

Evaluation and Ranking/Grading
Document of the Immigration Policies of the
Six Main Candidates in
the 2010 Dutch General Election



Evaluation and Ranking/Grading Document
Completed by the Foundation for Democratic
Advancement (June, 2010)

Purpose: Determine a ranking and grades for six main candidates for the 2010 Dutch General election based on their immigration policies, and in terms of the better representative of the Netherlands as a whole.

This determination is an outside perspective to give the citizens of the Netherlands an informed different perspective of six candidates running for the 2010 Dutch Prime Minister. Also, the evaluation results should be an indication of the overall ethnic tolerance of Europe in the face economic crisis.

The views in this Evaluation/Ranking/Grading are the views of the FDA. Also, the Determination is an example of a way to inform voters in the selection of political candidates--through evaluating, ranking and grading.

The Six Main Candidates for the 2010 Dutch General election:

Jan Peter Balkenende (Christian Democratic Appeal)
Job Cohen (Dutch Labour Party)
Emile Roemer (Socialist Party)
Mark Rutte (People's Party for Freedom and Democracy)
Geert Wilders (Party for Freedom)
Femke Halsema (GreenLeft)

* Though there are other candidates and parties running in the election, the FDA due to lack of information on the other Candidates and time constraints limited its evaluation to six top candidates. However, the study should give an indication of the quality of the candidates running in the Dutch General election, and the legitimacy of the election.

The FDA and its members are in no way affiliated with any of the candidates in this study.

The study represents an independent assessment of six top Dutch candidates based on objectivity, transparency, and non-partisanship.

The FDA is confident that its evaluation results will give a picture of the quality (or lack of quality) of six top Dutch candidates, and the legitimacy of the actual election results.

Methodology for Evaluating, Ranking, and Grading of the Dutch candidates:

Immigration: (sound immigration policy which reflects Dutch democratic values, the ethnic and cultural diversity of the country, and the value of immigrants to Dutch society.)

Weighting:

The six candidates can receive a score from 0 to 10

Evaluation:

Evaluate the immigration policies based on what is in the better interests of the Dutch people.

The FDA will perform an analytical review. The evaluation will have a stated rationale for the scoring/ranking.

The FDA's evaluation methodology is objective and transparent. Though like any evaluation methodology there is an element of subjectivity.

The FDA minimizes this subjectivity by being guided by the more sound reasons.

Every score and grade will be justified based on reasons for and against, and ultimately the more sound reason in a particular context.

Chief Evaluator:

Stephen Garvey, Executive Director of the FDA

Principle information sources:

Media articles and analysis of candidates. Candidates' statements, including policy promises. Speeches by the candidates.

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Immigration

To what degree are the immigration policies in the better interest of the Netherlands people?

The CDA defines the better interest by the immigration policy which better reflects Dutch democratic values, the culture and ethnic diversity of the Netherlands, and values and respects immigrants.

2010 Dutch Immigration Policies:

Balkenende

In the field of immigration and integration, there are limits to what the Netherlands can handle groups of newcomers. This is not just about numbers. It also relates to the capacity of the newcomers and their willingness to be inserted in our Dutch society and culture. A society where the people of CDA requires that they be self-reliant, commitment to society and demonstrate the equivalence of all recognize and respect. In our Western culture are values, norms and traditions central.

Effort

Of new participants, we expect that they want in an effort to be part of our society. From their background that they want and can make a contribution to society. Society must therefore opportunities and space. The control of the Dutch language, attendance and having employment are the main means for good integration.

Stricter and more demanding

The CDA wants to break the vicious circle, in which new arrears are due to ever new generations of disadvantaged migrants settle in the same neighborhoods. Therefore, in addition to the integration of immigration also be more demanding. The great stream of mostly disadvantaged immigrant should be redirected towards a smaller stream of less, but promising immigrants. We therefore propose more stringent requirements for family reunification and marriage migration.

What does it say about CDA in its election platform?

A command of the Dutch language, attendance and participation are important means to ensure that newcomers and their children can successfully integrate. Since the emphasis should lie on. The integration program is not optional. The lack or insufficiency contribute to integration may cause a person permission to remain for an indefinite time span. There comes a sound and accessible cursus range in the field of language, integration and overall development. This offer is freely accessible via Internet and digital television. Public funds should not be used for selective integration courses. Grants for specific ethnic groups or activities that groups should not be given indiscriminately, but should be critically evaluated at the integration level. There are compulsory integration courses for immigrant parents raising children, which combines theory and practice through such voluntary work.

