

A plan of global importance



**Partij voor
de Dieren**

European Parliamentary Elections

6 June 2024

Extensive Election Programme

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Everything of value is vulnerable. Our soil, the air we breathe, the water we drink, our health and our safety; our natural environment and our oceans comprise the foundations of both human and animal existence.

The current economic system, which is directed at infinite growth, exploits the Earth and has rendered all that is truly of value as good as inconsequential. This can – and must – change! A better world is not far away, because we know what is needed to achieve this. In fact, we already have the solutions at hand – all that is needed is for us to dare to take the plunge. We are fed up with procrastination, half-measures and resounding words that are not translated into concrete action.

The Party for the Animals gives those who cannot defend themselves a voice in the European Parliament, together with our European sister parties, societies for the protection of animals, climate strikers, nature lovers and millions of citizens who understand that things can – and must – change.

In the time ahead, it is up to the European Union to prove that the tentative green course set out in 2019 marked the start of the green transition our society so desperately needs. After less than five years, it seems that our European political leaders are already making a swing in the opposite direction.

The Party for the Animals aims to show that a different approach is possible, just like we have in the past few years: by putting the change that is needed and the fate of animals on the agenda, and by fighting for the ideals that enable this change.

We have a vision of the future without mega-barns, a future where stray dogs in European countries are no longer put down at killing stations, where mink and rabbits are not made into fur collars, and where cruelly long animal transports and the cruelty and suffering connected with these have become obsolete.

We believe in a healthy planet, burgeoning with riches for all its inhabitants. We are fighting to ensure that clean rivers once again flow through our countries, that we can live in cities with more green spaces, that we can breathe clean air and dive into the sea without having to worry about pollution, that we can bite into an apple without the risk of ingesting agricultural toxins.

And this future can be just around the corner! The Party for the Animals has already achieved a lot. Over the past few years, the party finally managed to secure a number of concrete commitments. A definitive stop would be put to caging animals in the livestock industry. It was announced that long animal transports would be abolished. A motion was put forward to adopt legal measures for the better protection of cats and dogs. Also, a start was made to tackling environmental pollution, the loss of nature reserves, the use of hazardous agricultural toxins, and climate change.

However, with the approaching elections, some European leaders want to reverse this progress. Many of the proposals to the benefit of animals and our planet that political parties had promised to support were postponed or diluted at the very last moment due to the pressure exerted by representatives of commercial interests. The current protection of animals in the wild, such as wolves, is also in acute danger.

Animals, nature and the environment are once again at risk of falling victim to the untenable choices made in Brussels to accede to agrarian protests, lobbyists representing large polluting companies, and the idea that voters care nothing about nature, the environment, or animals.

Our failure to take decisive action today to safeguard the liveability of our planet and to change the way we treat animals will ultimately affect humans as well.

In a world plagued by wars and humanitarian crises, our party avidly supports human rights, democracy, and solidarity.

We support victims of war and violence in word and deed. When countries or population groups are faced with aggression, we speak up and support measures to safeguard fundamental rights such as territorial integrity, freedom of the press, and the right to live your life in a way that expresses your identity.

At the same time, we remain vigilant in ensuring unfaltering attention to the plight of animals, nature, and the environment.

The tentative green course that Brussels has finally set after unrelenting campaigning, is at stake in the coming elections. An advocate of a greener world such as the Party for the Animals is of global importance, particularly today.

Will we protect our natural environment or will we protect the interests of the agro-industry?
Will we put a halt to global warming or will we allow oil companies to keep pumping until the last drop?
Will we close our eyes to animals made to suffer in cages and during long, cruel transports?
Or will we do everything in our power to keep our planet liveable for people and animals, now and in the future?

**This is the moment
to decide. Join us in the
fight for a sustainable
future.**

**Vote for the
Party for the Animals.**



PROFIT
OVER PEOPLE

1.

A liveable Earth

**Solving the climate and nature crises,
fairly and interconnectedly**

The greatest challenge facing our generation is to make our planet liveable again and to keep it that way for all its inhabitants. We can solve the nature and climate crises by embracing a new way of thinking and doing. By putting the well-being of people and other animals first. By giving nature all the space it needs to thrive. By holding polluters accountable for their actions. By supporting people who need our help. Through collaboration, both within the EU and beyond. And, finally, by solving the challenges of our time interconnectedly.

The Climate Panel of the United Nations has sounded the alarm about the massive destruction of our living environment as the result of the climate crisis. Nature and biodiversity, which comprise the foundation of our existence, are under pressure. Species are dying out and habitats are shrinking. The deterioration of nature and the pollution of our soil, our air and our water are jeopardising our food supply. A scarcity of resources and raw materials is leading to ever-growing international tension.

We have exceeded the ecological limits of our planet. The security of our sustained livelihood is at stake. For decades, numerous scientists have been telling us about the problems – and the solutions. Governments are not really listening to what they are saying, which already has tremendous consequences: flooding, forest fires, droughts and extreme temperatures are becoming the order of the day. The most vulnerable among us are always hit the hardest. Fast and far-reaching changes are imperative to meet our promise of not exceeding the 1.5°C global warming limit and to allow nature to restore itself.

The climate and nature crises must be resolved fairly. Only then can we restore citizens' trust and gain everyone's support. This means that we have to ensure a fair distribution of burdens and benefits. We must ensure that major polluters are held accountable for the damage they cause, instead of letting the most vulnerable inhabitants of Europe and beyond foot the bill. Acting in the interests of sustainability and animal-friendliness will ultimately be to our benefit. Grants will go to those who need them most and truly contribute to achieving our goal: a liveable Earth for all.

According to scientists, the causes of the climate and nature crises are interconnected, and so are the solutions. It is therefore imperative that we stop focusing exclusively on reducing carbon dioxide emissions, and extend our gaze. Nature offers the solutions we need to resolve both crises. We have to let go of the illusion that we can resolve these crises with even more technology, even more renewable energy and even more economic growth.

It's no use inventing a better mop to dry the floor if the tap is left running.

This is why we must jointly strive for a different Europe: a Europe that places the well-being of people and other animals above corporate gains. The Party for the Animals tackles problems at the root. We aim to abolish the livestock industry, strive for a fossil-free Europe, protect and restore nature, ban the use of hazardous toxins in products and close loops – for a liveable Earth for all of us.

A bright green Europe

Partly thanks to the growing movement of climate strikers, animal protectors, and environmental activists, the European Union has been setting course for a greener world ever since the 2019 elections. The European Commission presented the Green Deal, which included plans to better protect nature, combat climate change, tackle pollution, and enhance the sustainability and animal friendliness of our food system. However, this greener course encountered the resistance of established interests that benefit from the current polluting economy. Oil and gas companies, chemical companies and the agro-industry all lobbied intensively against this, with thousands of lobbyist and huge budgets – and unfortunately they were successful. Crucial elements of the Green Deal were abandoned and others have come under pressure. The Party for the Animals is following scientists. They believe that the Green Deal should be far more ambitious in order to keep our planet habitable.

- The climate and nature crises can only be resolved interconnectedly. We want a Green Deal 1.5 that will enable us to live within the limits of the Earth's carrying capacity. An ambitious and all-encompassing investment and transformation plan will be drawn up, supported by democracy, regulations and public scrutiny.
- One of the key pillars of the current Green Deal will be shifted: rather than striving for economic growth, we will work towards the realisation of an economy that remains within the Earth's carrying capacity, in line with the 1.5-degree goal and without wasting energy and resources.

- We want to protect and improve ecosystems, to safeguard their continued existence and to protect the health and well-being of people. Climate justice is an important element in our plans.
- Under the leadership of the Party for the Animals, the European Parliament has drawn up vitally important, ambitious plans to reform our food system. This Farm-to-Fork strategy will be implemented as soon as possible.

Climate justice

Climate action is a top priority for us. This is not an isolated battle but deeply interwoven with the ecological crisis and the battle for human rights. We are fighting for decent jobs, a healthy standard of living, gender equality, and fair treatment of and equal opportunities for all. We oppose policy that subordinates the very cornerstones of our existence – such as the availability of clean water, energy and unpolluted air – and our health to profit.

- The EU will listen to independent scientists, rather than the fossil fuels lobby.
- Climate justice will be included in the legal framework of the EU, just like animal rights and rights for nature.
- Polluters will be made to pay for climate policy. We will spare vulnerable and marginalised people and guarantee the right to equal access to energy.
- We aim to achieve an inclusive climate policy, with proper consideration for groups that are disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis. In this, everyone will be heard, including young people.
- The EU will compensate countries in the global South for damage arising from pollution, exploitation and climate change. The Netherlands and the whole of Europe will make an honest contribution to an effective loss and damage fund for countries that are the victims of the climate crisis. This fund will be managed justly and fairly.
- A European action plan will be drawn up to combat the desertification of Southern Europe.

- During the transition from fossil fuel to green energy, account will also be taken of the violation of environmental regulations and human rights in connection with the production of cobalt for lithium batteries, such as in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where cobalt miners work under atrocious circumstances. An effort will be made to reduce energy consumption and strict requirements will be imposed on the import of the cobalt needed to achieve a sustainable mix of energy.
- Fresh water is becoming more and more costly due to climate change. Building dams allows countries located upstream to appropriate more river water at the expense of downstream countries. The European Union will therefore no longer grant permission for dams to be built in rivers that discharge outside of Europe.

Criminalisation of ecocide

Environmental crime poses a tremendous threat to nature, our environment and our health. It pollutes our air, soil and water, causes damage to species living in the wild animal and destroys ecosystems. Proper law enforcement and effective environmental criminal law are therefore a crucial element in the implementation of the human right to good health and a clean environment.

- The deliberate infliction of serious harm to ecosystems (“ecocide”) will be criminalised. Ecocide will be included in the Environmental Crime Directive as a crime.
- The EU will advocate for installing an International Environmental Court to prosecute cases of environmental conflict.
- The International Court of Law will be given the authority to prosecute corporations, countries and individuals for ecocide.
- All European countries will upscale their investments in the tracking down and tackling of environmental crime.
- Environmental rights and access to environmental information will be better safeguarded in the EU.

- If EU Member States fail to comply with European legislation for the protection of humans, animals, nature and the environment, the European Commission must take action sooner than is currently the case, e.g. by initiating infringement proceedings.

Shoulders to the wheel: towards a green planet

As one of the richest continents and one of the main culprits of climate change, Europe carries a great responsibility in taking the lead in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and in working towards the restoration of our climate. The era of voluntary social responsibility is over. The shared responsibility borne by countries for keeping the Earth liveable will be translated into genuine climate action. The EU will take the lead in this, set the correct example and will not deter the Member States in their individual ambitions, but rather reprimand them if they fail to keep up with the set course.

- The EU will take a leading role in producing global binding agreements on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and on measures to stop global warming, and will comply with these. We aim for an international treaty to keep fossil fuels in the ground and to refrain from starting up new fossil fuel projects anywhere in the world.
- Within a UN context, the EU will do everything in its power to formulate a far-reaching agenda for sustainable development, including ambitious global sustainability targets based on human rights, the Earth’s carrying capacity and rights for animals and nature.
- We will sharpen our climate goals. The period from now to 2030 is of crucial importance to limiting global warming to 1.5 °C at most. This is why the European Union will be reducing the emission of greenhouse gas at an accelerated pace: by 75% in 2030 (in comparison to 1990). Europe will be truly CO2 neutral by 2040 at the latest. We will set to work on settling our historic debt by becoming climate positive, meaning that we will absorb more greenhouse gases in a natural way than we emit.

