04-2004)

This will allow companies to offer jobs at a lower salary than the minimum wages, encouraging companies and institutions to increase competition among each other. This will also be the case for unskilled labour, among other reasons because there will be a basic allowance. The government will be involved as little as possible in trade union affairs.

From the age of twelve on, people may perform salaried work. (since 04-2004)

Compulsory education lasts until age 12. From the age of twelve on, young people decide for themselves whether they want to continue studying.

It will not be compulsory for the government and employers to contribute to day care for children. (since 04-2004)

Providing day care for children does not have to be a costly affair; there are many people who like to spend time with children and who could take charge of them in the daytime. Abolishing compulsory licences will also make it cheaper to provide day care for children.

Euthanasia will also be permitted in cases of mental suffering. (since 04-2004)

Everyone who has made a conscious decision to seek death should be allowed to opt for euthanasia. There should be a process for euthanasia in cases of mental suffering just like there is one in cases of physical suffering.

Private care institutions will continue to be lawful. (since 04-2004)

These institutions will not be financed by the government and will be evaluated rigorously, like state institutions, for the quality they deliver. The results of these quality tests will be published on the Internet in Dutch and in English.

There will be no integration policy. (since 04-2004)

There will be no policies aimed at specific groups with the aim of having migrants integrate into society. The term allochtoon (person of foreign origin) should eventually go out of use and should not be promoted by the government. The PNVD sees everyone as an 'ordinary' citizen. Integration cannot be forced, and diversity in many cases is not a negative thing.

Schools will decide to which extent pupils and parents have a say in matters of schooling. (since

04-2004)

This will help increase diversity. Pupils and parents decide on the school they think suits them, thus ensuring a form of natural selection.

Schools will have greater freedom to decide on the subjects they teach and materials with which they teach them. (since 04-2004)

The only limitation to this freedom will be that classes in primary schools may not be religious in nature. Also, a number of subjects will be compulsory. (See elsewhere in the programme.) This large measure of freedom may find expression, for instance, in teaching outdoors or through the medium of song. The national government sets the requirements for passing and examinations will be identical nationwide. Each child will be financially supported by the government without having to meet certain requirements.

Compulsory education applies until the age of twelve. (since 05-2008)

Young people must be given the freedom to decide for themselves whether they want to continue studying.

After primary school, children decide which school to go to. (since 04-2004)

Parents and schools may advise children on their decision, but the decision remains the child's. This freedom to choose will not be dependent on the level of education.

Sexual contacts with animals remain (will once again be) legal. (since 04-2004)

The sexual mistreatment of animals will continue to be punishable.

The private possession of child pornography will be allowed. (since 04-2004)

This was the case in the Netherlands until 1998. Most politicians did not want to unleash a witch-hunt. A witch-hunt, however, is clearly what has ensued, and it is pointless. The prohibition of the possession of child pornography is censorship. It also creates all sorts of illegal, uncontrollable circuits. Making money through (barter) trade will remain punishable for the time being.

Everybody will have the freedom to appear naked in public. (since 04-2004)

There are no valid reasons for prohibiting this. For hygiene's sake, nudists will be required to use a towel when sitting in public places such as in parks or at stations.

From the age of sixteen on, people can appear in pornographic productions. (since 09-2004)

In the long run, the PNVD wants to allow young people to appear in pornographic productions if they so desire from the age at which they can legally have sexual relations.

Pornography may be broadcast in the daytime. (since 04-2004)

Pornography as such is not harmful and separate legislation regarding it only upholds the undesirable taboo.

Young people will be allowed to have sexual contacts from the age of twelve on. (since 04-2004)

Since 2002, young people from the age of sixteen have been allowed to have sexual contacts. Before 2002, this was allowed from the age twelve under certain conditions. Young people do not allow themselves to be protected if they do not want to. They indicate that want to have the freedom to decide whom they have sexual relations with. In the long run, the PNVD wants to abolish the age of consent. The reason for this is that only abuse, such as forceful contacts, should be punished. For relationships of dependence, such as between teachers and pupils, and incestuous relationships, an age of consent of sixteen will initially be upheld.

Prisoners will have the right to vote. (since 04-2004)

This right should not be taken away from prisoners, since they continue to be part of the population.

Freedom of religion will not be explicitly legislated. (since 09-2004)

This freedom is already ensured by the freedom of speech and other laws.

Discrimination will be allowed except as practised by the government. (since 04-2004)

The government and all of her civil servants are not allowed to discriminate. Citizens do have this freedom. A bakery, for instance, may refuse to sell its products to anyone who has green hair. The same bakery may also refuse to sell to people of colour. To be sure, people are also free to shun such a bakery because of its discriminatory practises! Incitement to violating the law, such as committing violence, remains punishable. If discrimination is permitted, it will be clearer what people are thinking, which will expose simmering problems. Avoiding confrontations will sooner or later lead to their culmination. Today, many people are upset because they feel the government is protecting certain groups. The current legislation forces them to bottle up their frustration, with dire consequences. Positive discrimination will of course be permitted as well. A company may choose, for instance, only to hire homeless people.

The age of majority will be set at sixteen. (since 04-2004)

This will mean, for instance, that people will be eligible for election to an office from the age of sixteen on.

Citizens will not be obliged to carry an identification card. (since 04-2004)

Otherwise, it would not even be possible for them to walk in public naked.

Organizations will only be prohibited if they incite to violence.. (since 04-2004)

Individuals cannot be sentenced on the basis of the Criminal Organizations Act. Otherwise, it becomes too easy to prosecute people who have not broken any law.