Asylum and migration

The CDA is committed to the protection of refugees but is a selective migration policy: strict, where it must have access where necessary. More cooperation between European countries is desperately needed. At European level we want:

- The admission rules of the Member States more matching;
- The refugees more evenly distribute the individual Member States;
- A common approach to the return policy.

Other key elements of our proposals:

- Unaccompanied foreign minors should wherever possible be reunited with their parents or family in the country of origin.
- Return forms an integral part of the asylum and migration.
- The (language) requirements (wedding) migrants are tightened.
- Only refugees with valid residency status may apply for assistance.
- The opportunities for criminal aliens speed up moves are extended.
- To effectively combat illegal is hard action against those who profit from illegal immigrants, such as employers, landlords and smugglers.
- Only migrant workers admitted in the Netherlands where needed.

Wearing face-covering clothing is banned in the Netherlands only for certain groups and in certain places. It applies to civil servants, education and public vervoer. Omdat a total ban on face-covering clothing was not legally feasible (it is contrary to freedom of religion), the CDA has discretion in this action.

Target

In a democratic society, the freedom of religion be limited only if urgently needed, including to public order and public security arrangements. The government has therefore targeted at particular groups and places in the discussion of face covering clothing special attention. The result is that officials may not wear clothing that covers the face, which is incompatible with the office. In education it is also prohibited because it is in education major communication problems. And public transport may not, because it hampers communication, identification more difficult and encourages people no longer feel safe. For public transport will be first examined whether carriers of the ban on their terms or that may regulate this by law to be amended. The CDA supports these measures.

Identification and public policy

For the police, the laws and regulations in this context particularly important when it comes to situations in society where identification is required of a person wearing such clothing. Examples of these demonstrations, soccer riots or disturbances of public order. It is also the Law on Identification already applies. A base of face-covering clothing is required by law to identify who to work with.

WOM

The law on public demonstrations (WOM) offers opportunities for mayors disguise a ban on certain places and times to help. In addition, a ban based on the mayor noodbevel provisions set out in the Local out. The government has already promised that if the existing legislation in this area appears to be insufficient, then the law will be amended.

Source: Christian Democratic Appeal's policy statements

Cohen

3.3.4 Immigration and integration

The Netherlands has become an immigration country. Cultural and ethnic diversity is a permanent characteristic of Dutch society. A free-market economy such as that in the Netherlands could not exist without an influx of new creative, working talent. The Netherlands should always be open to receiving political refugees. At the same time, no society, including the Netherlands, has an unlimited potential for absorbing refugees. It is therefore logical that there should be criteria for entering the country and

taking up residence. It is expected of all citizens, including immigrants, that they respect the democratic values of constitutional democracy and that they contribute to society, where possible through both paid work and, for example, voluntary work. All citizens, including immigrants, can count on protection against discrimination and on respectful treatment of cultural and religious expressions that fall within the bounds of constitutional democracy - respect for the religious freedom of others, acceptance of the fact that men and women, homosexuals and heterosexuals, all have equal rights in the Netherlands, including the right not to believe in any religion. Those who find obstacles placed in the path of their emancipation by family, tradition or religion deserve unconditional support.

Source: Dutch Labour Party's policy statements

Roemer

The SP's programme of principles is called 'The Whole of Humanity' ('Heel de Mens'). It contains the core of the SP's vision of society and the alternatives proposed by us. In our thoughts and deeds we are guided by three concepts: human dignity, equality and solidarity. It is these values that in the course of many centuries have emerged as essential and indispensable aspects of human civilisation and progress. Human dignity, equality and solidarity form, together with our rational analysis of the world, the yardstick against which we measure developments and judge alternatives. Whatever we judge to be positive we attempt to promote, while those things we see as negative we try to prevent or combat.

Human dignity is the respect of one person for another, the right to decide freely the direction society should take, a secure existence for everyone, and a fair chance for every person to live in freedom and strive for his or her own happiness.