- Action plans, comprising binding agreements with a view to ensuring the equitable distribution of efforts, will be drawn up for each branch of industry individually. The agricultural industry and the international shipping and aviation sectors will no longer be given preferential treatment in terms of emissions: ambitious and binding reduction targets will be imposed. We expect European corporations to transform their business operations and conduct their business in a manner that is not detrimental to the Earth. The EU will provide support by protecting them from competition from non-European countries, where manufacturing standards are lower.
- As long as the EU Emission Trading System (ETS) is still in place, it will be brought in line with the goal of achieving climate neutrality by 2040. We will drastically lower the emission ceiling, which will result in an increase in the price of CO₂. Free rights will no longer be issued. When companies are liquidated, their emission rights will be confiscated immediately. The Party for the Animals aims to impose binding reduction goals on all branches of industry, including the energy sector and heavy industry. Companies should not have 'rights' to damage the climate.
- The EU will expand the carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM) at the European borders to include everything that is hazardous to our climate, such as the livestock industry. Everything that is being traded on the European market must at the very least satisfy European requirements. This is good for our climate, will help combat unemployment in Europe, and benefit the entire world.
- A climate-proof future is plant-based. The fastest, cheapest and healthiest climate measures imaginable are abolishing the livestock industry and providing support to farmers that produce plant-based products.
- We will prevent the deterioration of nature and invest in restoration: forests, moors and oceans are capable of storing carbon and are our best allies in the climate crisis.
- An obligation to meet climate goals will be imposed on large-scale polluters and financial institutions.

Corporations will be required to present a climate plan to demonstrate how and when they will diminish their impact on biodiversity and the climate throughout the entire supply chain. They will be required to issue an annual report on their environmental progress.

Energy conservation

Europe is addicted to fossil fuels. The EU needs to step up its energy policy to limit global warming to 1.5°C at most, as set down in the Paris Treaty. Energy conservation is the first and cheapest step towards a sustainable energy policy. Energy that is not used does not need to be produced. This also leads to extracting fewer resources in already vulnerable countries, at the expense of nature and human rights.

- Europe will conserve a significant amount of energy by means of binding national energy conservation goals.
- Strict rules will be applied to promote energy conservation, particularly among the largest consumers, such as the manufacturing industry.
- Energy-efficiency will become the standard in construction practices. By insulating houses and buildings, significantly reducing energy consumption, and generating energy locally and sustainably, more energy will be generated than consumed in the built-up environment.
- Existing houses will be optimally insulated with sustainable materials and equipped with solar panels. A fund, financed by the taxes imposed on fossil-fuel driven companies for the restoration of the damage they have caused, will be used to renovate homes. People with low incomes will be prioritised in the allocation of these benefits. The energy bills of the people with the least financial means in our society will be the first to be reduced.
- The EU will implement strict standards for the energy consumption of appliances, vehicles and data centres. Highly wasteful equipment, such as terrace heaters, will no longer be produced. The EU will put a stop to wasteful energy consumption by the extremely wealthy: private jets and superyachts will be abolished.

- A stop will be put to subsidies towards, or discounts on, energy taxes for large consumers. Member States will still be at liberty to impose higher taxes on non-sustainable energy.
- From now on, all investments in energy research by the European Union will focus on sustainable energy production and energy conservation.
- A single data centre consumes as much energy as hundreds of thousands of households. Green energy can be better put to use to provide households, schools and care centres with clean energy. Data minimisation will therefore become a priority in Europe. Significant restrictions will be imposed on the construction of new data centres. No data centres will be built at the bottom of the sea.
- The environmental impact of data centres must be drastically reduced. Stricter rules will be enforced with respect to the use of surface water for cooling purposes, for example.

Positive energy

Immediate and far-reaching action is needed to keep global warming under the 1.5°C mark. The agenda will no longer be determined by the fossil fuel industry and the market. We want energy to be in the hands of the public again. Our only chance lies in the sustainable, decentralised and accessible provision of energy. This is of crucial importance for nature and the environment, and will reduce our dependency on oil, gas and uranium-producing countries. Generating energy locally and at a small scale also offers good opportunities for green employment. The EU will invest heavily in this renewable future. By no longer allocating government grants to polluters but requiring them to pay for the damage they have caused instead, a lot of money will become available for a just climate policy.

- The right to sustainable, renewable energy will become a statutory right for all citizens. Nobody will be left in the cold.
- The EU will invest in the development of net capacity, sustainable energy and technology. The renewable energy goals need to become more ambitious. We want to genuinely generate all electricity sustainably by 2035.

The EU will subject all applications for permits for energy projects to a rigorous audit to test them on their impact on nature and the environment.

- The EU will become a fossil fuel-free society, at an accelerated pace. This means putting a stop to fossil fuel subsidies, investments and permits. Europe will reduce the extraction of coal and lignite. A plan will be introduced to gradually phase out coal-fired and gas-fired power plants. A stop will be put to the drilling for shale and coal gas. Highly polluting fossil fuels such as tar sand oil and shale gas will no longer be allowed into Europe.
- The EU will commit to the democratic and decentralised generation of energy and will support communities in their plans to achieve this. People must be able to make autonomous decisions regarding the sustainable provision of energy, and be able to take advantage of the benefits offered by sustainable energy.
- A levy will be imposed on fossil fuel companies such as Shell and BP to pay for the restoration of the damage they have caused in all countries where they conduct their business operations, both in Europe and beyond. They will no longer be given preferential treatment by politicians and policy-makers, and a ban will be imposed on advertisements for their destructive products.
- Sustainable and environmentally friendly solutions such as sun, wind and water will be used to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Nuclear energy, biomass and the underground storage of CO₂ are not included in these solutions, and will not be eligible for support, government funding or tax breaks.
- Home batteries and other forms of small-scale energy storage will become fully recyclable.
- Green hydrogen can be a solution for the future if it can be generated in a truly sustainable and ecologically friendly manner, without the use of nuclear energy or fossil fuels.
- The EU will facilitate a properly functioning and regulated energy market, in which polluters will pay the actual cost of the energy they consume. Investments will be made throughout Europe in smart energy grids that can meet the supply and demand for sustainable energy. The privacy of users and suppliers may not be infringed upon in this.

- Biomass and biofuels are misguided solutions that do more harm than good. A ban will be imposed as soon as possible on burning woody biomass for the generation of heat and electricity, for which purpose the Renewable Energy Directive will be amended. A stop will be put to the import of wood and palm oil for the production of energy, and bio-fuel blending obligations will be abolished.
- The livestock industry is responsible not only for immense food waste but also for a massive waste of energy. An enormous amount of agricultural land and energy is wasted on the production of fodder for these animals. The EU will stop facilitating the livestock industry and will stop advocating the use of misguided technology-based solutions such as air washers.
- Gas derived from manure and other agricultural waste cannot be deemed sustainable energy. This practice is keeping intensive livestock farming and deforestation alive. Manure fermenters will be abolished in the EU, and technology such as this will no longer be awarded a green label in Europe.
- A fund will be set up to retrain employees in the fossil industry and prepare them for jobs in the energy transition.

More nature

A million species of flora and fauna all over the world are threatened with extinction. Nature, with its variety of plants, animals and ecosystems, is our most valuable asset. Nature has an intrinsic value and for that alone, it deserves our careful protection. In addition, biodiversity in oceans and on land comprises the very foundation of our existence. Without healthy oceans and forests, there is no clean air for us to breathe. Without biodiversity, there is no healthy soil for us to grow our food in. It is our common duty to ensure a habitable planet, now and in the future. Despite strong opposition from the agricultural and fishing industry lobby and their political representatives, we managed to get a number of important legislative proposals for the benefit of nature adopted in the past few years, such as the Nature Restoration Law. But much more is needed!

- Nature will be accorded legal entity status and be legally entitled to protection, conservation, maintenance and restoration with a view to ensuring that its interests will be given greater weight in European decision-making.
- Everyone has the right to a green and healthy living environment. The EU will encourage the greening of urban areas. The EU will ensure that the brand-new Nature Restoration Law will be observed on this point and will take supplementary measures where necessary.
- The EU will stop allocating agricultural subsidies that are harmful to nature and use the money saved to help farmers in their transition to a plant-based business model. The EU will stop subsidising the fishing industry and help fishermen make the switch to a sustainable future.
- The enforcement of European nature conservation regulations, such as the Bird and Habitat Directive, the Nitrate Directive and emission ceilings for ammonia and nitrous oxides, will be tightened. Sanctions will be imposed on countries that fail to observe nature conservation laws.
- The EU will lead the way in tackling the global biodiversity crisis and will not wait for other world players to take action. We are calling for new, ambitious laws to combat the biodiversity crisis in Europe and beyond.
- The EU will encourage corporations to invest in nature-inclusive construction practices and ecological entrepreneurship.
- We want to remove the obstacles in European rivers that obstruct fish migration and kill many fish. New pumping stations and installations will be fish friendly. In the next five years, the EU will restore at least 25,000 km of rivers, so that they may flow freely again.
- At least 30% of European seas will be designated marine reserves. In these protected zones, fishing and other detrimental activities will not be permitted. Important breeding grounds, such as the Mediterranean Sea, where the endangered tuna spawns, will be closed against the hunting of these animals. Areas with carbon-rich sea floors will be identified and placed under strict protection.

- Fishing techniques that severely damage sea and seabed, such as deep-sea fisheries and beam-trawl fishing, will no longer be permitted.
- The EU will endeavour to create a global network of natural sites, on land as well as at sea. Vulnerable countries will receive support in protecting their natural sites and biodiversity.
- The EU will commit to a global prohibition on drilling for oil and gas at sea, i.e. in the area around the North Pole and the Wadden Sea.
- Ecologically valuable shipwrecks will be protected.

Protecting forests and ecosystems

Deforestation and the degradation of forests is occurring at an alarming rate. The most significant reason for this is the expansion of agricultural land for the livestock industry and for the production of animal fodder, wood, palm oil, cocoa and coffee. The EU is a leading buyer of raw materials, the harvesting or mining of which leads to deforestation, the destruction of other ecosystems and the annihilation of communities, and finances conflicts. Forests and other ecosystems are of crucial importance to biodiversity and our climate, and therefore deserve to be protected.

- The new Deforestation Law will be expanded to ensure the protection of vulnerable ecosystems such as swamps and the Cerrado (the most biodiverse savannah in the world). All products linked in some way to deforestation will fall under this law. The rights of indigenous peoples will be safeguarded by law.
- Financial institutions such as banks and insurance companies will be obligated to observe the European Deforestation Law and will no longer be permitted to invest in deforestation or other activities in contravention with this law.
- The EU will impose severe restrictions on the import of resources whose exploitation or production may be hazardous to humans, animals, the environment or nature.
- Raw materials such as soya, palm oil, cobalt, copper and coal will be placed on the list of conflict resources, on which stringent criteria will be imposed with regard to international trade. Fresh water will also be added to this list.