Soft drugs and hard drugs will be legalized. (since 04-2004)

Soft drugs will be legally available for people aged twelve and over and hard drugs for people aged sixteen and over. It will be compulsory for suppliers to include approved instructions specifying the dangers of using the drug. Identification will be required for the purchase of hard drugs, to prevent citizens of countries where the use of hard drugs is illegal for buying them here. The PNVD advises against the use of drugs. Educators have an important task here. Legal action against the use of drugs takes up too many police and judicial resources, while it is known that drugs will never be hard to come by. Legalizing drugs will make them much cheaper, which will most likely reduce the number of drugs-related crimes.

Smoking, gambling and alcohol consumption will be legal from the age of twelve on. (since 04-2004)

It will be mandatory for suppliers of tobacco and alcoholic beverages to include approved instructions with these products pointing out their hazards. It is a good thing to give young people the responsibility to make their own decisions. If they are patronised too much, they will instead veer towards irresponsible behaviour. Parents will continue to have the freedom to prohibit the use of stimulants by their children.

Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and drugs will be free of excise duty. (since 04-2004)

The PNVD advises against excessive drinking and against any use of tobacco and drugs. The party does believe, however, that people should take responsibility for their own actions. It will be mandatory for the suppliers of these products to include approved instructions for use, pointing out the dangers. Excise duty and prohibitions also increase a product's attractiveness in the eyes of some

people.

Advertising for drugs, alcohol and smoking will be allowed. (since 04-2004)

An informational text will have to be included in the advertising, however. This text and its format must comply with government regulations.

Conscription will be abolished. (since 04-2004)

Currently, each adult Dutch citizen can be conscripted into the national army. In theory, it is therefore possible that people who do not support a war will be obliged to fight it. It is better to enlarge the professional army with voluntary forces during emergencies. It is hoped that this will never be necessary.

A worldwide ban on export and import duty will be pursued. (since 04-2004)

This will promote fair trade. Today, poor countries often suffer from unfair trade agreements between Western countries. This makes the West one of the responsible parties for poverty in Third World countries. It is a questionable practice to buy off (part of) this debt through foreign aid.

Children will be allowed to vote from the age of twelve on. (since 04-2004)

Enfranchising children at the age of twelve will encourage politicians to take children's interests at heart. Politics could do with an idealistic impulse from children. This franchise will be extended to all elections.

Sexual contacts in public nature reserves are permitted. (since 05-2008)

Intervention should only occur when the nuisance becomes too great.

No obligatory classification of movies and DVDs. (since 05-2008)

The age ratings that are currently being given by the NICAM by means of the Kijkwijzer are a form of self-regulation. One is free to do so, but the careful monitoring on its execution by the government must be stopped.

Holocaust (Shoah) denial should not be prohibited. (since 05-2008)

The PNVD by no means denies the Holocaust and finds it outrageous that something like that could take place.



Protection of Beings and Nature

No weapons will be supplied to undemocratic regimes. (since 04-2004)

Selling weapons to undemocratic regimes indirectly supports the oppression of people in those countries.

Primary schools may not be based on religious principles. (since 04-2004)

It is important that children not be forced to adopt certain religious views. Parents may send their children to a religious institution such as a church or a mosque. Other factors should become more important in deciding on a school, such as the distance to the child's home or the teaching material used.

(Chemically) castrating people against their will is not allowed. (since 05-2008)

This violates the integrity of the body.

People under sixteen may only practice boxing with headgear. (since 04-2004)

This protects children and young people better from possible head injuries.

The government should make more extensive use of wind and solar energy. (since 04-2004)

These forms of energy are environmentally friendly and inexhaustible. Solar energy panels, for instance, should be installed along motorways, and more wind parks should be constructed.

More excise will be charged on polluting energy sources. (since 04-2004)

When we utilize the environment, we should pay the cost. This will stimulate people to use energy in more durable ways.

Industries should pay an eco tax. (since 04-2004)

It should no longer be the case that the relative tax expenditure of companies drops as they use greater quantities of energy.

Chlorine transports will be prohibited. (since 04-2004)

Transporting chlorine in all directions is easily prevented by producing and using chlorine locally.

A Convention for the Protection of Animal Rights should come into force. (since 04-2004)

It should be examined which rights in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights ought also to apply to animals. Examples include the right of animals not to be subjected to torture and other forms of inflicted violence and suffering. Selective breeding programmes resulting in animals that suffer all sorts of physical discomforts (from birth) should be prohibited. Stabling cows the year round should also be prohibited.

Animal testing should be subject to strict conditions. (since 04-2004)

Animal testing may only take place when it benefits public health. Alternative research methods should always be attempted. It may be possible to eventually prohibit all animal testing.

Non-biological meat and fish products will be prohibited. (since 05-2008)

When it comes to biological products, nutrients have to meet minimum requirements that guarantee the welfare of animals. Some of the PNVD party members come out in favor of a ban on meat and fish consumption by people.

Recreational fishing should be banned. (since 04-2004)

The freedom of fish wins out over the freedom of recreational fishermen. Fish cannot consent to biting a hook.

Recreational hunting will be banned. (since 04-2004)

Members of the royal family will also have to respect this ban. Necessary hunting may continue to take place. Civil servants should make sure that no hunting laws are breached.

Battery cages will be banned. (since 04-2004)

Chickens should once more have the space they have a right to. The space available for animals in stables should meet stricter requirements.

People who repeatedly mistreat animals will be barred from keeping pets. (since 04-2004)

This will protect animals better against violence.

It will not be possible to patent organisms. (since 04-2004)

The PNVD opposes making organisms patentable, since this leads to a concentration of power. It would induce companies to hoard patents in order to own genes as a means of controlling and exercising power over consumers and farmers. This would result in an undesired dependence and an

increase in animal experiments with the single goal of economic gain.