Equality means that one person is never worth more than another. On this basis we are for the broadest tolerance in the whole society and against every form of discrimination.

Solidarity between people is necessary because the opportunities afforded to one are fewer than those enjoyed by another. By helping and caring for each other we can give a fair chance to everyone to lead a fulfilling life.

Politicians who write off people's concerns about their own lives and their own neighbourhoods as 'provincial' demonstrate just how far removed they are from the citizens whose interests they claim to want to serve. This is unconvincing, especially while it remains so unclear just what is implied by their own 'cosmopolitanism'.

It is certainly the case that ever more of the problems with which we are faced do not stop at our borders, that they demand international coordination and cooperation. But the arrogant disregard for national politics as, even now, the most effective means for the emancipation of men and women and the protection of democratic and social rights is not cosmopolitan so much as short-sighted. A truly cosmopolitan spirit is one which sees the connections between the local, national and international and seeks the most effective way to realise fine ideals in practical reality.

The SP's strength resides primarily in its capacity to resist the spirit of consensus which often deprives the Dutch electorate of a political alternative. This is true of social questions, such as immigration, where they lately proposed a generous right of asylum in the face of the restrictive plans of the right and Labour, and above all on economic questions

How should access to the EU labour market be regulated for people who are not citizens of a member state? And should Brussels be in charge? Selective immigration from, for example, Africa, can help to address the expected shortage of highly skilled workers and professionals. SP Euro-MP Erik Meijer: "The European Commission needs to give this further consideration. Attracting more well-educated and trained people here will also have major consequences in their countries of origin. The SP says: the EU must bring the work to the people and not the people to the work. Africans should have less need to have to move here, and we should be doing something about this. If we do nothing, the resulting brain drain will exacerbate the shortage of doctors and other professionals, such as IT workers, in Africa." Referring to the proposed selective work permit, Meijer added that the 'blue card' was "lifted from the US 'green card', but this also has major drawbacks. The Netherlands must be able to continue to formulate our own admissions policy."

The SP has consistently opposed what the party sees as an inhuman EU Directive. "It is a scandal that immigrants can be locked up for a year and a half without having committed any crime," said SP Euro-MP Kartika Liotard. "The SP wants to see a humane immigration and asylum policy, a policy that does not automatically treat people looking for better living conditions as criminals."

SP Euro-MP Erik Meijer added that "It's a matter of detaining people in sorrowful conditions. Just think about it. These are people who have left their own countries as a result of war, dictatorship, discrimination, natural disasters and poverty. They are simply trying to survive."

Source: Socialist Party's policy statements

Rutte

Since the 90s the VVD uses the triad: **restrict immigration, promote integration, stop discrimination**. The VVD is the only party who has been consistent policy on this issue!

Key Message Immigration: fair but restrictive policies

- The VVD sees opportunities for highly skilled migrants who are financially their pants to stop, the language and contribute to society and the economy of our country
- Asylum: the influx of economic refugees (= majority) should be stopped. For "real" refugees must, even according to the VVD, Netherlands continue to take responsibility
- Regular: the influx of disadvantaged, low-skilled immigrants should be stopped. It is necessary to enhance integration: prevent 'hole' open '

Integration Key Message: With many migrants / immigrants are doing well. But too many do not (disproportionately high share of crime and social security)

- Does anyone from the VVD. For the VVD:
 - Does not your background, but your future
 - Does not your faith, but your behavior
 - Does not the group but the individual
- The VVD is the only party that appeals to foreigners on their responsibilities, just like any other citizen in this country. The government does not integrate: that is what people

themselves. Migrants themselves who take responsibility. Costs may no longer widespread in the society be passed.

- People come from our own free choice to the Netherlands. The VVD expect them to adapt to the language and contribute to society.

Instruments of policy:

- Tightening immigration and asylum, return and departure intensify
- Increasing access social barriers (eg no assistance first ten years)
- Educational (quality + closing bad schools, etc.)
- Labour market (more flexible)
- Tough approach to crime, illegality and misconduct (as for everyone else)
- Stop immigration and naturalization subsidized industry!

Source: People's Party for Freedom and Democracy's policy statements

Wilders

The leader of a Dutch anti-immigration party will call for a vote of no-confidence in two Muslim government ministers next week, citing their dual nationality as the issue, a newspaper reported on Saturday.