- The EU will support countries in combating illegal logging and in monitoring sustainable forest management. The import ban on illegally harvested timber will be strictly enforced. The criteria for sustainable forest management will be tightened to ensure the better protection of biodiversity and individual animals. A proper whistleblower scheme will be established. The European Commission will take action against countries failing to adequately protect their forests.

Clean air, soil and water

Air pollution is one of the biggest causes of health problems in Europe. The surface water is polluted with agricultural chemicals, fertilisers and – increasingly – residues from antibiotics and other medicines. People living near agricultural areas are exposed to agricultural toxins. Everyone is entitled to clean air, unpolluted soil and clean water.

- As the current and envisioned new EU standards for the quality of air are not stringent enough to protect our health in the short term, the EU will comply with the World Health Organisation's stricter air quality standards by 2030.
- The air quality in public buildings – and particularly in schools – will be subject to regular monitoring and compliance with the relevant standards will be enforced.
- We will reform the Industrial Emissions Directive to impose the strictest possible regulations on industrial plants and intensive livestock farms in order to safeguard animal welfare and protect the health of humans and animals and the environment in which we live.
- The targets to be achieved in 2027 by all EU countries with regard to clean and healthy water were set down in the Water Framework Directive long ago. Many countries, including the Netherlands, are still not on track to meet them. The EU will adhere to this law, and will encourage and help countries with taking the necessary measures. Sanctions will be imposed on countries that fail to meet the WFD by 2027.

- EU countries hampering other EU countries in meeting their WFD goals will be held responsible for this and will be instructed and possibly even obliged to take the necessary measures to prevent this. In cases where water systems cross country borders, their WFD goals will be adapted to cover all EU countries concerned. This does not release countries from their individual obligations to tackle their own sources of pollution.
- The EU will also take supplementary measures for clean water: source measures will be introduced to reduce surface water pollution through medicine residues, manuring norms will be lowered, and the agricultural industry will operate on a toxin-free basis. Hazardous substances, such as PFAS, will be prohibited.
- To cover the rising costs for the production of clean drinking water, strict and extensive regulations will be imposed on the accountability of manufacturers and producers. Rather than citizens, the companies responsible for the pollution of our air, soil and water will be held accountable for the costs of remedying this.
- An ambitious Soil Health Law will be implemented, with binding goals. Our soil will be healthy again by 2040 at the latest, with binding intermediate goals and a deterioration prohibition.
- The EU will commit to raising awareness about the highly detrimental effects of burning wood as fuel for heating purposes.

Sustainable transportation

Our means of transport must be adapted and improved. We aim to work towards a radical, sustainable transition with more space for pedestrians and cyclists (including those riding electrically powered bicycles), with fast, affordable and comfortable public transport and less road and air traffic. Smarter means of transport will allow us to spare the climate and make the air healthy again, while travelling just as comfortably. By opting for an economy in which products last longer and local production is the rule rather than the exception, we can reduce the transport of goods all over the world.

The remaining freight movements can be organised more efficiently and environmentally friendly. Whether goods are transported by train, road or inland waterways: we will always opt for the quieter, cleaner and climate-neutral alternative. All of this will run primarily on sustainably generated electricity, and on green hydrogen in sectors where this is not possible (yet).

Cyclists and pedestrians

The two most sustainable modes of transport are cycling and walking. To encourage this, the European cycling strategy will be expanded, and more consideration given to meeting the needs of cyclists and pedestrians.

- The EU will invest in safe, green bike lanes and pedestrian paths in low-traffic city centres and tourist centres, as well as in reducing the amount of traffic near schools and places of work.
- European cycling networks (such as Eurovelo) will be drastically expanded. As a result, travelling will become sustainable, affordable and healthy.
- To facilitate cycling tourism in Europe, the EU will ensure that bicycles can be taken aboard means of cross-border public transport, easily and inexpensively. By integrating Eurovelo into the TEN-T network, it will become easier to combine travel by bicycle and high-speed train.

Trains

We will make the train the fastest, cheapest and most pleasant means of international travel. This will turn the train into a fully-fledged alternative to the aeroplane.

- Train travel must be inexpensive and comfortable, and must meet the needs of the traveller. The number of trains traveling across Europe will be expanded and all trains will be fitted with wall sockets and an internet connection.
- A European master plan will be drawn up for the radical expansion of the public railway (and bus) network.
- The EU will invest in an affordable and easily accessible European railway network, and urge EU countries to abolish VAT on international train tickets.

To accelerate this transition, the EU will subsidise international rail connection that would otherwise be unprofitable.

- The EU will ensure that train travellers everywhere in Europe can check their travel options and book their train tickets online quickly and easily.
- Train stations will be made easily accessible to the elderly, persons with a disability and cyclists. All new trains will be made easily accessible for elderly and disabled persons so that they are able to board and disembark without requiring assistance. If such persons need to travel on a train that has not been adapted as described, they must be able to book travel assistance online and at the station until shortly before departure.
- More and better international night trains will be facilitated. The EU will draw up a master plan for this to which all Member States will lend their cooperation.
- International rail connections with neighbouring countries will also be expanded and improved (i.e. more and shorter international rail connections) in border regions.
- European civil servants, politicians and representatives traveling within Europe for in office will travel by train when covering distances shorter than 750 kilometres.
- Diesel-fuelled trains will become electrically powered at an accelerated pace, where possible.

Cars

Our aim is to have only sustainable cars on European roads by 2030. This does not mean replacing all fossil fuel-powered cars with electric ones: we simply do not have enough raw materials for this. We will, however, need fewer cars if we have access to an improved public transport system and more shared mobility alternatives.

- From 2030 onward, only electrically powered cars will be produced in and imported into Europe.
- Stringent standards will be imposed to reduce car emissions, which will include the emission of microplastics from tyres.
- The dumping of fossil fuel-powered cars outside of the EU will be prohibited. It must become easier to recycle and reuse cars.

- Electric car batteries must become fully recyclable.
- A European master plan will be drawn up to ensure a sufficient number of charge points using clean energy.

Lorries and buses

Freight traffic is responsible for 25% of traffic emissions. Curbing this would yield a tremendous environmental gain.

- Europe will become a frontrunner in imposing environmental standards on lorries and buses.
- In 2030, practically all new lorries and buses will be electric vehicles. In cases where this is not possible (yet), a small percentage will run on green hydrogen generated from solar and wind energy.
- The prohibition concerning long combination vehicles (LCVs) will remain in place.
- We will improve legislation for international freight transport (Mobility Package) to prevent social exploitation of employees, to ensure fair competition and to guarantee the safety, both in traffic and outside of traffic, of lorry and bus drivers (sufficient rest, tachograph, cabotage).

Air traffic

The aviation industry is responsible for a great deal of air and noise pollution. Additionally, flights over densely populated areas also pose considerable health and safety risks for the people living in these areas. The aviation industry will be made to fit within the limits of what the climate, our living environment and our safety can handle. Europe still has a long way to go in this: downsizing is therefore necessary.

- Flights covering distances under 750 kilometres will be banned.
- Empty passenger flights will be prohibited. The EU will ensure that airlines retain their rights if their aircraft are grounded.
- Private jets will be banned.
- A progressive air travel tax will be introduced: frequent flyers will pay more tax per flight.
- Tax incentives for air traffic, such as exemption from VAT and excise duty, will be abolished. The proceeds from this will be invested in sustainable public transport.

- The aviation sector will lose its special status and start paying for the CO₂ emissions as well as non-CO₂-related pollution it causes. The principle of 'the polluter pays' will therefore also apply to the aviation sector.
- European fossil subsidies for the aviation sector will be abolished through reforms in the Energy Tax Directive.
- A prohibition will be introduced on synthetic fuels, on animal-based and other non-sustainable biofuels and on e-fuels.

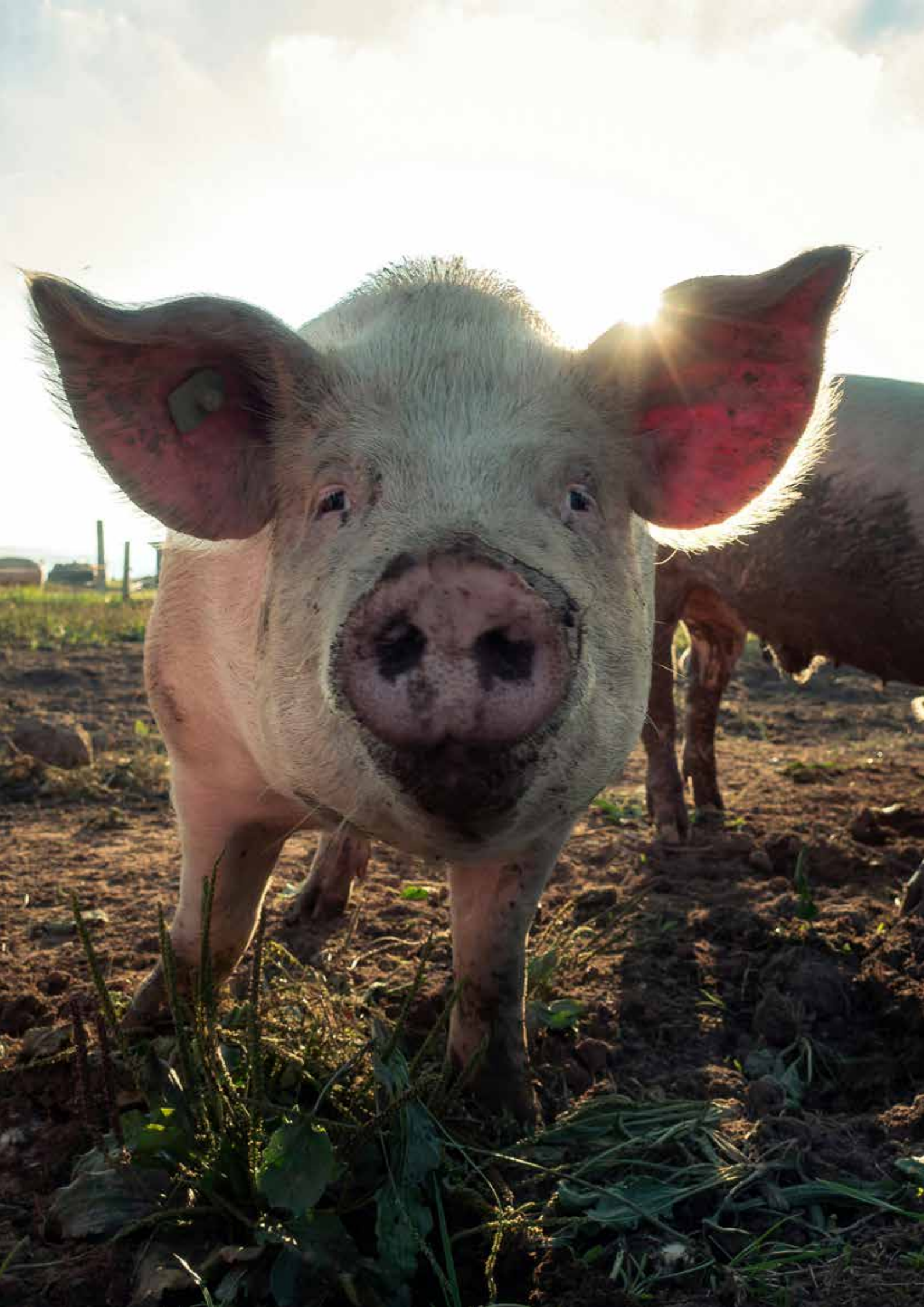
The shipping industry

Ships are also responsible for the emission of enormous amounts of CO₂, nitrogen and soot.