Genetic manipulation and cloning will only be allowed under strict conditions. (since 04-2004)

It is not right to introduce legislation beforehand prohibiting these new possibilities. After all, we do not know their possible effects. It is important, however, that these activities be strictly monitored in order to prevent any possible harmful effects.

If food has been genetically manipulated, the packaging should say so. (since 04-2004)

This is best indicated with a special, preferably international symbol.

There should be a universal symbol for vegetarian products. (since 04-2004)

Products that are always vegetarian do not, of course, have to carry this symbol. Another symbol should be legally required for products to which the sweeteners glutamate or aspartame have been added. These symbols should be used alongside the symbols already in use for biological and ecological products.

Nuclear fission should be prohibited. (since 05-2006)

It should also be prohibited to import energy obtained by way of nuclear fission. There are alternatives for nuclear fission, and this way of generating energy can be highly dangerous.

People with a psychological disorder should be treated sooner. (since 04-2004)

This treatment, including possible medication, can be ordered by doctors if the patient is a danger to himself or others. In some cases, this should happen earlier than it does nowadays. Schizophrenic and psychopathic persons should also receive lifelong assistance when required, for instance in the form of a 'buddy'.

The decision whether or not to be an organ donor will be registered with the issuing of a passport. (since 04-2004)

When people receive their passport or identity card, they should indicate whether they wish to be or to remain organ donors. Parents will decide for children younger than twelve. Young people between the ages of twelve and sixteen will decide for themselves. When they agree to organ donation, parents will still need to give their approval. When the child has not consented, organ donation is not permitted, regardless of the parents' opinion.

Maximum velocity zones of 30km/h will be created around schools and playgrounds. (since 04-2004)

This type of zones is of vital importance.

Excise will be charged on kerosene. (since 04-2004)

Since aircraft, just like cars, pollute the environment, excise will also be charged on kerosene. The excise on petrol will remain in place, since its combustion is polluting.

The Rights of the Child will also apply to underage asylum seekers. (since 04-2004)

This means, among other things, that they cannot be refused education and that they cannot just be evicted. As can be read in this programme, the PNVD wants adjustment of the aforementioned treaty on several fronts.

Some subjects will be made compulsory in primary schools. (since 04-2004)

Government involvement in primary schools will consist in making a number of subjects compulsory. Schools are free to decide how to teach them. Swimming lessons will be compulsory, preferably from the junior forms on. The three subjects that are to be taught each school year will be: Interpersonal Relations, History and Sceptical Thinking. This last subject is meant to contribute

to the development of independent thinking. The subject of Interpersonal Relations should promote respect for people with alternative views and lifestyles. Aspects of the history of sexuality will be included in the subject History. Anti-bullying classes can be incorporated into any subject when there is a need for them; the issue of bullying should be raised during Interpersonal Relations classes as well.

The circumcision of boys and girls under the age of sixteen will become punishable. (since 04-2004)

Nowadays, circumcision of boys is still permitted. The PNVD wants this to become punishable. Medically required circumcisions by doctors or surgeons will be exempt from this prohibition. Some boys, for instance, have a foreskin that is too narrow.

The age at which people can legally prostitute themselves will be sixteen. (since 04-2004)

Since many (male and female) prostitutes still end up in the business due to circumstances they did not want, and since activities between a client and a prostitute are not monitored, young people are not allowed to carry out this profession.

Dangerous sex with minors will remain punishable. (since 04-2004)

Among other situations, this includes endangering minors if one has an HIV infection, or sadomasochistic sex causing damage. Adults have a free choice in this; young people continue to enjoy protection.

We should aspire to a European army. (since 04-2004)

Different member states could specialize in specific army divisions. Coastal nations, for instance, could prioritize the navy. The Netherlands is not supposed to abolish its army and air force. One person should be at the head of all Dutch armed forces. This person will answer to the Minister of Defence. The EU army will also have a single commander-in-chief.

Sex offenders should be detained in a separate section. (since 04-2004)

So long as this is not the case, the Netherlands - albeit indirectly - will have a form of corporal punishment.

Special duty police will be equipped with numbers on the back of their uniforms. (since 04-2004)

This will make it easier to identify the behaviour of individual squad members. Identification may be needed in case a squad member has used excessive violence. In order to protect the identity of squad members, their numbers will change with each deployment.

Double incrimination will not be allowed (since 04-2004)

Dutch citizens can never be prosecuted in the Netherlands for acts which are punishable here but not in the country where they took place. If the Netherlands believes the laws of certain countries to be wrong, they should raise the issue with the countries in question. Double punishability will remain applicable to circumcision.

The possession of firearms at home will be prohibited. (since 04-2004)

Hunters and members of rifle associations will have to keep their arms on the premises of their association when not using them. This will reduce the risk of improper use of firearms.

The penalty for driving under influence will be doubled. (since 04-2004)

People driving under influence cause many accidents. The present penalties are not in proportion with the danger - also for third parties - of driving under influence.

The army will only be allowed to conscript people aged sixteen and over. (since 04-2004)

Also, nobody under the age of twenty will be sent out to conflict areas. In this way, young people will be protected from violence and will not have traumatic experiences.

There should be a worldwide ban on certain weapons. (since 04-2004)

The ban should include nuclear, chemical and bacteriological weapons, among other types. These types of weapons are only suitable for mass destruction. Mines should also be banned, since they cause many civilian casualties.



Basic Provisions

The government will stimulate council housing. (since 05-2006)

The lack of inexpensive rented houses in certain cities is so serious that the government may have to oblige municipalities to create prefab homes, container homes or spaceboxes.

