

Building on Trust.

**Our Choices for
a Decent Country.**



Foreword.

“

Politics that is honest about what must be done and hopeful about what can be achieved.

FOREWORD

The Netherlands is a beautiful country. Every day, many Dutch people devote themselves to making our country a little better. Police officers, nurses, and teachers work with dedication on safety, healthcare, and education. Volunteers commit themselves to local associations, caregivers do not abandon their loved ones, entrepreneurs create jobs, and in families, children are lovingly raised. By caring for one another, they contribute to something greater. By taking responsibility, the Netherlands can move forward.

At the same time, many people feel uncertainty. We are less safe in Europe than we once thought, international conflicts enter our living rooms daily, and we see how new technologies profoundly change our lives. Closer to home, we notice society becoming harsher.

In such times, you expect politics to take responsibility and dare to make courageous choices. You expect politics to start from values, to be focused on the long term, and to keep the common good in mind. Politics that is able to unite instead of divide.

Unfortunately, that is increasingly lacking. Politics too often seems to be part of the problem rather than part of the solution. The past years have shown that political experiments and bending along with populist politics mostly produces more chaos and spectacle. But solutions and results fail to appear. This is a great disservice to our country.

For many Dutch people, the most important question in the parliamentary elections of October 29 is therefore: which politics will move the Netherlands forward again?

The CDA chooses responsibility, decency, and trust as the way forward. Politics that is honest about what must be done and hopeful about what can be achieved. Politics that does what is necessary.

The Netherlands has everything it needs to move forward again. We have an engaged society, full of people of goodwill who dedicate themselves to others. We have a strong economy, with companies not only focused on making profits but also on contributing to society. If politics too starts acting normally again, working together, and making thoughtful plans, nothing will hold us back from getting the Netherlands moving again.

We therefore believe that things really can be different. And better. That is why three choices are central in our election program.

First, politics must put its house in order. We want politics that focuses on what truly matters: an affordable home in a safe neighborhood, good care for those who need it, investing in defense, and workable laws to keep migration manageable. The government cannot solve all problems, and we must be honest about that. But what the government does, it must do well.

Progress also requires investing in a future-oriented economy. Entrepreneurship must once again be enjoyable and politically rewarded. We want to give room to innovation and entrepreneurial spirit. That is why we invest in research, stimulate innovation, and strengthen our regions. We invest in people through lifelong learning. Because a fair and strong economy is the foundation for a prosperous Netherlands, now and in the future.

Finally, the CDA chooses an engaged society. A decent country is a country where we look out for one another and respect each other. We have a robust agenda to give new weight to our values and norms. We want more attention and fewer rules for the soft forces: associations, volunteers, and caregivers. With national service and firm integration requirements, we ensure that everyone participates. We strengthen our democracy and cherish traditions.

With these choices, we are building a decent country.

A decent country is our promise for a better Netherlands. A country built on trust. With fewer rules and more freedom. With more solidarity and more respect.

Most Dutch people are of good will. We care for one another, work hard, and think of others as well. For these people, we want politics to once again do what is necessary.

Because things really can be different.

Henri Bontenbal

Political Leader of the CDA

Our core choices for a decent country.

PUTTING THINGS IN ORDER

- 1 Housing first** – We put home seekers at the center of our proposals by committing to build 100,000 new homes every year. The principle of “adding a little street” will be expanded into “adding a new neighborhood,” so that young people can continue to live in their own towns and cities. We will make it harder to delay housing projects through endless legal procedures, limiting the path to the Council of State. The mortgage interest deduction will be gradually phased out, while at the same time lowering income taxes by the same amount. In this way, homes will become more affordable in the long run.
- 2 More control over migration** – We call for a new international asylum system. Asylum applications will be processed outside of Europe, putting an end to human smuggling. Rejected asylum seekers who refuse to cooperate with return procedures will face criminal liability. In the Netherlands, we will only introduce workable laws that keep migration manageable. We will implement the dispersal law, so the chaos in asylum reception ends and the excessive costs of using hotels for asylum seekers are eliminated.
- 3 Safer neighborhoods** – We will seize criminal assets and reinvest them back into affected neighborhoods. Drug-related crime has no place in the Netherlands: “your line is his liquidation.” We will end the cannabis legalization experiment. As long as it continues, we will impose a cannabis tax.
- 4 Caring for one another** – Solidarity will remain the foundation of our healthcare system. Care must be accessible and close to home. Reforms are needed: basic care should be provided regionally, while complex care is concentrated to ensure the highest quality. To keep healthcare affordable, the honest truth is that people will need to contribute more themselves, but we will support those with high medical costs. We will reverse the reduction of the deductible, since it only drives up insurance premiums. Healthcare fraud will be tackled much more strictly.
- 5 Predictable income** – We will reform the tax system so that work pays off more. The state pension (AOW) is and will remain the basic pension for all seniors, providing long-term security. Benefits and allowances will be paid automatically and directly, eliminating mistakes and retroactive claims. We will introduce a single national payday for all income-related arrangements.