Both seagoing and inland vessels need to become more sustainable.

- European legislation for the enhanced sustainability of the shipping industry needs to be tightened, with concrete and binding targets to be met by both seagoing and inland vessels by 2030. The EU will push for a worldwide binding target for a fossil-free shipping industry.
- The shipping industry will invest substantially in the implementation of energy-saving and climate-neutral measures without this being at the expense of nature.
- Fair taxes will finally be imposed on the shipping industry for the emission of greenhouse gases.
- Tax benefits will no longer be granted to the fossil fuel-powered shipping industry. As long as the shipping industry still makes use of fossil fuels, the proceeds will be used for the greening of the sector and the restoration of marine ecosystems. This will be done through a fund for the oceans.
- European fossil subsidies for the shipping industry will be abolished through reforms in the Energy Tax Directive.
- A European-wide ban will be imposed on the discharge of toxic substances by ships, including the degassing of vessels at sea, the discharge of paraffin and other chemicals into the sea and the use of open-loop scrubbers.
- A European-wide ban will be imposed on the practice of mixing hazardous waste into maritime fuel.

- Sustainable freight and passenger transport over water, including ferry services, will be encouraged.
- Commercial cruise ships are among the largest polluters on our planet. Therefore, cruise ships will no longer be permitted to dock at or depart from European ports.
- A European-wide ban will be imposed on superyachts. These yachts use thousands of litres of fuel per hour and some take 5.5 times as much fuel as a Boeing 747 aircraft when refuelling.
- A speed limit will be imposed on ships, set at 75% of the design speed, also referred to as 'blue speeds', to reduce greenhouse gases, underwater noise, air pollution and collisions with whales.



2.

Animal rights

**Animals have the right
to live according to their nature**

Animals are conscious, sentient individuals. We need to treat them and their lives with due care. The Party for the Animals wants to ensure that all animals can live according to their nature, and have enough space to do so. A Europe where people are guided by compassion for animals is a better Europe for everyone. This is why we are committed to realising a Europe where people live in harmony with all other living creatures.

Billions of animals lead a miserable life because they are bred, traded, used, chased away, hunted and killed by humans. Legislation intended to protect these billions of animals was drafted as far back as the 1990s and 2000s. These obsolete laws are seriously deficient and even worse, are not even enforced. European legislation can indeed offer animals better protection – but only if we stop prioritising the economic interests of a handful of humans above the well-being of other animals.

A world in which animals are treated with more compassion is also a safer world for humans. The way people treat animals is one of the most significant causes of many big problems, such as the climate and nature crises, loss of biodiversity, food shortages, air and water pollution, soil depletion and zoonoses (diseases transmitted from animals to people). We want to liberate animals from the food chain and put a stop to the way in which they are still being used today. In doing so, we can resolve many of the problems mentioned in one fell swoop.

In the Netherlands and Europe, the Party for the Animals is the most prominent advocate of a better protection for animals. We are committed to the realisation of a society that is guided by compassion and care – for our fellow humans and for all animals. It cannot be denied, after all, that a society where all living beings live together in harmony is a healthier and more beautiful society.

Animal rights as a guiding principle

Animals deserve to be treated with respect and compassion. If the EU were to recognise the fundamental rights of animals, they would be better protected. Animal rights would then serve as the guiding principle for our treatment of animals and be anchored in the law. After many years of persistent campaigning, proposals are finally on the table for the better protection of animals. This is an important step, for which the Party for the Animals has fought hard. The decisions we are making in Europe today can make all the difference in the years ahead.

- The EU will include animal rights in its treaties and encourage Member States to include animal rights in their own constitutions.
- A European Commissioner will be appointed specifically for animal welfare.
- The European Parliament will establish an animal welfare committee. This committee will determine the animal welfare regulations to be applied in the EU. These will no longer be determined by the committees on agriculture and fisheries.
- European animal welfare legislation will be fully revised and expanded with new legislation for animals that are not yet protected, such as adult cows. In legislation, the intrinsic value and the natural behaviour of animals will no longer be deemed subordinate to economic interests.
- Legislative proposals for animal welfare whose adoption had previously been agreed to, such as the caging prohibition in the livestock industry and stricter regulations for slaughterhouses, will be submitted to the European Parliament by the European Commission as soon as possible. Unreasonably long transition periods will not be set to circumvent legislation. Legislation will no longer be postponed or whittled down under the pressure exercised by the agro-industry and farmers' protests. After decades of waiting, the time has truly come to take further steps for animal welfare in Europe, as desired by most European citizens.
- The current minimum requirements for animal well-being in the EU Member States will be sharpened. Countries will be encouraged to strive for higher animal welfare requirements.
- The EU will deploy the diplomatic channels already at its disposal to speak out powerfully against animal suffering. At the United Nations, the EU will commit to getting an Animal Rights Declaration ratified.
- Animal rights and animal welfare will be given a fully fledged position within the European Union's aid, development and sustainability programmes.
- The EU will share its knowledge with all EU Member States to encourage the appointment of a specialised animal police force in these countries and facilitate the coordinated collaboration between countries to tackle animal

suffering and animal abuse across international boundaries.

- Entrepreneurs who have been convicted for crimes such as animal abuse may no longer engage in any activities involving animals in any EU Member State.
- Countries that fail to observe the European regulations already in place with regard to animal welfare will be dealt with severely through high penalties and other sanctions.

Abolishing the livestock industry

The breeding, use and killing of 8.4 billion animals per year in the European livestock industry is unethical and untenable. The sheer number of animals that are bred, used and killed for the production of meat, fish, dairy and eggs is so enormous that not a single environmental, nature or animal well-being regulation is sufficiently adequate to tackle the problems arising from it. The number of animals bred and killed for consumption has to drastically decrease. As long as animals are still bred and killed for food, their suffering must be limited to the greatest extent possible. Every animal must be able to live in a way that its intrinsic needs are adequately met: chickens should have access to a dust bath, pigs should be able to root about, animals such as cows and sheep and goats should be set out to pasture, newly born calves and lambs must be able to stay with their mothers, and geese and ducks should have access to water for swimming.

The natural behaviour of animals will become the guiding principle in our treatment of them.

- The livestock industry will be abolished. Mega barns will be closed immediately.
- A European ban on the establishment of new intensive livestock farms will be introduced, and existing intensive livestock farms will be prohibited from expanding. Due to the risk of Q fever and pneumonia, this will apply to all goat farms with immediate effect.
- In response to the 'End the Cage Age' European Citizens' Initiative, cages will be prohibited in the livestock industry. All animals will be liberated from their cages by 2027 at the latest.

- All animals in the livestock industry are entitled to daylight, enough space, straw, diversion and free access to outdoor areas with adequate shelter. This will be set down in European legislation.
- Animals will be held in groups reflecting their natural social behaviour: cows, for example, will be held in family herds. Animals must always be free to choose whether they want to be alone or join other members of their species.
- Calves and lambs will no longer be separated from their mothers after birth but will stay with them in the pasture and drink the milk that was intended to feed them in the first place. This should also apply to young bulls, rams, and billy goats.
- The physical integrity of animals will be safeguarded. A stop will be put to painful interventions such as tail docking and teeth filing, as well as the castration of piglets, beak trimming in chickens and the dehorning of cows and goats.
- A ban will be introduced on selective breeding, i.e. on extreme growth rates among chickens and pigs, and on extreme high production rates for milk cows and breeding sows. Cut-price, industrially produced broilers ('bloated chickens') will be banned in Europe.
- An animal-worthy existence is one in which animals can reproduce naturally, without repeated artificial insemination, and bear their young as nature intended.
- The cloning of animals for production purposes will remain prohibited. The import of and trade in genetically manipulated animals (as well as all products derived from these) and their descendants will be banned.
- Earmarking animals will no longer be compulsory and will, in fact, be prohibited.
- Strict fire safety regulation will be imposed on barns. These will at least include measures that will enable animals to flee their barns in case of fire, mandatory sprinkler or misting systems, and a ban on air washers as these promote the rapid spread of fires. Limits will also be imposed on the number of animals that may be kept in a single barn, and in a single compartment in a barn. Technical areas will be made fireproof and barn roofs will be better insulated to prevent the spread of fire.
- A ban will be placed on the killing of newly born animals simply because they do not fit the livestock industry's revenue model, such as male chicks in the egg-producing industry, duck chicks in the foie gras industry and newly born billy goats in the goat milk industry.
- The production of white veal will be prohibited. It is unacceptable that calves are deliberately made anaemic by feeding them an iron-deficient diet simply to produce this type of meat.
- Farrowing boxes where sows are kept in between bars for weeks on end will be banned. Sows will be allowed to nest and look after their piglets in family groups.
- There will be a ban on the breeding and keeping of animals if their natural needs cannot be met, or if this leads to severe suffering. For this reason, duck, rabbit and fur farming will be prohibited immediately.
- Europe will immediately ban the production, trade and import of foie gras (goose or duck liver), for which animals are force-fed.
- The use, production, sale and import of the fertility hormone 'Pregnant Mare Serum Gonadotropin' (PMSG) will be prohibited in the EU. It is unacceptable that on so-called 'blood farms' mares are impregnated for the purpose of extracting their blood in order to provide animals in the European livestock industry with fertility-enhancing hormones.
- Lobsters, crabs and other marine invertebrates will be protected by law. Cooking lobsters, crabs and shrimp alive will be prohibited. Crabs and lobsters may no longer be sold alive.
- The establishment of squid farms will be prohibited. Intensive squid farming, in which these animals are caged in bare containers and undergo a painful death, will be banned in the EU.
- The insect breeding industry is a new form of form of livestock farming and will therefore be terminated with immediate effect.

Abolishing animal transports

Every day, animals are transported in trucks, on ships and in aircraft throughout Europe and even to countries far beyond. A ban will be imposed on the extremely animal-unfriendly transport of animals: if they must be transported, their journeys will be as short as possible to cause them the least amount of stress and suffering possible.

- The European Commission will tighten the legislative proposal on animal transports.
- Animals may not be transported for more than two hours. Consecutive shorter live animal transports are no longer permitted. No exceptions will be made for live animal transports to or from islands or remote areas.
- The transport of living animals to and from countries outside the European Union will no longer be allowed.
- Considering that animal well-being can never be guaranteed during sea or air transport, these forms of live animal transport will be banned.
- A ban will be imposed with immediate effect on the transport of young animals, such as calves that are dependent on their mothers' milk. Neither will the transport of pregnant, sick or weakened animals be permitted due to the health risks involved.
- Animal transport will not be permitted in extreme weather conditions such as frost, heat, or heavy wind. If outdoor temperatures are (or are expected to be) below 0°C or above 25°C, live animal transports will not be permitted to take place.
- The newly proposed regulations for aquatic animals that are currently still being transported without any regulations, such as fish, squid, crabs and lobsters, will also apply to ornamental fish and fish kept in aquariums.
- People involved in animal transport will be obliged to take a course on animal welfare and the proper treatment of animals, where they will be taught that animals must never be caught or dragged by their legs, for example.
- The European Union will oblige Member States to introduce a kilometre-based toll on animal transport and to equip livestock trailers with a GPS tracking device.