Nobody will be obliged to apply for a job; there will be a modest basic income. (since 04-2004)

The minimum basic net allowance will be EUR 450 a month. This will also apply to people who categorically refuse to work and who never apply for a job. The basic allowance excludes child benefit, and basic health care and schooling will be paid for by the government. People who have worked at least six months before getting a basic allowance will receive a salary-related basic income during the first three months. If apart from receiving a basic income one is working, the salary earned will be supplemented up to a total of EUR 450. People earning more than EUR 650 will not be entitled to a basic income. People earning between EUR 450 and EUR 650 will receive a complementary allowance so the total amount is EUR 650.

Energy and water should not be privatized. (since 04-2004)

Certain goods should remain under government control in order to guarantee their safety and availability.

Fewer kinds of taxes and less tax-deductible expenses. (since 2004/2006)

Tax-deductible expenses will be abolished in favour of the tax rate. Making one's tax return can indeed be greatly simplified. Apart from pollution and corporation taxes, the PNVD wants only the income tax to be deducted. In this way, citizens will know exactly how much tax they are paying. It concerns the following amendments:

- The sales tax (value added tax) will be abolished. (since 05-2006)
- Rent subsidy and home mortgage interest deduction will be abolished. (since 04-2004)
- Taxes on donations and legacies will be reduced by at least 50 percent. (since 04-2004)
- Wealth tax will not be levied. (since 04-2004)
- The property tax will be abolished. (since 04-2004)
- Municipalities will not levy taxes, such as the water board tax. (since 05-2006)

The government will institute a compensation fund for calamities. (since 04-2004)

Should a disaster occur, the fund may be used to compensate victims.

Taxes will be levied on the basis of taxation brackets. (since 04-2004)

The tax system will be simplified. The tax percentage owed will be higher as incomes are higher. People who earn more should pay a higher tax percentage.

Care institutions should disclose information to the government. (since 04-2004)

Care institutions should disclose information, among other things, about the number of treatments offered, the number of treatments carried out and their cost. A government agency will make this information available on the Internet in Dutch and in English (a public information desk), and will verify the information if need be.

The government will provide free basic care. (since 04-2004)

For basic care, therefore, people will no longer have to be insured. People can take out additional private insurance for certain forms of care, such as homeopathy.

The construction of new motorways will not be a priority. (since 05-2006)

Constructing new motorways does not solve the problem of traffic jams. On the contrary: a closely populated country like the Netherlands should aim to reduce individual transportation as much as possible and create possibilities for group transportation, such as public transportation.

The NS (Dutch Railways) will return to public ownership and train travel will become free.

(since 04-2004)

This will stimulate people to travel by train, leading to a better protection of the environment. It will also improve the mobility of certain citizens. Each municipality will be free to decide whether other types of public transportation will be free. However, those must be free for people of 60 and over.

Municipalities will have the obligation to offer certain free classes on a weekly basis. (since 04-2004)

These classes will be: Dutch, Interpersonal Relations, History and Sceptical Thinking. The classes will be provided at community centres. If too few people are interested, the region will be enlarged.

Children up to the age of twelve will receive child benefit. (since 04-2004)

Parents make a free decision to have children. For this reason they should also take financial responsibility. The government will financially support parents with children up to the age of twelve. This will not include tuition fees, since schooling will be quite free.

The study grants and loans programme will be discontinued. (since 04-2004)

This will stop the unnecessary circulation of money. Students living away from home will continue to receive financing through the basic allowance.

In principle, nobody will have to pay tuition fees or buy textbooks. (since 04-2004)

Textbooks will be supplied by schools free of cost, but remain school property. However, people who have already studied for six years after secondary education will have to pay their tuition fees and buy their textbooks.

Upon completing secondary school, everyone will have the right to a maximum of six years of free study. (since 04-2004)

This study period will be financed by the state, after which students will have to cover all expenses themselves. There will be no set age for starting or resuming a study.

The government should not run casinos or organize lotteries. (since 04-2004)

While this does happen today, these are no activities for a government to be involved in. The Holland Casinos and the State Lottery should therefore be privatized.

There should be an international fund buying medicine patents. (since 04-2004)

This fund can be managed by the United Nations. The fund will buy patents on medicines against, for instance, AIDS and tropical diseases.



Judicial System and The Police

Portraits and other pictures must not be put up on courtroom walls. (since 05-2008)

It preserves the neutrality when pictures of for example the head of state are no longer being put up. It must be prevented that one of the parties would take offense at an image.

The downloading of music and videos by private individuals remains legal. (since 04-2004)

Musicians and the film industry can make money, for instance, by performing live and by selling films to cinemas. There will always be people who appreciate owning the original material, for instance to support their idols.

The institution of marriage will be removed from statutory law. (since 04-2004)

Getting married or not should not influence the legislation applying to people. Those who want to get married will have to do so without government recognition. Churches can continue to seal marriages; private institutions may do so too and they decide for themselves whether they'll allow for example polygamy.

The mandatory legal representation will be abolished. (since 05-2008)

This means that people can choose to defend themselves or they can ask someone who is not a lawyer to represent them.

A prisoner may keep a small pet (a cell pet). (since 04-2004)

This right will not be extended to prisoners who have mistreated an animal. Suitable pets include guinea pigs and hamsters.

Community service is a welcome form of punishment if it is seen to be effective. (since 04-2004)

The most important aim of community service should be the prevention of repeat offending. The effectiveness of community service should be evaluated regularly.

Criminals will not get reduced sentences as a part of deals. (since 04-2004)

Employing criminal citizens as infiltrators will also be prohibited, except in the case of counterterrorism.