Geert Wilders said in an interview with the Dutch daily NRC Handelsblad the appointment of Moroccan-born Ahmed Aboutaleb and Turkish-born Nebahat Albayrak as junior ministers was wrong because both could have loyalties toward countries other than the Netherlands.

Wilders, whose Party for Freedom (PVV) party won 9 seats out of 150 in the November election, said he will call for a no-confidence vote when the cabinet discusses its policy plans in parliament.

The new cabinet, formed by Christian Democrats, Labour and the Christian Union and sworn in on Thursday by the Dutch queen, is expected to soften immigration policy, which had been tightened under the previous coalition in response to the rise of the populist Pim Fortuyn in 2002.

Maverick politician Fortuyn broke taboos with his criticism of Muslim immigrants before he was murdered by an animal rights activist.

In Saturday's interview, Wilders said: "I do not want to live in a country where some day six or seven members of cabinet could be Muslim," adding that Islamic laws were "barbaric", referring to four people who were beheaded in Saudi-Arabia this week.

"I want to encourage Muslims to leave the Netherlands voluntarily. The demographic development should become such, that the chance is small that we again have two Muslims in the cabinet." About 1 million Muslims live in the Netherlands out of a population of 16 million.

Last week Wilders called on Muslims to ditch half the teachings in the Koran and said he would chase Islam's Prophet Mohammad out of the country if he were alive today. The

Iranian embassy called those remarks "spiteful", while the Saudi Arabian embassy held talks over the comments with Dutch foreign ministry officials.

Iran condemned on Wednesday a call by a populist Dutch politician for local Muslims to throw away half the Koran to show national loyalty, and said the Dutch government should prevent further provocation of Muslims.

The Iranian embassy in The Hague called the comments made by anti-immigration politician Geert Wilders "spiteful".

"Such statements are (a) direct insult to sanctities and ethical values of Islam," the embassy said in a statement.

"Inciting hatred and religious intolerance could only be seen as a disservice to the freedom of expression." Wilders said in an interview published last week that Muslims should throw away half their holy book if they wanted to stay in the Netherlands and said he would chase Islam's Prophet Mohammad out of the country if he were alive today.

The Dutch government confirmed on Sunday that Foreign Ministry officials had held informal talks with the Saudi embassy in The Hague over Wilders' remarks.

Last year Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Islam and home to its holiest shrines, withdrew its ambassador to Copenhagen over Danish cartoons depicting the Prophet, which provoked worldwide protests among Muslims.

The Iranian embassy called on the Dutch government "to take appropriate measures to prevent further provocation of sentiments of Muslims".

Wilders, who is seen as an heir to murdered populist Pim Fortuyn and whose new party won nine seats in parliament out of the 150 in November elections, has warned of a "tsunami of Islamisation" in a country home to 1 million Muslims.

Living under heavy guard since 2004 when a Dutch-Moroccan killed filmmaker and Islam critic Theo van Gogh, he has campaigned to ban the Muslim burqa veil, new mosques and religious schools and also wants to freeze immigration.

On Monday, Wilders said he had decided not to take part in a parliamentary visit to Pakistan and Afghanistan due to threats following his comments, Dutch media reported.

The Party for Freedom (PVV) does not want Ahmed Aboutaleb and Nebahat Albayrak to join the cabinet because they have double nationality. A motion to this effect yesterday led to a fierce collision between PVV leader Geert Wilders and Lower House Speaker Gerdi Verbeet, who did not allow the motion.

Labour (PvdA) party member Aboutaleb, who is to be Social Affairs State Secretary, has both a Moroccan and a Dutch passport. His fellow-party member Albayrak combines Dutch with Turkish citizenship. She is the putative State Secretary of Justice, under which immigration policy falls.

Members of the Upper and Lower House must according to the law be Dutch, but they may have another nationality as well. For cabinet members, there is no statutory prescription here, according to Wilders. He considers neither MPs nor ministers should be allowed double nationality any more because of a possible conflict of interests.

A debate that had already been planned earlier took place in the Lower House yesterday on double nationality - held by practically all Moroccan and Turkish immigrants in the Netherlands. Wilders put forward a motion - anticipating possible legislative amendments - calling for no ministers or state secretaries to be appointed who have double nationality.