TRACES, the system used to import and export live animals, will become publicly accessible.

- Inspections and enforcement of the Regulation on animal transport will be tightened considerably. The competent authorities will inspect the vehicle used and the physical condition and health of the animals before the vehicle is permitted to depart. The well-being of animals during transport can only be ascertained by independent veterinarians. Unannounced inspections will be permitted.
- Repeated infringements of animal transport regulations will immediately lead to sanctions and infringement proceedings. The request of the European Parliament to compile a 'blacklist' of forwarders that repeatedly violate statutory animal transport regulations will be acceded to.

There is no such thing as animal-friendly slaughtering

No animal wants to be slaughtered. As long as slaughterhouses continue to exist, the strictest well-being requirements will be imposed, which will be closely monitored. Abuses are unacceptable and will be severely dealt with.

- Mandatory camera surveillance will be imposed throughout Europe.
- Animals will no longer be slaughtered or sedated by methods that are known to cause avoidable additional suffering, such as waterbath stunning for chickens and carbon dioxide anaesthesia for pigs.
- No animal will be slaughtered or killed without sedation.
- The sedation of fish prior to slaughter will become the standard procedure on fish farms.
- A ban will be introduced on the European import of and trade in the meat of animals that are slaughtered without sedation. As long as unsedated slaughter is not prohibited, labelling will be mandatory throughout the EU.

Space for animals, not hunters

In many places in Europe, the habitats of wild animals are growing consistently smaller. As a result, people are finding it easier to claim that animals are a nuisance, or that various populations are not in equilibrium. People will often use the harshest means of control, resulting in the death of countless animals. The Party for the Animals wants wild animals to be left in peace as much as possible and for the balance of nature to be restored.

- The intrinsic value of animals will be the basic principle on which any policy is founded that impacts animals living in the wild.
- Wild animals will not be killed, but left in peace as much as possible. In case of a disrupted balance, populations will be given the opportunity to restore themselves.
- Wolves and other large carnivores will continue to be strictly protected in Europe and may not be shot.
- To prevent conflicts between people and wild animals, the EU will support peaceful, preventive measures such as wolf-resistant fences.
- The EU will ban cruel methods of killing animals, such as the gassing of geese.
- The protection of animals is more important than upholding traditions. The EU will stop turning a blind eye on the collection of lapwing eggs, and the illegal hunt on migratory birds in countries such as Malta, Italy and France will be addressed.
- Using animals to kill other animals is exceptionally cruel. Therefore, the breeding, training and use of hunting dogs, such as Galgos and Podencos, and birds of prey, such as falcons, will be prohibited, as well as the use of geese as bait and horses for hunting.
- Throughout Europe, attempts are made to exterminate non-native or invasive animal species, such as muskrats. In practice, this is often impossible and causes a great deal of animal suffering. Instead, the EU will commit to strengthening nature and concentrate on measures to mitigate damage and prevent the introduction of new non-native species.

The muskrat and other species that have since become common in Europe will be struck from the European list of invasive exotic animals that are considered a cause for concern.

Protecting wild animals outside of the EU

The trade in and hunting of elephants, lions, rhinoceros, whales and many other animals is jeopardising their very existence. Not only that, the trade in animals that belong in the wild is hazardous to our health: it enhances the risk of animal diseases mutating and being transmitted to humans, as was the case during the coronavirus crisis. It is in the best interest of humans and other animals that international treaties against the trade in endangered animal species are complied with and reinforced.

- A ban will be introduced on the import of and trade in all animals caught in the wild.
- We will actively combat hunting tourism and trophy hunting. European travel organisations will be banned from arranging or offering safaris for the purpose of shooting animals, angling trips, and other holidays involving the hunting of animals. Transport companies, including airlines and shipping companies, will be prohibited from transporting hunting trophies or any parts of animals that are the product of hunting. All trade in ivory and game trophies will be prohibited.
- The EU will prohibit the offering and organisation of tourist hunting events, both in Europe and elsewhere, as well as the advertisement for these activities.
- The EU supports measures to accord elephants, lions and other vulnerable animal species the highest international protection status under the CITES treaty.
- The EU will encourage Member States to step up efforts to end large-scale wildlife smuggling. Member States at European borders will be assisted in monitoring trafficking routes.
- Europe will contribute to the protection of wild animals in their countries of origin and support local authorities in their fight against the illegal capture of wild animals.

- Europe will actively combat seal hunting in countries including Canada and Namibia, and the commercial hunting of polar bears.
- The EU will put pressure on countries that still permit whaling in order to stop this hunt. Countries that continue to flout the worldwide moratorium on whaling will be faced with economic sanctions.
- Whale meat will be prohibited from entering European ports, including whale meat shipped to countries outside the EU.
- We aim to expand the international protection of whales to smaller whale-like species, in order to ban the hunt on dolphins as well. The EU will commit to putting an end to the slaughter of dolphins on the Faroe Islands and in Japan.
- The EU will make every effort to improve the protection of sharks, rays and other vulnerable species by prohibiting shark hunting and introducing a trade ban on shark fins, both in and from Europe.
- Partly on the initiative of the Party for the Animals, the EU agreed in 2021 to a temporary international hunting ban on the endangered mako shark. We want the EU to commit to ensuring that this ban becomes permanent.

Ban animal-unfriendly fashion from shops

Partly thanks to many years of campaigning by the Party for the Animals, no more animals are bred and killed for the production of fur in the Netherlands. In several other European countries, animals such as foxes, minks and raccoon dogs are still being locked up in small cages for their pelts. The EU will listen to citizens and embrace the ‘Fur-Free Europe’ Citizens’ Initiative. Not only fur, but also the production of down and various types of wool, such as angora and Merino wool, involves severe cruelty to animals. A comparable approach will be adopted for these products. This will put a stop to animal cruelty for fashion.

- The production of fur, down, angora and Merino wool, cashmere (goat hair), kangaroo leather and the leather of animals bred especially for their hides is the cause of severe animal suffering. Therefore, the production, import and sale of these products will be banned in the EU.

- As long the sale of such products is still permitted, clear labelling will be compulsory, including information about the origin of the product, the number of animals that were killed to produce it, and the manner in which these animals were killed.
- Products made from artificial fur and leather will also be provided with a clear label to allow consumers to opt more easily for fashion that does not involve the killing of animals.
- A ban will be imposed on the trade in wild animal hides, such as snake, lizard, ray and crocodile skins for the luxury market.
- Enforcement of this trade ban will be expanded to ensure that these products are not traded on the internet.

Animal cruelty is not entertainment

Thankfully, real animals in exhibitions, shows, and films are increasingly being replaced by artificial alternatives or computer animations so that audiences can enjoy animal cruelty-free entertainment. The Party for the Animals wants to put an end to the suffering of animals for entertainment purposes in Europe. What zoos, circuses, falconry shows, and dolphinariums all have in common is that they exploit domesticated and wild animals in captivity for the entertainment of people and for commercial profit, with a great deal of animal suffering behind the scenes. European funding is still made available today to support cruel traditions such as bullfighting in France and Spain. The Party for the Animals wants to put a stop to the idea that animals can be used for any purpose. The use, injury or killing of animals for entertainment or based on traditions will be stopped. We respect the lives of animals: they live on this planet with us, not for us.

- A prohibition will be implemented on forcing animals to perform in dolphinariums or circuses with immediate effect, and a European-wide ban will be introduced regarding the commercial exploitation of animals in dolphinariums and circuses. Any animals still imprisoned in this entertainment industry will be brought to a safe place to spend the remainder of their lives.

- Zoos and aquariums will be converted to temporary or permanent shelters for animals that are no longer able to live in their original natural habitat, such as stranded marine mammals, illegally procured exotic animals or former zoo animals. The EU will provide financial support for this if necessary. The sole purpose of these shelters will be to provide animals with the care they need, and not to serve as entertainment for humans.
- As long as zoos and aquariums continue to exist, they will be strictly held to observe European regulations. Zoos that fail to do so or cause disfiguring injuries to animals through actions such as clipping birds' wings, declawing or pulling the teeth of predatory animals, will be closed down.
- The interests of animals in European treaties will no longer be subordinate to cultural traditions or religious practices. Bullfighting or festivals where cattle are abused or killed will be prohibited, and traditions involving the use of animals will no longer be eligible for funding. The breeding of fighting bulls will no longer be eligible for government funding, on account of which bullfights are still being funded today with EU-money.
- Events at which animals are exhibited or offered for sale will be prohibited.
- A ban will be introduced on competitions involving animals such as dog and horse races, as well as betting on these races. Sports and competitions that involve the killing and exploitation of animals, such as camel races, pigeon racing and angling, will be banned.
- The use of training methods and resources that are hazardous to animals, such as those used in equine sports, will be prohibited. A ban will be imposed on animal markets where animals are unable to move about, often for many hours, and are exposed to loud noises and the din created by rambunctious crowds. The amputation of horses' tails will no longer be permitted.
- The administration of performance-enhancing drugs and medicines to animals taking part in competitions, as happens to Galgos during dog races, will be banned.
- The EU will impose a ban on coursing, in which live hares are chased and torn apart by greyhounds.

Prioritising the well-being of pets

Most people want nothing but the best for the animals they care for as their companions. Nevertheless, there is a great deal of hidden suffering among these animals: unprincipled traders sell millions of puppies each year, animals that normally live in the wild, such as raccoons, are kept as pets, and breeders are still selecting animals on increasingly extreme features. The Party for the Animals wants to put a stop to this. We are committed to ensuring the appropriate protection of pets in Europe.

- Only animals that are suitable for domestication, which are not at risk of extinction, and that do not pose any risk to the health of humans and other animals may be kept as pets. Animals that are suitable to be kept as pets will be specified on a European Positive List. If an animal is not on that list, it may no longer be kept or traded.
- To combat animal abuse, illegal breeding and the dumping of pets, all dogs and cats in Europe, including Galgos and Podencos, will be subject to compulsory microchipping, in which the relevant chips will contain information about the breeder, the trader and the owner. Research will be conducted into non-invasive identification methods such as rhinarium identification or iris or retina scans.
- Stray dogs and cats also deserve to be protected. The European obligation to microchip cats and dogs will be extended to stray animals, and the EU will support projects to neuter stray animals and return them to their environment. All funding allocated by the EU to stray animal killing stations will be stopped with immediate effect.
- The large-scale breeding of as many pets as possible in order to sell them via internet and pet shops (commercial breeding) will be prohibited. Puppy mills and unprincipled traders will be dealt with severely.
- The Party for the Animals wants to set minimum requirements for the housing and care for pets. The solitary housing of social animals, such as rabbits and guinea pigs, will be prohibited, as well as the sale of fish bowls and excessively small pens and cages.