DNA may never be taken as ultimate and unique proof. (since 04-2004)

Taking DNA samples can be a useful means of establishing a person's identity. However, jumping to conclusions on the basis of DNA material as evidence in criminal cases must be avoided.

All interrogations will be recorded. (since 05-2005)

This will give lawyers and the Public Prosecutor's office an impression of the circumstances in which suspects have made statements. The lawyer will be allowed to use the recordings in their defence. The Public Prosecutor may also make use of the recordings.

A punishment must be aimed at avoiding recurrence. (since 04-2004)

The foremost goal of our penal system should be to prevent the repetition of offences. It should also have a preventive effect. Compensating victims is important but is often impossible. The offence, once committed, cannot be undone.

A punishment should be more severe in case of repetition of the same offence. (since 04-2004)

This protects society better from stubborn offenders, since they will be less likely to commit the

same offence again.

Prison terms will not be reduced. (since 04-2004)

This does not mean that the PNVD believes punishments should be harsher. The aim is to have certainty, upon conviction, about what the exact prison term will be. Today, prisoners who display good behaviour are absolved almost automatically of a third of their sentence. In case of bad behaviour, a judge may have the power to prolong the sentence.

Each prisoner will receive a form of coaching or treatment. (since 04-2004)

This will be granted irrespective of the prison term. The coaching or treatment will be personal and aimed at avoiding repetition of the crime. It is important to treat the prisoner in a respectful way. Persons convicted for felonies such as murder or aggravated assault, as well as prisoners with serious psychiatric issues, will be placed in a form of therapeutic custody, the prolongation of which will be reviewed annually by independent doctors. If desired, the patient may request a second opinion. A supervised return to society should remain a possibility.

Complaints about the police and the judicial apparatus will be evaluated independently. (since 04-2004)

A national committee will review such complaints. It has been shown that in practice, those reviewing the complaints are often insufficiently independent.

It will be possible to report crime through the Internet. (since 04-2004)

A website will be made available to this end with accessible forms to be filled in. It will also remain possible to report crime at a police station. An advantage of electronic reports is that these can be filed and dealt with faster.

Each district and each small village will get two police officers. (since 04-2004)

These officers will be resident in the area in which they work and will work alternating shifts. They will be qualified to write out fines and to perform arrests. They can also provide advice to local citizens and refer them where necessary. It is important that these officers get acquainted with the locals in order to know what is going on in their district or village. The local officer may put on the 'sheriff badge' at any time and act with the proper authority of their function.

Arrested hooligans help pay the expenses for employing special duty police. (since 04-2004)

In this way, hooligans are confronted directly with the cost to society which their behaviour causes.

A judicial error will result in a reduced sentence. (since 04-2004)

It is wrong for judicial errors to lead almost automatically to a discharge from further prosecution. Reduced sentences in the case of judicial errors remain necessary to ensure a conscientious job by the Public Prosecutor.

Entrapment by law enforcement agencies will remain prohibited. (since 04-2004)

The Netherlands must not become a police state. By way of enticement and creating certain circumstances, almost anyone can be induced to commit criminal acts. Thus we, for example, want no bait bikes, bait gays, bait prostitutes, bait cars, bait houses, bait graffiti, bait grandmas and bait teenagers.

Victims and suspects will get more time to speak at court hearings. (since 04-2004)

The victims or survivors will also always be sent information about the court ruling, unless they explicitly indicate they do not want it.

The possible extradition of suspects will be decided on a case-by-case basis. (since 04-2004)

Persons running the risk of receiving capital punishment or a form of corporal punishment will never be extradited.

There will be no financial rewards for hints leading to the solution of crimes. (since 04-2004)

People possessing information about a criminal offence have a civic duty to pass this information on to the police.

Jurisdiction will be based on the laws made by Parliament. (since 04-2004)

This is not always the case today. As an example: after the new legislation on euthanasia was passed, politicians found themselves unable to decide whether the euthanasia of former senator Brongersma was covered by this legislation. A judge had to determine whether mental suffering could also be classed as unbearable suffering. Another example: the private possession of child pornography was banned in 1998 following a judge's individual decision. It is the elected representatives who should determine policy.

The toleration of some illegal practices should not be a policy. (since 04-2004)

When someone breaks a law, there should always be a sanction. This makes it clear what is allowed and what is not.

Settlements in criminal cases instead of judicial proceedings will be prohibited. (since 04-2004)

This prevents the formation of class justice. Otherwise, rich people can buy off a lawsuit and thus evade possible punishment or public sentencing.

The period of limitation for murder will be abolished. (since 04-2004)

It is often unbearable for surviving relatives to realize a case can never be brought before the court again. Unsolved murder cases should also be reinvestigated after twenty years, because new information might surface.

People who had documentation upon departing but none upon arriving will be returned. (since 05-2006)

Asylum seekers who carry no documents when they arrive in the Netherlands while they did have them at the time of departure will be returned immediately to the country they departed from.

Illegal residents will be deported under supervision. (since 04-2004)

Illegal residents will not be tolerated and will be deported under supervision. They will be returned to their country of origin. Should this be impossible, for instance when a certain country refuses any and all cooperation, an attempt will be made to have a neighbouring country host the person concerned or economic sanctions may be imposed. The right to vote and Dutch citizenship may be obtained upon passing the inburgeringsexamen.

Laws will never be effective retroactively. (since 04-2004)

People should have the guarantee that living in accordance with present laws cannot lead to a conviction in the future.

Legal aid will become more accessible. (since 04-2004)

The legal advice centres, law clinics and other primary legal aid services should (once more) be free of charge, and there should be more free law clinics for children and young people.

The juvenile court will be maintained. (since 04-2004)

Young people up to age sixteen should not be treated the same way as adults.