Our core choices for a decent country.

A RESPONSIBLE AND ENGAGED SOCIETY

1

Democratic ethos - We will restore order by ensuring politics takes responsibility and conducts itself with decency. In the House of Representatives, we will introduce a motion quota so that debates once again focus on what truly matters. All political parties must be internally democratically organized. The Senate will be elected every three years, alternating between 38 and 37 seats, with terms of six years.

2

A resilient society in a strong Europe – The major challenges of our time demand a strong Europe. For the safety of the Netherlands and Europe, we will invest in defense, as agreed at the NATO summit in The Hague. We will make space in the budget for this. Every Dutch citizen will contribute to freedom, because security is not free. We will reintroduce compulsory military service, ensuring there are always enough people ready to defend us. Freedom and safety require everyone's commitment. Contributions can also be made through community service, reservist duty, or local crisis response teams.

3

Higher demands on integration – Residence permit holders must complete compulsory integration; failure to do so means losing their status. Their children will be required to attend early childhood education programs to ensure they quickly catch up at school. Labor migrants who stay longer will follow language courses. Only asylum seekers with strong prospects will gain faster access to the labor market, and we will make a strong push to get residence permit holders into work.

4

Strong families – We will provide better support to families by merging child benefits and the child-related budget into one simple, more generous scheme. A single, broader arrangement will allow both parents paid leave during their child's first year. We will protect children from targeted marketing and introduce mandatory age verification for social media.

5

Looking out for one another – We will abolish the “cost-sharing norm” in the Social Assistance Act, so that adults can share a home without penalty. Caregiver housing units may be built permit-free on one's own property. Informal caregivers will receive more respite support, such as temporary stay care, to help them sustain their care for loved ones.

Our core choices for a decent country.

A FAIR AND STRONG ECONOMY FOR A PROSPEROUS NETHERLANDS

- 1 Investing in our earning power** – We will give entrepreneurs confidence through stability, clarity, and consistency in policy. Entrepreneurs and businesses are the foundation of our economy. We will establish a national investment bank to stimulate investments in the Netherlands. In addition, we will invest in innovation, R&D, and scientific research to strengthen our future earning capacity.
- 2 A sustainable economy** – A sustainable economy can only be achieved with a European approach and a level playing field within Europe. That is why we will adhere to the European climate goals and align the Dutch Climate Act with them. We will abolish the national CO₂ levy, as we do not want to drive businesses away. Instead, we want green industrial policy. We will make binding agreements with the largest polluters and opt for a balanced mix of sustainable energy, nuclear power, energy savings, and CO₂ storage. Ambition and realism must go hand in hand.
- 3 Unlocking the Netherlands** – We will do what is necessary to allow businesses and farmers to thrive again. We will work together to achieve nitrogen targets, but also set standards that must be met by 2035 and earlier. We will re-establish the nitrogen fund to provide farmers with perspective and safeguard our world-class food production. We will accelerate solutions to the electricity grid bottlenecks, so companies can expand again.
- 4 Security in the labor market** – Together with employers and trade unions, we will continue on the path of giving employees more security while keeping entrepreneurship attractive. We will reform the disability insurance system, which after twenty years is in urgent need of renewal. We will invest in lifelong learning, ensuring everyone can adapt to changes in the labor market.
- 5 Thriving regions** – We will invest in livable cities and regions, ensuring good accessibility by car and train. This will make large-scale housing development possible across the country. Together with large companies, SMEs, start-ups, and educational institutions, we will strengthen economic clusters that make regions more resilient and prosperous.