- Europe will fight the breeding of pets with extreme external characteristics and other hereditary conditions. The breeding of ‘designer cats’ and overbred dogs will be put to a stop. The trade in and import of these animals will be prohibited. Inbreeding will be forbidden in the animal breeding industry.
- EU Member States will launch campaigns proclaiming the principle of ‘adopt, don’t shop’ to raise awareness for the benefits of animal adoption.
- To prevent impulse purchases, selling animals via the internet, in garden centres, on markets and at fairs will be banned. As long as this ban is not in place, the sale of pets, whether online or otherwise, will be subject to strict regulations.
- Europe will prohibit cosmetic procedures for pets, such as the docking of ears and tails.
- Specific regulations will be imposed on the transport of dogs and cats. Statutory regulations will be imposed on the permitted dimensions of cages and containers, the minimum amount of available space, minimum and maximum temperatures, and the mandatory separation of different animals.
- The fees charged by veterinarians will be regulated to ensure proper, accessible and affordable pet care.

Modern research without animal testing

Millions of animals are kept in European laboratories for the purpose of testing and research. The testing performed on these animals and the way in which they are housed cause intolerable amounts of pain and stress, as well as the death of these animals. Most animal testing does not even lead to usable results, simply because the biological differences between humans and other animals are too big. Many research methods that do not involve animal testing have already proven to be more reliable. Researchers have many alternatives at their disposal already, such as the cultivation of cells and tissue, computer models and even what is referred to as ‘organs-on-a-chip’. Animal-free testing methods must be developed in areas where these are not yet available. The Party for the Animals wants Europe to become a front runner in promoting animal-free research.

- The EU will draw up an ambitious action plan for the transition to animal-free research and will allocate appropriate funding to this end. The goal is to make animal testing fully obsolete by 2030 at the latest.
- As long as animal testing continues to exist, the EU will impose stringent criteria on research conducted using laboratory animals. An extensive literature study prior to tests involving animals will become a standard requirement. Experiments for health claims on food products will no longer be approved.
- The EU will accelerate the validation and recognition of new animal-free research and testing methods so that these can be applied throughout Europe. Within an international context, the EU will also commit to the worldwide recognition of this.
- The genetic manipulation of animals, including animal cloning and the alteration of genetic properties for the benefit of animal testing, will be prohibited. The only forms of genetic engineering permitted in Europe will be those used to treat patients with a view to repairing mutations that cause animal or human diseases.

- To prevent the duplication of animal tests, companies, hospitals, universities and other knowledge institutes will be obliged to publish all data about their tests ('open access'). If companies refuse to do so, i.e. because this concerns company-sensitive information or because an experiment failed to achieve the envisioned result, they will be banned from conducting tests on animals from that point onwards.
- The EU will endeavour to strictly observe the trade ban on cosmetics that have been tested on animals. Additionally, the EU will commit to reaching a worldwide ban on animal testing for cosmetics.
- The use of primates in animal experiments will be prohibited in the EU with immediate effect.
- Further to the ban on conducting research on human embryos outside the EU, European researchers and corporations will also be prohibited from conducting or commissioning animal experiments outside Europe that are banned in the EU.
- The practice of breeding and killing laboratory animals that are kept 'in stock' will be prohibited in the EU.
- European legislation will be updated and aligned with the 'Stop Vivisection' and 'Save Cruelty Free Cosmetics' Citizens' Initiatives.
- In addition to replacing, refining and reducing animal testing, the EU will be pushing for the early retirement of laboratory animals. Animals no longer used in experiments will not be killed, but given shelter and rehomed.
- If animal testing has been performed for the development of a particular product, this will be stated on the label of this product and other products derived from it for the following twenty years.



3.

A fertile Earth

**Healthy food
for us and the environment**

The choices we make about what we eat are of vital importance. There is no other area in which we can reap so many benefits for animals, nature, the climate, the environment, and our health. Today, European taxes are still being wasted on polluting, animal-unfriendly and inefficient agricultural practices – while what we want is to help farmers in the transition to healthy, plant-based agriculture. The EU must invest in future-proof agriculture, such as food gathering forests, plant-based proteins and the cultivation of sustainable materials for the construction and insulation of our homes. This will offer farmers a worthwhile perspective. It will enable the European Union to guarantee food safety as well as greater security of a sustained livelihood for all of us.

The current European agricultural model is heading towards a dead end and has created many victims over the years. Critical ecosystems, on which all life on Earth is dependent, are being seriously jeopardised. The intensive livestock industry and toxic agriculture are responsible for high greenhouse emissions, the pollution of our soil, water and air, food shortages and loss of biodiversity, thus threatening the well-being and continued existence of humans and other animals.

Every year, 8.4 billion animals are bred and killed in the European livestock industry. The EU is responsible for 80% of the global trade in living animals, for which animals are paying the highest price. Additionally, farmers and citizens are burdened with an irresponsibly heavy load. The environment and climate, the soil, our drinking water, and our health are creaking and groaning under the burden of large quantities of manure and agricultural toxins. The risk of the development of zoonoses – animal diseases such as Q fever and bird flu that can be transmitted from animals to humans – is huge. And unhealthy diets saturated with salt, sugar, fat, animal proteins and processed food are putting public health at risk as well.

Farmers too are victims of this system. Small farms are forced by banks to stop or to keep expanding and increase their production. All of this is paid for by the European taxpayer: every year, tens of billions of euros are spent on agricultural subsidies, which big businesses such as barn builders and multinational feed corporations benefit from the most. We aim to change that.

Food is a precondition for our existence and a basic human right. The production of our food therefore deserves our full attention. Healthy, sustainable and animal-friendly farming is possible: if people have adequate respect for nature, if we close the loops, if we stop using agricultural toxins and artificial fertilisers, if farmers receive an honest price for their products, and if we reform our current food system. Then healthy and affordable food is available to all.

The Party for the Animals aims to solve these problems in conjunction. We want to ensure an equitable distribution of land, access to clean water, and healthy soil. We will make the transition to animal-friendly, climate-proof, nature-inclusive and socially just agriculture, with a viable revenue model for farmers. The Party for the Animals has confidence in the expertise of farmers working in harmony with nature. After all, farmers – more than anyone – need nature in order to grow healthy food now and in the future. They only benefit from clean water, healthy soil and unpolluted air.

The EU's agricultural policy will be fully reformed: in order to create an ecological, animal-friendly agricultural system that allows us to produce enough healthy and sustainable food in Europe, we will facilitate the transition from a Common Agricultural Policy to a Green Food Policy. This allows us to produce enough healthy and sustainable food in Europe, thus reducing our dependency on international trade at the expense of people and animals. Drastically reducing the number of animals in the livestock industry is paramount to this, as well as the transition to a plant-based future. A future-proof agriculture focuses on the production of healthy and affordable food, free from toxins, artificial fertiliser and genetic engineering, and contributes to the preservation of a healthy ecosystem.

It is high time to set these severely needed changes in motion. For far too long, Brussels has been pandering to the livestock industry, the producers of agricultural toxins and artificial fertilisers and the multinational corporations in the food-producing industry, while these are in fact responsible for jeopardising our long-term food security. From now on, the EU must listen to the frontrunners in future-proof agriculture, to consumers and scientists. The Party for the Animals aims to work tirelessly to ensure a fair food policy, now and in the future.

A just food policy

The transition towards a sustainable food policy across all our food systems requires a revolution. All measures that impact our food systems, including agricultural and trade policies, must be urgently reformed in order to tackle the climate crisis, to stop the loss of biodiversity, to safeguard the health of humans and other animals and to ensure the viability of our agricultural system for the coming generations. This requires an all-encompassing food policy.

- The Party for the Animals pleads for a cohesive food policy, in which everyone has access to healthy and affordable plant-based food. The position of sustainable and organic farmers is key in this.
- It is imperative that the total number of animals kept and killed in the European livestock industry is cut by at least 75%. This must start with the countries with the densest livestock populations, such as the Netherlands.
- The goal of this food policy is a healthy and sustainable food provision, from farm to fork. We aim to enhance sustainability throughout the chain, from farmers to food producers, purchasers, carriers, supermarkets, restaurants and consumer food choices.
- The food policy operates within the limits of the Earth's capacity, will make the polluter pay, and is based on the principle of One Health: the basic premise that the health of the environment, humans and other animals are inextricably linked.
- To protect farmers from unfair competition, the import of products manufactured at lower environmental and animal welfare standards will be prohibited and no new trade treaties will be concluded that undermine the position of European farmers.
- Consumers will pay a fair price for food, which includes all environmental, climate, animal welfare, and health costs (true pricing) rather than being concealed by means of billion-euro subsidies. Meat sold below its cost price will be eliminated from supermarket shelves.

By setting a price on a product's detrimental impact on society, products that are healthy, animal-friendly, and sustainable will become the less expensive option and sustainably operating farmers will receive fair payment.

- For many years, all kinds of obligation-free quality hallmarks and roundtable discussions to label soy and palm oil as 'sustainable' have created precisely the opposite effect on enhancing the sustainability of our food. We will put a stop to self-regulation in the food chain and will impose and enforce statutory sustainability standards.
- Plant and animal varieties may not be the property of businesses. Patents on life forms are prohibited. We will resist attempts from corporations such as Bayer-Monsanto and BASF to patent plant and animal genes to monopolise the food market.

A future-proof agricultural policy

Food-producing and agricultural systems emit 30% of global greenhouse gases. This makes our current food system one of the main causes of the climate crisis. Agriculture is responsible for approximately 90% of Europe's ammonia emission, which destroys nature and contribute significantly to the air pollution that is causing 500,000 European deaths every year. The use of agricultural toxins and over-manuring of the soil comprises a serious threat to biodiversity and human health. The current Common Agricultural Policy is perpetuating these practices. Amounting to 387 billion euros, agricultural subsidies are a gigantic cost item in the EU's budget for the 2021-2027 period. A bright green European Parliament is of vital importance for the implementation of a truly sustainable agricultural policy after 2027. Thoroughly reforming our agricultural policy would allow us to reclaim an entire world. We will put a definitive stop to mega barns, pollution and agricultural toxins in Europe's rural communities.

- The EU's unhealthy agricultural policy is untenable and in contravention with its green ambitions to keep our planet habitable. The Common Agricultural Policy will be transformed into a Green Food Policy.
- No taxpayer money will be allocated to the storage of an excess of produced meat, fish, eggs and dairy.

- Newly proposed agricultural subsidies will be used exclusively to initiate a just, green transition for our food system. This way, farmers will be aided in the transition to sustainable and plant-based production methods. Because it is only with them that we can make this transition happen.
- We will strengthen the position of farmers and market gardeners in negotiations with supermarkets and food producers to ensure they receive a fair price for their products.
- Over the past few years, tens of billions of euros were spent on 'sustainability grants' that have had very little effect on greenhouse gas emissions or the restoration of nature. From now on, sustainability grants will only be allocated if they demonstrably contribute to enhancing sustainability or biodiversity.
- A healthy European agricultural system is of vital importance to humans and other animals, nature and farmers. Therefore, obligations will be imposed on Member States to truly greenify their agricultural systems. The era of voluntary social responsibility has come to an end.
- The agricultural policy pursued by the EU cannot cause damage to countries elsewhere. The EU will stop dumping cheap products on non-EU markets, such as milk powder in Africa.
- The lands of indigenous peoples are often illegally appropriated for the benefit of the livestock industry and the production of fodder for these animals. Strict regulations will be imposed to counter such land-grabbing practices.
- Manufacturers from non-EU countries that are currently being exploited will be given aid to meet European requirements and process their raw materials into high-quality products in their own countries.
- The EU will cease promoting and exporting systems for industrial agriculture such as mega barns, artificial fertiliser, agricultural toxins or genetically engineered crops.
- No more subsidies will be granted to the livestock industry and no more funding will be allocated to research directed at the further intensification of non-sustainable factory farming.