The additional jobs of judges will be made public. (since 04-2004)

Some people in some cases view the profession of judge as completely incompatible with additional functions.

The International Criminal Court will be equipped with an international team for tracking and arresting persons. (since 04-2004)

This makes the International Criminal Court less dependent on national governments when tracking and arresting persons suspected of having committed crimes against humanity.

Prisoners and people placed under (long stay) tbs (Dutch hospital order) are free to communicate with others. (since 05-2008)

Thus they may also speak with journalists.



Democracy

The Zondagswet (Dutch Sunday Observance Act) will be abolished. (since 05-2008)

The PNVD doesn't want laws that exist only to meet the wishes of those practicing (Christian) religions.

The phrase 'God be with us' should disappear from the 2-euro coin. (since 04-2004)

Church and state ought to be separated as much as possible. When the euro was introduced, this text was only put on the 2-euro coin and not on the 1-euro coin. Citizens were not informed of this clearly. The PNVD is frank: we want to remove the phrase from the 2-euro coin as well.

There may not be a budget deficit. (since 04-2004)

Both the national government and the municipalities may not have a budget deficit. The present state debt should be repaid, including the interest owed. The government sets a bad example by borrowing money; this should not be necessary for a rich country like the Netherlands. The generations to come have to foot the bill, although they are not responsible for creating the debt.

Article 120 will be removed from the constitution. (since 05-2008)

This will allow judicial review of legislation. Laws must comply with the fundamental rights and general legal principles as laid out in the constitution. If the members of parliament do not notice contradictions or believe those aren't important (enough), it must be possible to ask a judge to give a judgment concerning the constitutionality of laws and treaties.

The national government should only be concerned with essential tasks. (since 04-2004)

Tax money raised by the government should only be used to finance the government's essential tasks.

All parliamentary debates will be broadcast on channel three. (since 04-2004)

This channel will only be used for political debates and reports. The political parties will also get broadcasting slots on this channel.

Public broadcasting stations may be based on religious principles. (since 04-2004)

Broadcasting organizations such as the NCRV, the KRO and the EO remain welcome in the public-service broadcasting system, just like the CDA, the ChristenUnie and the SGP can participate in political elections.

People will vote for the organizations of the public-service broadcasting system. (since 04-2004)

These elections will take place every four years. Any possible changes in the allotted broadcasting time will take effect six months after the vote. The minimum requirement to be allotted broadcasting time is one percent of all votes. There will no longer be requirements as to the content of programmes. The broadcasting organizations decide how to spend their money. Broadcasting organizations such as the NOS and the Humanistische Omroep will also have to participate in these elections in order to get broadcasting time.

Public broadcasting stations will not be allowed to engage in commercial activities. (since 04-2004)

The stations will receive their money from the government and through possible subscription fees or donations. Donations from and sponsorship by companies will not be permitted. Commercials may not be broadcast, nor may viewers be invited to call non-free service numbers.

People will have the right to vote upon receiving Dutch nationality. (since 04-2004)

Dutch citizens can participate in all elections in the Netherlands.

Everyone will have a single passport. (since 04-2004)

A definitively accepted refugee will become a Dutch citizen upon passing the inburgeringsexamen. Their old passport will no longer be valid. Foreigners who are not seeking asylum, for instance an American who wants to live here for a year, will retain their own nationality and will not have the right to vote here. Naturalization will remain possible if present conditions have been met and the inburgeringsexamen has been passed. The old passport will no longer be valid in such cases, either.

Failing an inburgeringsexamen should have consequences. (since 04-2004)

This oral exam only deals with Dutch laws. The exam can be taken in one's own language. Everybody who passes will receive a law booklet containing the most important laws. This booklet should at least be bilingual (Dutch and English), and possibly include a third language - that of the examinee. Upon passing, a person officially receives Dutch nationality with all the rights this entails. Those who fail the exam will not yet be able to vote. Children below the age of twelve will automatically become Dutch.

The Netherlands should leave NATO. (since 04-2004)

This should only be done when the treaty for democracy has been ratified and a European army exists. (See elsewhere in this programme.)

The people can call a referendum by collecting 100,000 signatures. (since 04-2004)

If a referendum shows that the majority of voters favour a bill proposed by the people, Parliament will be obliged to vote on the bill. Parliament will also be free to organize a consultative referendum at any time desired. There will be no binding referendums - not in municipalities either, since not every person allowed to vote can be expected to have studied the issues. M.P.s, however, should be expected to do so.

Provincial States elections will be abolished. (since 04-2004)

The Royal Commissioners will also be abolished. Municipalities can reach agreements amongst themselves. When municipalities cannot solve a task by cooperating, this responsibility will be devolved to The Hague. The Betuwe railway line could be an example of such a devolved project.

Water Board elections will be abolished. (since 04-2004)

A government agency will take charge of water management.

All discussed bills will be made available on the Internet. (since 04-2004)

The integral text of everything discussed in Parliament will be made available on the Internet in English and in Dutch. This also goes for everything discussed in the municipal councils.

All government publications will be issued in English as well as in Dutch. (since 04-2004)

By always publishing bilingual editions, the political activities of our representatives can be followed closely in the Netherlands and abroad.

The head of state will only have ceremonial functions. (since 04-2004)

It is incorrect for the head of state to have direct political influence. Since many Dutch people still see the head of state as someone who can represent the people at a socio-cultural level, just like the prime minister is the political representative, the PNVD does not see an immediate reason for abolishing this function. In view of the head of state's representative function, she or he will have to meet with the prime minister at least twice a week.

The prime minister will read the 'Speech from the Throne'. (since 04-2004)

After all, it is the government that draws up the 'Speech from the Throne'. The head of state will be given the possibility to read her own speech of a socio-cultural nature.

