



## THE NEW CABINET

**PRIME MINISTER:** Mark Rutte (VVD). Worked in industry to 2002. PM since 2010. Still teaches at trade school one day a week

**FINANCE** Wopke Hoekstra (CDA). A partner with McKinsey and a senator since 2011. Wrote the CDA manifesto

**SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT** Wouter Koolmees (D66). Civil servant and an MP since 2010. Key role in the coalition talks.

**ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND CLIMATE** Eric Wiebes (VVD). Struggled with reorganizing the tax office in Rutte's second government.

**AGRICULTURE, DEPUTY PM** Carola Schouten (CU). A parliamentary party worker to 2011 when she became an MP.

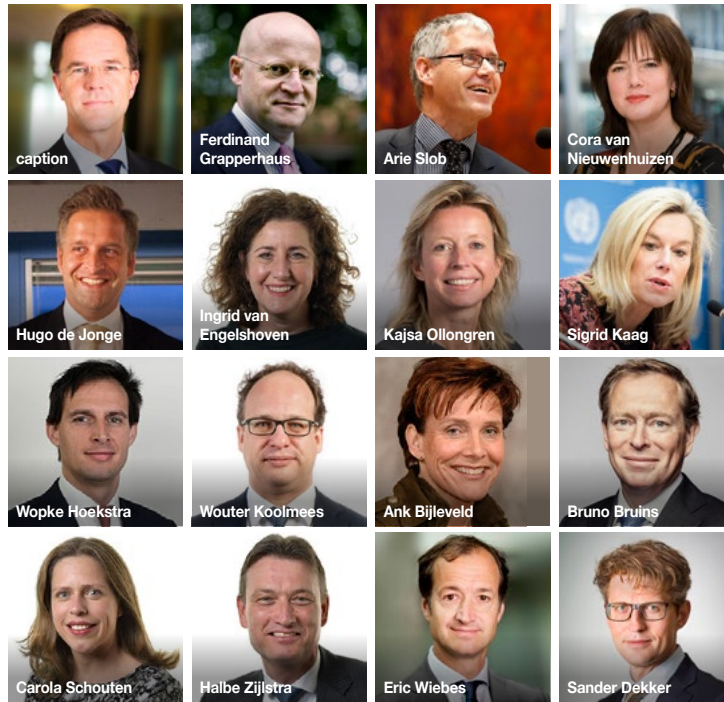
**JUSTICE AND SECURITY** Sander Dekker (VVD). Junior ed. minister since 2013. Alderman (education and finance) in Rotterdam.

**JUSTICE AND SECURITY** Ferdinand Grapperhaus (CDA). Professor of European labour law in Maastricht, member of the SER advisory body.

**DEFENCE** Ank Bijleveld (CDA). An MP in 1989, Bijleveld has been king's commissioner in Overijssel since 2011.

**SCHOOLS AND MEDIA** Arie Slob (CU). A teacher by profession, Slob was elected to parliament in 2001.

## Rutte III: more parties, more ministers but less diversity



Given that Mark Rutte's new cabinet is the first Dutch government in 40 years to draw its members from four different parties, its line-up, is strikingly homogenous. The team of 24 ministers and junior ministers (staatssecretarissen) comprises 14 men and 10 women. Rutte has acknowledged there is a lack of female ministers, but argued 'what counts in the end is that we have the best people.' More striking is the lack of ethnic diversity. None of the 24 ministers has a non-European background and just one, Croatian-born Barbara Visser, originates from outside the Netherlands. Home affairs minister Kajsa Ollongren is the only dual national, with Dutch

and Swedish passports and is also the first openly gay politician to be appointed deputy prime minister. The cabinet also has a narrower age span than its predecessor, with 40-year-old Schouten the youngest member while Ferdinand Grapperhaus (CDA justice minister) is the most senior at 57. Although a largely new team, just one member – Menno Snel who will take charge of the tax office – has no political experience and, according to the Volkskrant, was not even a member of D66 before his appointment. The cabinet also has a strong Rotterdam accent, with 10 of the 24 members having a connection with the port city.