- The EU will actively combat cross-border fraudulent practices in the food chain. Entrepreneurs who have been convicted for fraud may no longer engage in any activities involving the food chain in any EU Member State.
- Grains and vegetable oils will no longer be used as cattle feed for the livestock industry or as biofuels.
- Manure fermenters help perpetuate the intensive livestock farming industry, generate hardly any energy, and cause a great deal of odour nuisance to local residents. We will stop facilitating false solutions such as manure fermenters, ‘artificial fertiliser substitutes’ (Renure), low-emission barn floors and air washers.

Priority for frontrunners

Nature and biodiversity are of paramount importance to our food production. Without strong political action to preserve and restore nature and biodiversity, our food security and the right to food will be irreversibly jeopardised. Climate change and the loss of biodiversity pose the greatest threats to our food supply. To reduce the pressure on natural resources, a holistic approach is required that increases the resilience of the food systems in Europe. For decades, organic farmers and market gardeners have been showing us how we can close the loop and produce healthy food in harmony with nature. This will become the guiding principle for agriculture in Europe.

- Diverse, nature-inclusive and regenerative agriculture will become the standard. This includes options such as organic farming, permacultures, agroforestry (the combination of agriculture and forestry on the same plot of land), and agro-ecological systems. Conventional farmers and market gardeners will be supported during their transition to sustainable forms of food production.
- Member States will make every effort to achieve the European goals for organic agriculture. In 2030, at least one third of all agricultural land must be farmed organically. Member States unable to achieve this transition towards organic farming, such as the Netherlands, will be penalised.
- The EU will promote the development of urban agriculture and food gathering forests.

- The EU will support a truly collective form of agriculture with close collaboration between citizens and local farmers. Initiatives for local food production and the connection between farmers and citizens will be fully encouraged.

A toxin-free Europe

The toxins used in the agricultural industry are causing tremendous damage to our living environment. Agricultural toxins pollute our soil, air and water and are extremely detrimental to our health. This particularly affects residents of rural areas. These toxins are also extremely harmful to biodiversity. Thanks to all the insects, plants, birds and microorganisms populating our planet, our soil remains healthy, plants are pollinated, and populations remain in balance. Biodiversity is of crucial importance to food production, now and in the future. Therefore, the Party for the Animals wants an agricultural system that works in harmony with nature rather than violating it.

- By 2030, the use of toxins in the agricultural industry must be reduced by at least 80% (in comparison to 2017) and the agricultural industry must be toxin-free by 2035. These goals will be anchored in a new law.
- Glyphosate, which has already been proven to be highly detrimental to the health of humans, animals and nature, will be prohibited throughout Europe with immediate effect.
- The most dangerous pesticides (those we refer to as ‘candidates for replacement’) will be prohibited with immediate effect and without exceptions.
- Until all chemical pesticides are banned, they may only be used by qualified professionals who have been properly trained to do so. They will no longer be sold to private individuals at garden centres or supermarkets.
- The EU supports the development of safe, alternative crop protection methods and will ensure faster and less expensive admission procedures for these. Farmers will be given independent advice on these natural methods so they will no longer depend on the advice provided by sellers of chemical pesticides.

- Biodiversity-promoting borders will become compulsory along fields, pastures and orchards.
- As long as our agricultural system is not yet toxin-free, strict regulations will apply to the protection of residents living near agricultural and horticultural enterprises to prevent their exposure to chemical crop protection agents. Broad non-spray zones will be designated between fields that are sprayed with pesticides and houses, schools and recreational areas. Nor will spraying be permitted in the vicinity of public roads and paths used by cyclists and pedestrians.
- Advertising for agricultural toxins and biocides will be prohibited in the EU.
- Member States can independently prohibit toxic substances if Brussels fails to do so.
- A prohibition will be introduced on the production and export of agricultural toxins that are so hazardous to our health that they may not be used in Europe.
- Supermarkets, wholesalers and major food producers will help farmers in the transition to a toxin-free agricultural system. They will provide farmers with financial and practical support through long-term contracts and fair prices, and by sharing their knowledge and best practices.
- As from 2030, all vegetables, fruit and cereals must be free of pesticide residues. This also applies to imported products.
- The EU will no longer automatically extend permits for the use of agricultural toxins. Jointly with the Member States, the EU will invest in better and faster risk assessments, for which manufacturers of toxins will no longer be permitted to submit their own research. From now on, this research will be conducted by independent scientists, at the expense of the manufacturer. Animal testing will not be permitted for such assessments.

A GMO-free Europe

Living organisms are not machines that can simply be switched on or off. They are complex systems, and heavily impacted by their environment. Genetic modification, no matter how targeted, can lead to unintentional modifications that can be accompanied by risks to humans, animals and the environment. The Party for the Animals will continue to fight for a GMO-free Europe. Genetic modification is not a future-proof solution for the problems facing our agricultural system today. Crops that are made resistant to agricultural chemicals through GM technology, such as GM soy and maize, have rapidly encouraged the use of toxic pesticides and monocultures. In addition, relaxing GM technology regulations could ultimately result in a handful of large corporations having control over our food. Furthermore, genetic modification poses a threat to conventional and organic cultivation because genetically modified crops can become mixed with natural varieties and end up in batches of harvested crops and products. The rights of producers and consumers to opt for GMO-free products must be safeguarded.

- No genetically modified crops will be cultivated in Europe. As long as this is still happening, Member States may not be forced by the EU to permit the cultivation of GM crops on their territory. Regions and countries that declare themselves GMO-free will be given support and assistance in remaining so.
- An import ban will be introduced on toxic genetically modified crops such as maize, soy, cotton and rapeseed that have been modified so drastically that they are, for instance, capable of producing insect-killing *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) toxins, or crops that are made resistant to glyphosate.
- New genomic techniques (NGTs) will not be exempted from the rules that currently apply to older genetically modified crops. These techniques can also pose a threat to biodiversity and health. The EU will conduct risk assessments for this and ensure freedom of choice through clear labelling for these products. Such risk assessments must be conducted without animal testing.

- Farmers growing GMO-free crops will be protected. The EU will make good buffer zones compulsory and keep chains separated. If cross-pollution nevertheless occurs, adequate compensation will be provided at the expense of the manufacturer of the genetically modified products.
- Labelling will be compulsory for meat, dairy, and egg products derived from animals that were fed with genetically modified crops.
- Patents will no longer be issued for living organisms and any existing patents will be declared invalid. This applies to all living beings, genetic material, genetic information and characteristics and cultures for technology that can be used in breeding.
- Breeder's rights are rights allocated to farmers and breeders to breed their own strains and varieties using seeds derived from their own plants. This is important for the diversity of food crops. Farmers and breeders should be able to have free access to the existing agro-biodiversity without being hampered by patents.
- Registration rules may not form an impediment to the free trade in seeds. The interests of small farmers and market gardeners, food security and crop diversity should be given precedence. The development of organic resistant varieties and crops will be supported by the EU.
- The fishing industry will be phased out. Overfishing in European waters will be prohibited with immediate effect.
- No more subsidies will be allocated to fisheries.
- Not only the number of fish, but also the total population composition will be considered when determining the permitted fishing quotas.
- 30% of the European waters will be designated as protected nature reserves, where fishing will be prohibited. Areas where many vulnerable species live or where a great deal of carbon is stored in the seabed will be guaranteed rigorous protection.
- Fish farms comprise a new method of factory farming and are no solution for the problem of overfishing: many farmed fish are fed on fish caught in the wild. These nursery farms are therefore neither sustainable nor at all animal friendly. No new fish farms will be established from now on, and all existing ones will be phased out.
- We are committed to change: we don't need to eat fish, crustaceans, or shellfish to stay healthy. We can also ingest healthy fatty acids from algal oils and seaweed. An effective campaign will be set up to make people aware of these new insights. Plant-based options will also become less expensive.
- In places where ecosystems and fishing banks are degrading, a moratorium on fishing and other detrimental activities will be imposed to give nature a chance to recover. A ban will be implemented on fishing for vulnerable species such as eel, cod, and endangered species of tuna.
- The stunning of fish, immediately after they are caught and prior to their slaughter, will be standard practice on board of all fishing vessels. There will be a prohibition on catching and killing methods which cause long-term suffering for fish.
- Destructive fishing techniques, such as seabed-disruptive fishing practices, will be discontinued. Monster trawlers, floating fish factories, deep-sea fishing and beam trawls that destroy the seabed with their towed nets will be discontinued. The prohibition on electric pulse fishing will remain in place.
- The EU will impose and monitor strict regulations on illegal fishing practices.

Stop monster trawlers and overfishing

Our seas and oceans have come under serious threat.

One in three fish populations in Europe suffer from overfishing. In Southern waters such as the Mediterranean Sea, this has run up to 86%. Almost half of all European fish species are threatened with extinction. The fishing industry is the greatest cause of this. Apart from our 'own' waters, European fisheries also plunder fishing waters outside Europe, such as off the coast of Africa. The Party for the Animals wants to abolish the idea that fish has no value if it is not caught by humans. We want to engender respect for the intrinsic value of underwater life and plead for the genuine protection of our waters and all creatures living in them.

The ban on dumping caught fish at sea in order to catch commercially more attractive fish (high-grading) will be monitored through camera surveillance. This technology will also be used to pinpoint the areas where the bycatch of vulnerable species such as dolphins, sea turtles and birds, takes place. The privacy of the staff concerned will be guaranteed in this.

- Fishing vessels belonging to shipowners that fail to comply with regulations will be moored indefinitely.
- The EU will strongly reduce bycatch by imposing a prohibition on non-selective fishing methods. Fishing techniques which involve bycatches of sea birds, sea mammals and turtles will be prohibited.
- The Party for Animals wants to stop the use of trammel and drift nets. Porpoises and other fish become trapped in these standing nets or floating walls, and suffocate as a result.

The future is plant-based

The primary cause of food wastage is the feeding of animals with food that is also suitable for humans. If we were to feed ourselves with primarily plant-based products rather than animal proteins, there would be enough arable land to feed the whole world, and we could even return some of this to nature.

The transition to a plant-based consumption pattern will be accelerated in the interest of animals, nature, the environment and our own health.

- Plant-based alternatives for meat, fish, dairy, and eggs have become significantly more popular and readily available over the past few years. The Party for the Animals wants the EU to resolutely support the development and production of plant-based meat, fish, dairy and egg substitutes.
- The EU will stop pouring money into advertising campaigns for meat, fish, dairy and eggs. The millions of euros in European grants promoting the consumption of meat and other animal products will be converted into campaigns promoting a plant-based diet.
- All EU organisations will only purchase organically produced, sustainable plant-based food.