The Netherlands Antilles and Aruba will be allowed to opt for independence. (since 04-2004)

If a referendum among the inhabitants of one of these islands shows that they wish to be independent, the PNVD will support this. Otherwise, these islands can become municipalities.

A solid inspection system will be developed for voting machines. (since 05-2006)

In order to prevent the manipulation of votes where voting is done electronically, a manual check of the vote count should always be possible. There should be a paper printout for each vote, which the voter checks and deposits in a ballot box. Samples will be taken to compare the ballot box results with the results as calculated by the voting machines.

Municipalities will become more autonomous. (since 04-2004)

The central government should only be responsible for those tasks that municipalities cannot take care of, such as motorway maintenance. Municipalities will be allowed to develop their own policies, provided that these do not contradict national policy. They will be allowed to choose, for instance, whether they will outlaw certain types of begging. Municipalities will also have the freedom to develop policies with regard to culture and monuments.

The municipal residents will elect a mayor. (since 04-2004)

The residents of each municipality will elect their mayor for a four-year period. Voting will take place in two rounds. The three candidates with the most votes proceed to the second round. Mayors represent their municipalities at the political level. They can relieve aldermen from their function and can themselves be dismissed if two thirds of the municipal council so desire.

The Municipal Executive consisting of mayor and aldermen will be abolished as a body. (since 04-2004)

The aldermen will be executives; the municipal councilors will decide on policy. After the largest party has chosen an alderman, a number of the party's seats are fictionally subtracted. This number is determined by dividing the total number of seats by the number of aldermen. The next-biggest party then chooses an alderman, etc. In case of an equal number of seats, the party that originally won the largest number of remaining votes chooses another alderman.

By-elections will become possible. (since 04-2004)

Since municipalities will become more autonomous, they will also get more responsibilities.

Because of this, by-elections should become possible. They will take place if over fifty percent of councillors want them.

Residents of a municipality have to consent to municipal redivisions. (since 04-2004)

Because the combination of municipalities, to name a type of reform, can have far-reaching consequences for residents, over fifty percent of residents of each municipality involved must consent to such a reform.

The Netherlands must leave the EU at once. (since 04-2004)

The European Union is becoming a powerhouse that accumulates more and more power. The Netherlands must formulate its own policy. Sometimes cooperation with other countries is desirable, but this doesn't require an EU system. At the moment, the Netherlands hands over too much power and money to the EU.

The United Nations must become more democratic. (since 04-2004)

To give an example, five countries at present have the power of veto on the Security Council. This should not be the case. If nothing has changed in this respect by 2010, the Netherlands should leave the United Nations.

All UN countries will sign a treaty for democracy. (since 04-2004)

This treaty binds all UN countries to liberating a democratic country when it is attacked or occupied, or when a coup has taken place. To make this possible, conditions should be formulated to determine when a country is democratic. These conditions may be made stricter in the future.

Funding for research will be provided as per parliamentary seat obtained. (since 04-2004)

Parties will have the freedom to decide how to use these funds.

The chairman of Parliament will be a civil servant. (since 04-2004)

The M.P. who is currently presiding over Parliament would do better to participate in the debates. Having a civil servant preside reduces the risk of conscious or unconscious partiality.

The number of weeks Parliament goes into recess will be halved. (since 04-2004)

Since Parliament will once more be the heart of democracy, this number needs to be reduced. The PNVD suggests that Parliament convene three days a week - for instance, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays - so that Members of Parliament have the opportunity to devote time to other issues besides their job. This will also allow them to get better acquainted with what is going on in society.

The number of bills each M.P. can introduce will be limited. (since 04-2004)

The number of bills each M.P. can introduce will be limited in order to prevent the need for voting about too many bills that do not stand a chance of being passed. If thirty or more M.P.s favour proposing a certain bill, this will always be permitted. There will be no cap for questions asked in Parliament.

Political Party's will receive no campaign money. (since 05-2008)

This applies for all parties, thus for the parties in Parliament as well. Parties must finance their own campaigns by means of donations and by collecting contributions.

The sponsoring of political parties will be banned. (since 04-2004)

Conflicts of interest due to involvement in business ought to be avoided. Public policy must not be for sale.

The electoral threshold will not be raised, nor will there be a two-party system. (since 04-2004)

Upon winning 1/150th part of the votes, a party will at least have the right to a seat. In this way, small parties will maintain a representation in Parliament.

The constitution may only be changed with the consent of the people. (since 04-2004)

A constitutional change may only take effect if, aside from a two-thirds majority of Parliament, a referendum among people of voting age shows that two-thirds of voters favour the change.

Laws respecting the government must be in the constitution. (since 04-2004)

These laws are sufficiently important to merit inclusion in the constitution.

A party can take up a maximum of seventy seats in Parliament. (since 04-2004)

It is dangerous for one party to be able to gain an absolute majority of seats, since this can lead to an undesired semi-dictatorship.

The Upper House will be abolished. (since 04-2004)

At present, the Upper House is involved in inspecting laws passed by the Lower House; among other things, it inspects whether these are not inconsistent with existing laws. Party politics, however, are influential here. This task is better left to independent civil servants who report to the Lower House.

The prime minister will be elected. (since 04-2004)

People entitled to the vote will elect a prime minister for a four-year term. This will be done in two rounds. The three candidates with the most votes pass to the final round. The prime minister is the political representative of the Netherlands. The prime minister can dismiss ministers and can be dismissed by a two-thirds majority of Parliament.