A fierce clash arose in the House between Wilders and Speaker Gerdi Verbeet (PvdA). After all other parties had stated that they would not support the motion, Verbeet declared the motion unconstitutional. She read out part of the oath in which MPs promise allegiance to the Dutch Constitution.

Wilders termed the course of events "scandalous" and accused Verbeet of "pure party politics." He said the motion merely said cabinet members should preferably have only Dutch nationality. "What is unconstitutional in this plea?" he fumed.

The Speaker rejected the accusation. According to Verbeet, the motion "cast doubts on the loyalty of MPs with two passports in an unacceptable way. I am responsible for us respecting one another," said Verbeet.

Source: Articles on the Party for Freedom

Halsema

No person shall on the grounds of creed, race, or gender disadvantage, says the Constitution.

Discrimination is prohibited but in practice is still common. GroenLinks wants equal opportunities by combating discrimination.

GroenLinks wants the stricter prohibition on discrimination is maintained. Anyone who has encountered discrimination know how hurtful this is. But equally frustrating is it to be false accusations of discrimination.

Green Left wants the government to clear limits and themselves a good example when it comes to discrimination.

Surnames or ages must no reason not to invite a candidate. Labour is stricter monitoring of discrimination.

Municipalities do not provide subsidies and licensing of public places where discrimination. GroenLinks wants action in the nightlife "Unfairly denied? SMS 123 "Extensions to the Netherlands. Messages are picked up and treated promptly.

GroenLinks also calls for an extension of article 1 of the Constitution. It states that discrimination on any grounds is prohibited. Discrimination because of religion, belief, political opinion, race and gender are explicitly named.

GroenLinks would like to add three groups: discrimination because of homosexuality, age or disability.

Not only in the Netherlands but also outside GreenLeft fights against discrimination. For example, the European Commission to better monitor compliance with legislation against discrimination, including in countries wishing to join the European Union.

The integration of migrants - and their (grand) children - in society is a major political debate. There are many people who come along well and who have found their way. While there are still major challenges. GroenLinks will only appoint the integration does not solve problems. GroenLinks to eliminate backlogs and cultural and religious taboos to break.

GroenLinks does not in terms of integration into the game who can yell the loudest about the problems. Because delays in education or employment are thus not recovered. Women are thus not a social isolation. Radicalism is not to scream weakened but rather strengthened.

Integration is more than doom and gloom. With many migrants and their kids are doing just fine. They stormed the lecture halls, elderly care, represent the class and shoot up into the Premiership football clubs. They do not dream of jihad, but of freedom and democracy.

GroenLinks is also realistic about the problems. Integration is not easy. Instead of shouting is the time for action. Green Left is unprecedented for the potential of education, employment, youth, art, culture and sports in the foreground. GroenLinks wants immigrants to learn Dutch. That increases their chances of finding a job, education or a successful business. Because who wants to live in the Netherlands, should also participate. It is important that parents read to their children or help with their homework. The language is necessary for a chat with the neighbor, for filling out tax forms and to visit the doctor.

Besides learning the language, GroenLinks is important that migrants are aware of our Constitution, such as freedom of expression, the right to self-determination, non-discrimination, equality between men and women and the separation of church and state. Besides learning the language, this should also be part of an integration program.

For GroenLinks is freely within the law. A Muslim is free to wear a headscarf and also to swing. A believer is free to profess his religion, but also from taking. A woman chooses to whom she will marry. A cartoonist or comedian can make fun of Jesus or Mohammed. Those who feel aggrieved, do not play their own right, but get to court.

For various reasons people come to the Netherlands. For example, on the run from war or political persecution, to seek employment or to marry. GroenLinks wants sober deal with migration.

People who are refugees entitled to protection. They may Netherlands asylum. Applicants should have sufficient time and opportunity to tell their story. They are entitled to a speedy but careful decision. If their asylum application procedure, they may work and learn and are entitled to health care. In the reception of asylum seekers should take into account the vulnerability of children.

Green Left believes that people who are persecuted in their own country and can not return in the Netherlands should continue. People who are not refugees, and provided that the country should leave, should not jobless and returning to their country of origin is not yet possible. This prevents people illegally in our country. Failed asylum seekers should only be taken if alien detention clearly demonstrated that they return to their home country to work.