## COALITION PLANS

### Taxes and finance

- Switch from 4 to 2 tax bands
- Top rate cut to 49.5%, lower rate to 37%
- 30% ruling cut from 8 to 5 years
- Tax free limit for asset tax to rise to €30,000
- Low btw rate to rise to 9%
- Energy taxes to rise
- Tax on tobacco go up

### Work

- Minimum pay rate for freelancers of at least €15
- Paid paternity leave to go up to 5 days plus five weeks on 70% of pay from 2020
- Pension system to be overhauled
- Permanent contracts after 3 not 2 years

### Corporate

- Corporate taxes cut to 21% and 16% for up to €200,000
- Sick pay cut for small firms
- 15% dividend on shares to go
- Measures to protect Dutch firms against activist shareholders
- New measures to stop tax evasion including black list
- Introduction of tax on royalties
- Road pricing to be introduced for freight transport

### Climate

- New national climate and energy agreement involving all stakeholders
- More offshore wind farms
- No new homes will have gas heating
- By 2030, CO2 down 50%
- All coal power stations closed by 2030

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**EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SCIENCE** Ingrid van Engelshoven (D66). Alderman in The Hague, now an MP

**CARE OF THE ELDERLY, DEPUTY PM** Hugo de Jonge (CDA). Alderman in Rotterdam (education, youth, care) since 2010.

**HEALTH, WELFARE AND SPORT** Bruno Bruins (VVD). Currently chair of state jobs agency UWV.

**HOME AND KINGDOM AFFAIRS, DEPUTY PM** Kajsa Ollongren (D66). Was Mark Rutte's secretary general then Amsterdam alderman.

**FOREIGN AFFAIRS** Halbe Zijlstra (VVD). An MP since 2006. Known as a hardliner, he has called for a 'realistic foreign policy'.

**FOREIGN TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT** Sigrid Kaag (D66). UN representative in Lebanon since 2014.

**INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT** Cora van Nieuwenhuizen (VVD). All-rounder and an MEP since 2014

**Junior ministers**

**INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT** Stientje van Veldhoven (D66). Sitting MP.

**FINANCE (TAX)** Menno Snel (D66). No prior political experience, IMF and Waterschapsbank

**SOCIAL AFFAIRS** Tamara van Ark (VVD). Sitting MP, focus on long-term care

**ECONOMIC AFFAIRS** Mona Keijzer (CDA). Sitting MP, focus on care, culture

**IMMIGRATION** Mark Harbers (VVD). Sitting MP, focus on finance

**DEFENCE:** Barbara Visser (VVD). Sitting MP, focus on housing

**HEALTH, WELFARE AND SPORT** Paul Blokhuis (CU). Apeldoorn alderman, focus on care, welfare

**HOME AFFAIRS** Raymond Knops (CDA). Sitting MP, focus on defence, asylum

**The opposition gets ready. Nine parties fight to be heard**



The four parties making up the new coalition have a majority of just one seat in the lower house of parliament, so the knives from the nine opposition parties will be out from the word go. PVV leader Geert Wilders, with 20 MPs the second biggest party, has already attacked several of the new ministers for what he calls their links to terrorism. Of the new entrants this March, Thierry Baudet of the Forum voor Democratie, has shown himself to be a master of theatrics while on the

other side of the political spectrum, GroenLinks leader Jesse Klaver, who pulled out of the coalition talks despite coming fifth in the election with 14 seats, will be keeping a close eye on the cabinet's ambitious plans to combat climate change. Labour (PvdA) leader Lodewijk Asscher, social affairs minister in the previous administration, has also been quick to make a noise, calling on the new government to abandon its plans to cut spending on district nursing.

**COALITION PLANS**

**Foreign policy and defence**

- €40m to for diplomatic service
- €1bn extra for development aid
- €1.5 bn in extra spending on defence

**Refugees and migration**

- More options for dual nationality
- Tougher standards for inburgering courses
- No social benefits for refugees for 2 years
- No change to child refugee amnesty
- Refugee permits for 3 not 5 years

**Education**

- €770m for primary school teachers
- Stronger focus on good citizenship
- Compulsory lessons in the Wilhelmus
- First year university fees halved to €1006
- No return for student grants

**Healthcare**

- 'Broad social discussion' on euthanasia
- No change to embryo law
- €2.1bn allocated nursing homes
- Own risk payment remains €385

**Housing**

- Mortgage deduction cut to 37% by 2023
- Mortgage-free homes to be liable for extra tax

**Crime**

- Higher fines for serious traffic offences
- Experiments in regulated marijuana production
- Pimping will be banned
- Official register for prostitutes
- Revenge porn to be illegal

**Other**

- Moves towards elected mayors
- Anti-discrimination legislation cover handicaps and sexual orientation

For the full text of the agreement, go to: <http://www.dutchnews.nl/wpcms/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Dutch-coalition-agreement-2017.pdf>

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