The cabinet will be abolished. (since 04-2004)

Ministers will be executives; it is Parliament that determines policy. After the largest party has chosen a minister, a number of the party's seats are fictionally subtracted. This number will be determined by dividing 150 seats by the number of ministers. The next-biggest party then chooses a minister, etc. In case of an equal number of seats, the party that originally won the largest number of remaining votes chooses another minister.

The division of seats per party will be more democratic. (since 04-2004)

The candidate with the most votes on a list of candidates will be the first to be allocated a seat. Next, the candidate with the second-largest number of votes, and so on. The present system of preference votes will be abolished.

No political, royal and diplomatic immunity. (since 05-2008)

Everyone must be equal under law.



Miscellany

All civil servants in the same positions will earn the same salary. (since 04-2004)

This means that age and years of service will no longer influence one's salary.

De vennootschapsbelasting gaat omlaag voor het midden- en kleinbedrijf. (since 04-2004)

In order to prevent that only multinationals will eventually remain, it would be better to reduce the corporation tax for small-scale businesses. This will stimulate local shops and small farms, and

improve a sense of well-being among consumers. Small and medium-sized businesses already pay less corporation tax, but the PNVD wants to increase the difference: only 20% will be levied on the first 25,000 euros; 30% on further capital.

The corporation tax will be lowered for small and medium-sized businesses.

Home care will be promoted. (since 05-2006)

Home care is relatively inexpensive and improves the social participation of elderly people; it is a more humane form of care.

The people must be able to see through all research that is (jointly) financed by the government. (since 05-2008)

This should be possible completely free of charge, among other things via a government website.

Care institutions will have more nurses/doctors and fewer managers. (since 05-2006)

The number of nurses and doctors working at subsidised care institutions should be increased; the number of managers decreased. These numbers should be determined on the basis of the number of patients. Doctors should always be on the payroll; they may no longer offer their services from their own private companies.

Postbus 51 will be abolished. (since 04-2004)

Postbus 51 is mainly government propaganda; it is too patronising and could be counterproductive. Present education about the dangers of certain products should be a mandatory responsibility of the manufacturers of these products. All other types of information can be provided through public debates.

Sustained violence or peril to life will be the only justifications for accepting refugees. (since 04-2004)

Only people who personally suffer structural violence or whose life is at risk will be eligible for asylum status. Receiving any person with alternative ideas and lifestyles may prevent them from having to lead lives inspired by fear, but the progress of countries is indirectly hampered this way.

Refugees will be sheltered in their own areas as much as possible. (since 04-2004)

A treaty should be drawn up binding UN countries to this directive. The UN will largely cover the cost of the sheltering of refugees. It is better to keep people close to home than to try and make them integrate into alien cultures. If, nevertheless, reception in the Netherlands is taking place, then family members should not be separated. This in order to prevent inhumane practices.

There will be more research into one-to-one teaching. (since 05-2006)

Individual education is said to be the fastest and most effective form of learning. This claim should be examined, as well as the question of whether this alternative is financially feasible and which requirements tutors should meet.

The school inspection board inspects schools and reports on them. (since 04-2004)

The reports will be public and will be made available on the Internet. Among other things, the inspection board will report on the number of pupils, pass-rates, hygiene and safety in schools. Pupils' enjoyment of school will be measured by way of questionnaires.

State schools will have a legal obligation to accept students. (since 04-2004)

They will have the obligation to accept everyone, unless they have no places left.

It will not be legal to sponsor schools. (since 04-2004)

Sponsorship corrodes a school's independence.

Sexual education will be provided from nursery school on. (since 04-2004)

Sexuality is an important aspect of life. It is wrong to withhold knowledge about sexuality from children as long as possible, because this upholds the taboo on sexuality.

The Netherlands will maintain the present level of foreign aid expenditure. (since 04-2004)

The money may only be used for structural solutions or for food aid. An example of a structural solution is the distribution of condoms. The debt of low-income countries will be pardoned.

Palestinians are entitled to their own state. (since 05-2008)

They must be completely independent in ruling their own territory.

Dutch troops must leave Afghanistan. (since 05-2008)

Afghans barely support the presence of Dutchmen, and the Americans with which the Netherlands currently collaborates commit human rights violations in that country.

A badly performing civil servant will never get a golden handshake. (since 04-2004)

A badly performing construction worker never gets a golden handshake, either.

No subsidies will be given, or as few as possible. (since 04-2004)

Agricultural subsidies, for instance, will be ended. Subsidies make people more dependent and often work to the disadvantage of others. Sometimes subsidies cause beneficiaries to display 'politically correct' behaviour for fear of losing the subsidy. When the government determines which citizens and institutions are eligible for subsidies, this automatically influences people's freedom of choice. Top-class sport will no longer be subsidised. It may often lead to a greater number of medals at the Olympic Games, but not everyone is equally charmed by top-class sport, especially since it often leads to exaggerated nationalism. East Germany always used to win a comparatively large number of medals.

Subsidized jobs to encourage people to take up regular employment (Entry-level and Step-up jobs, Melkert jobs) will be abolished. (since 04-2004)

These jobs are partly subsidised. The PNVD does not believe this to be a favourable situation.

Everybody will have four extra holidays a year. (since 04-2004)

This will align the Netherlands with the European average. The PNVD suggests the following extra holidays: World Animal Day (4 October), Liberation Day (5 May), Love and Friendship Day (14 February) and Children's Day (23 April). This last date is also World Book Day, all the more reason for a day off.

Licenses for companies will be joined as much as possible. (since 04-2004)

Safety, environmental and health aspects should be joined into a single license along with the terms of employment. A single national agency will issue these licenses. This agency may also revoke licenses if conditions are not, or no longer, met.

The government will use the operating system Linux as much as possible. (since 04-2004)

Linux is open source, free and easy to update.