Workers who contribute to our economy should easily be able to get a temporary permit to work here and study. GroenLinks strives for a common European policy on labor. Migrant workers from countries of the European Union are free to work in The Netherlands.

Marriage Migrants and children in the Netherlands with their parent (s) to add, should have access to fair play.

Everyone has the right to family life. Marriage for migrants from outside the European Union will apply the same income test as EU citizens. The age limit is 18 years. There is an integration requirement in

The Netherlands instead of abroad, and a training course: authorized partners go, if zij no qualification for the labor market, tailor-made training follow. For the training costs can be a form of student aid applications.

Free speech is a great thing. Green Left is very important that cartoonists, comedians, theater artists, opinion makers, politicians, protesters can express themselves freely. Although we wholeheartedly disagree with someone. It is unacceptable if people are critically endangered because of religious expression.

Source: GreenLeft's policy statements

Scores:

Jan Peter Balkenende (Christian Democratic Appeal)	3/10
Job Cohen (Dutch Labour Party)	7/10
Emile Roemer (Socialist Party)	7/10
Mark Rutte (People's Party for Freedom and Democracy)	5/10
Geert Wilders (Party for Freedom)	2/10
Femke Halsema (GreenLeft)	7.5/10

Rational for scores:

Balkenende's immigration policy is Euro-centric, Dutch-centric, anti-immigrant, inconsistent with Dutch western values such as freedom of expression, encourages brain drain from other countries, in denial of cultural and ethnic diversity of the Netherlands, and overall reactionary and controlling.

Specifically the Balenende's policy promotes stricter immigrant integration, stricter requirements for family reunification, and marriage migration, stricter requirements for migration, and supports restrictions on Dutch Muslims.

The score of 3 derived from Balkenende's partial understanding democratic values, some of the limits to Dutch immigration, and social cohesion.

Cohen's policy is all embracing, and demonstrates an understanding of the ethnic dynamic of Dutch society. Also, the policy upholds Dutch democratic values and values of human dignity, equality, and solidarity.

The score of 7 as opposed to a higher score derived from lack of policy specifics.

Roemer's policy is based on democratic values, anti-brain drain, and demonstrates a respect for immigrants, which is lacking in Balkenende's policy.

The score of 7 as opposed to a higher score derived from lack of policy specifics. Rutte's policy is anti-immigration, anti-immigrant, and Dutch-centric, and yet at the same time, anti-integration and anti-immigration bureaucracy. Consequently, Rutte received a score of 5.

Wilder's policy is backward in terms of the cultural and ethnic diversity of the Netherlands, and an appeal to a nationalistic, ideal Dutch state. His score of 2 reflects his ideal vision.

Haselma's policy has the most developed immigration policy which is in the better interest of the Dutch people. The policy is anti-integration, respects Dutch democratic values, value based, tolerant, and looks at immigration policy from the immigrants' standpoint.

The score of 7.5 reflects the overall broadmindedness of Haselma's policy. A higher score would have been awarded if her policy had more specifics.

Overall Ranking:

Femke Halsema (GreenLeft)	75% B+
Job Cohen (Dutch Labour Party)	70% B
Emile Roemer (Socialist Party)	70% B
Mark Rutte (People's Party for Freedom and Democracy)	50% D
Jan Peter Balkenende (Christian Democratic Appeal)	30% F
Geert Wilders (Party for Freedom)	20% F

The lower the grade, the less satisfactory the candidate is. The higher the grade, the more satisfactory the candidate is.

Analysis:

Three of the six candidates received more than satisfactory grades, while three other candidates received near failing or failing grades.

Conclusion:

The evaluation of Dutch immigration policies resulted in a 50-50 split between broadminded immigration policies versus narrow-minded immigration policies. The split reflects the division Dutch society and Europe as a whole is facing regarding immigration.

In terms of the well-being and better interests of Dutch society, and from the standpoint of immigration, it would be positive if Femke Halsema (GreenLeft), Job Cohen (Dutch Labour Party), and/or Emile Roemer (Socialist Party) were elected to the 2010 Dutch government. On the contrary, if none of these parties or their policies on immigration are part of the next Dutch government, then it does not bode well for the future development of Dutch society.