

NSC European Parliament

# A brief summary of our political choices



## 1 European security

We must defend Europe's free democracy, together. We offer our full support to Ukraine. We are not in a strong position, however. Our defence in Europe is not in order. National defence and arms production in Europe are in dire need of reinforcement, offering great potential for investment in the Netherlands. Europe must unite, particularly NATO's European allies. In addition to physical defence, digital protection is also urgently needed. Only Europe can adequately address this.

### This has concrete consequences for our choices:

- Reinforcement is extremely expensive. We will tackle this challenge in part by increasing our defence budget to at least 2% of our gross domestic product. Other member states that are also members of NATO must do so too.
- We are moving billions in unspent subsidies from the European coronavirus recovery fund and other funds to investments in European innovation and production capacity for arms and munitions.



## 2 Europe's external borders

We want to limit the large influx of migrants in Europe who end up in the Netherlands fairly often to regular migration. This means selection at the external borders. We are in favour of a generous admission of refugees who have suffered personal persecution because of their religion, opinions, orientation or ethnicity. Of the total flow of migrants, this is a small group. The large group of migrants fleeing war and poverty must be accommodated in their own region of origin, severely restricting their ability to come to Europe. Since, for Ukrainians, Europe is this region, they can rely on temporary protection in Europe. Asylum seekers from safe countries have a low probability of being granted asylum, and will, in principle, be barred. The remaining asylum seekers likely to be granted asylum are distributed fairly among all member states for the procedure and receive humane reception. We are also going to severely restrict labour and educational migration. To achieve this, we will make agreements with European countries on internal labour migration that stipulate requirements for housing, integration, knowledge level and added value.

### This has concrete consequences for our choices:

- More funds must be allocated to Frontex which protects Europe's external borders. The EU may offer support for the protection of the external borders with fences or barriers.
- The EU migration pact that distributes asylum seekers across the EU is also in need of a strong executive organisation. This agency is returning people who don't have the right to be in the Netherlands.
- The reception of asylum seekers in third countries must be possible.
- Should the EU migration policy prove not to work and restrictions on migration fail, the Netherlands should reintroduce reinforced controls at its own national

borders within two years, together with other like-minded EU countries ('Schengen asylum policy'). In this last instance, it must be possible for the Netherlands, like Denmark, to opt out of the common asylum policy. This could be handled through a treaty amendment, for example.



### 3 European economic stability

High budget deficits and member state debts threaten the stability of the eurozone and put pensions and livelihoods at risk. We do not want a debt and transfer union where conscientious countries like the Netherlands have to compensate for other countries' deficits. We must safeguard the future of industry as well as energy and food security on our continent through sound industrial policy, encouraging innovation and countering unfair competition from other continents.

#### This has concrete consequences for our choices:

- The European Central Bank must revert to its mandate: limit inflation instead of buying out debt or chasing climate goals. The fiscal discipline of all member states must be maintained.
- We oppose new European funds financed by loans.
- We need an urgent plan for energy and food security (including medicines) on our continent.
- Cross-border fraud and tax evasion by the ultra-wealthy and large corporations must be addressed.
- Our business community must become more geopolitically competitive through measures such as a reduction in stacked regulations, strengthening of industry, support for companies in their climate transition efforts, and putting a stop to unfair competition from countries such as China.



### 4 Nieuw Sociaal Contract is synonymous with good governance

The European Union takes a firm stand when it comes to the rule of law, democracy and freedom of speech. This is our foundation. In our view, countries that do not guarantee this are not worth a single European penny, and definitely not billions in aid. And in those areas where the EU fails to deliver on its policies, we should also be allowed to return powers to the Netherlands. This is also democracy. The sovereignty of the Netherlands and other member states must not be stealthily eroded. The responsibility for designing and implementing agreed-upon goals lies with national governments, and includes climate, soil protection, nature recovery, social security, healthcare, culture, and a sense of community with our own traditions and norms. We want to expand the powers of the Lower House in the creation of European legislation rather than expanding the European Parliament's right of initiative.

#### This has concrete consequences for our choices:

- No money should go to countries in the EU (and beyond) that undermine the rule of law or free democracy/freedom of speech and religion.
- Dutch government leaders cast their votes in the European Council of Ministers in line with the Lower House's wishes. If they don't, they must resign.
- The European Council of Ministers makes its reports public.
- In the event of EU expansion or agreement by the Lower House to amend a treaty, citizens have the right to hold a corrective referendum.

- The European Parliament must become more recognisable and smaller, decreasing from over 700 members to a maximum of 500, and hold elections by region. We also feel that the remuneration of employees in the service of the European Union could be more modest.
- The European Union and its institutions will be held to the same high standards of good governance and democracy as the member states. Several measures are required to achieve this, such as EU accession to the Council of Europe.