- Until then, the successful 'Carnivore? Let us know' initiative, in which plant-based food is served by default, will be applied in all EU organisations and fully encouraged in all Member States.
- Schools will start offering healthy meals made from 100% organic and plant-based ingredients. School milk programmes in Europe will be discontinued. Where necessary, schools will be given support in offering plant-based alternatives in the way of snacks, such as vegetables, fruit, nuts, seeds and legumes.
- Awareness-raising campaigns will be launched to promote healthy, plant-based and organic food in all hospitals and other care facilities in the EU.

Healthy food choices

Good choices are well-informed choices. Therefore, it is imperative that we are not constantly tempted to make unhealthy choices. For this reason, we will push for a healthy food environment in which healthy and sustainable choices are also the easiest and most affordable. A food environment that encourages and facilitates healthy eating and drinking habits while ensuring that sustainable and animal-friendly products are accessible to all.

- In accordance with the 'polluter pays principle' the EU will reconsider its VAT Directive: in future, it will be possible to set a low rate on or cease applying VAT to sustainable food, and a high rate for products that cause damage to the environment.
- Organic food must be affordable for all. VAT on vegetables, fruit, cereals, legumes and nuts will be abolished in all Member States.
- Food will be clearly labelled with objective information about the product's origins and ecological footprint.
- Every product must include information stating whether or not it contains ingredients of animal origin. If a product contains ingredients of animal origin, further labelling will be mandatory and provide information about the birthplace of the animal concerned, where it was raised and where and how it was killed.

- The implementation of the Nutri Score will be mandatory throughout the EU, which will be improved on the basis of thorough and independent scientific proof.
- Reduction standards will be imposed on products to ensure they contain less salt, sugar and fat.
- A ban will be imposed on marketing directed at children, which will be strictly enforced. We will also prohibit the advertising of meat, dairy and fast food in public areas, in the media and on social media channels.

Stop food waste

More than enough food is cultivated in the world to feed the entire world population, but too much food is being wasted. The greatest cause of food wastage is the feeding of animals with food that is also suitable for humans. The most obvious step in ensuring the equitable distribution of food is to eat fewer animal-based and more plant-based products. Food waste has major consequences: it exacerbates the climate crisis, is detrimental to the environment and wastes scarce resources such as soil, energy and water. Eliminating food waste is a collective responsibility, and we must no longer delay in tackling this problem.

- Binding goals will be set to reduce food waste, including specific targets for farmers, the food-producing industry, supermarkets and restaurants. By 2030, food waste must be reduced by at least 60% in comparison to 2014.
- Shorter chains lead to less loss. The Party for the Animals will fully commit to promoting regional and local food chains.
- Supermarkets will follow the example set by France in preventing waste by means of an obligation to enter into a partnership with a local food bank.
- Digital platforms that help combat food waste by better coordinating supply and demand will receive support where necessary.
- Many European regulations on best-before dates and external characteristics of food encourage food wastage. A measure will be adopted to prevent supermarkets from refraining to put edible food on their shelves simply because it does not comply with aesthetic standards, such as curvy cucumbers.

Senseless regulations concerning expiry dates on items such as salt and sugar will be abolished.

- The EU will provide its citizens with good information about the shelf-life of food and how to preserve it, resulting in less food ending up in the bin.

Prevention is better than cure

Outbreaks of diseases such as the bird flu, Q fever and COVID-19 have shown us that zoonoses pose a tremendous risk to the health and well-being of humans and other animals. The majority of all new infectious diseases discovered among humans has its origins in the livestock industry. Cooping up large numbers of animals in small spaces produces a dangerous breeding ground for the development and spread of new animal diseases that can be transmitted to humans. The large-scale and unnecessary use of antibiotics in the livestock and fish farming industry poses a threat to our health. It creates resistance to antibiotics, which is currently one of the biggest threats facing public health. The large amounts of manure from the livestock industry that end up in our soil result in the contamination of both the soil and the surface water with resistant bacteria. These are further spread throughout the environment through the wind and the rain, resulting in serious health risks for both humans and animals.

- The European non-vaccination policy will be abolished, and preventive animal-friendly measures will be taken to fight the outbreaks of animal diseases.
- During an outbreak of non-fatal animal diseases it will be standard to let the disease run its natural course and to let the animal recover. Sick animals may never be killed for economic reasons.
- By regionalisation, banning long-distance livestock transports and reducing the livestock industry we will furthermore reduce the risk of large-scale outbreaks of animal diseases.
- The EU supports initiatives based on the One Health principle to prevent zoonoses and more easily identify them.

- Shooting wildlife animals to prevent animal diseases such as the swine flu (African or otherwise) or bird flu is counterproductive: in fact, wounded animals increase the chance of spreading the diseases. Shooting animals to prevent the distribution of animal diseases will be prohibited.
- Contact between humans and animals living in the wild increases the risk of mutations in animal diseases, which would not impact our health and society if we were to leave these animals in peace. A stop must be put to hunting, trading in and consuming wildlife.
- Any disruption to ecosystems that are the habitats of wild animals will no longer be tolerated, and we will ensure that these habitats offer enough space for animals to live comfortably.
- Strict rules will be applied to the use of antibiotics in the livestock and fish farming industries. The pre-emptive administration of antibiotics will be stopped for once and for all.
- The effects of the spread of resistant bacteria arising from manuring will be identified and analysed. Exposure to resistant bacteria arising from the use of fertilisers is seriously underestimated. The Soil Directive does not take into account the problems arising from manuring. The Party for the Animals wants to eliminate this type of pollution.
- The frequent use of azoles as antifungal agents in agriculture results in resistant fungi that can trigger life-threatening lung infections in people with weakened immunity. The use of these agricultural pesticides will be prohibited.



ALL

YOU

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IS LESS

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Enough for everyone

**Welfare economics within the limits
of our planet's capacity**

Our economic system is based on the extortion of people, animals and nature. Moreover, this system produces more than we need, whilst there are still so many people in need. European cooperation can reform this system, and transform it into a green economy with clean air, healthy water and space for nature. We need a fair economy, with the aim to improve the welfare of humans and other animals, in Europe and elsewhere in the world. The EU must stop perpetuating a disposable economy and stop pandering to the interests of major polluters, investors and shareholders. If the EU dares to opt for an economy in which the goal is to ensure that all humans and other animals are given a decent existence, within the limits of the Earth's capacity, then there will be enough for all – now and in the future.

There is more than enough money for everything that's important. Nevertheless, many people still have trouble scraping by every month. We work hard, but our money is disappearing into the pockets of big businesses and wealthy investors. The current economic system of constant growth and expansion has not been making our lives any better. It has become an economy of waste, dominated by disposable cups, telephones that become outdated in the blink of an eye, appliances that are impossible to fix, furniture that doesn't survive a house move, superfluous packaging and huge mountains of rubbish. In the opinion of the Party for the Animals, this is not the definition of wealth.

True wealth is healthy air, fertile soil, clean drinking water, living in peace and harmony with our fellow humans and other animals, and more time to spend with our loved ones and to enjoy the bounties of nature. True wealth is knowing with certainty that nobody has to live in poverty. True wealth is being able to pass on a beautiful country and a beautiful planet to future generations.

But what is the current European political system doing with these riches? Wasting it. Our wealth is being squandered on fossil subsidies and grants allocated to companies for 'sustainable plans' that are not really sustainable, and so that we can book tax-free flights to neighbouring countries, eat asparagus imported from Peru and order clothing from China. We offer up a large percentage of our living environment to cars, to the toxic floriculture industry, and to the livestock industry's barns and meadows, and to agricultural land used to grow feed for this livestock. European nature is rapidly declining, and this poses a threat to our food security and the availability of fresh water. Our raw materials are becoming scarce, which is increasing our dependency on authoritarian regimes. In the meantime, major corporations and banks are making increasingly more profit and evading taxes, whilst more and more people are living in poverty.

The time has come to dismantle our current economy of waste and build an economy of well-being instead: an economy where we take care of one another and treat everything the Earth offers us with due frugality. We want an economy where our shared resources and land serve the interests of ordinary citizens, animals and future generations, an economy that does not produce superfluous disposables but products and services that contribute to good care, education, health and personal development. What we want is an economy where the strongest shoulders bear the heaviest burdens, and where the polluters pay.

The polluter pays

Our current economy does not remain within the limits of our planet's capacity and has put an enormous dent in many people's socio-economic security. It is even putting the security of our sustained livelihood at stake. The Party for the Animals opts for security for humans and other animals, within the bounds of what the Earth can provide. This is possible, if prosperity is distributed more equitably and those responsible are held accountable: the biggest polluters, who often have the deepest pockets. Polluters have determined European policy for too long and benefitted from grants and tax breaks at the expense of ordinary citizens. We want this to change: polluters will start pulling out their purses, rather than pulling the strings.

- We aim to tackle problems at the root: the polluter must pay for the damage caused. The agricultural industry will no longer be exempted from this principle.
- All fossil fuel subsidies will be terminated and no more investments will be made in fossil infrastructure.
- Europe will implement an extensive manufacturer liability and impose even stricter targets and requirements on all products that are harmful to nature. We will hold corporations accountable for resolving and restoring the damage they caused in the past.
- Profit tax for big corporations will be raised to at least 35% throughout Europe.

- If corporations become too big, they have too much power, particularly so in the technology, agricultural and financial sectors, where this is concentrated in the hands of just a few companies. This also inhibits innovation. Non-competition regulations will therefore be sharpened, action will be taken to prevent mergers between excessively large corporations and monopolies will be forced to dismantle.

Well-being is key

Our current disposable economy focuses primarily on cost competition: corporations are encouraged, under the guise of economic growth, to sell as much as possible at the lowest possible prices. Infinite economic growth, however, is impossible. The economy is based on everything the Earth can offer us, yet the Earth cannot grow with our rising demands. A growing economy does not mean, by definition, that society is flourishing or that citizens are happy. Therefore, we aim to adapt economic policy accordingly. The guiding element in European cooperation should be the well-being of the European population rather than economic prosperity. In an economy dominated by sustainability and solidarity, we can guarantee socio-economic security within the bounds of what the Earth provides.

- The gap between rich and poor must become narrower, which will also benefit our climate and the environment. We want all countries in the European Union to set to work on reducing economic inequality, and to publish an annual account on this topic.
- Europe will reduce its ecological footprint and commit to a circular economy, in which the full-scale reusability of products and resources is paramount.
- The EU will take measures to ensure fair prices. Fair prices are calculated to include the costs of external effects that occur during the production process (such as pollution), rather than shifting these costs onto people and nature.

- In order to determine and guide European policy, we will use indicators and models that take into account the limits of the Earth's carrying capacity, as well as biodiversity, societal needs, animal welfare and human rights. Economic growth will no longer be the ultimate goal.
- Green and social entrepreneurship will be fully encouraged and promoted through methods like subsidies and by encouraging the sharing of knowledge and best practices. More funding will be made available for this.
- The EU will shift its focus from reducing Member States' budgetary deficits to reducing the European ecological deficit.
- Investments in an environmentally friendly energy supply, in enhancing and protecting biodiversity, and in making our production chains greener, more animal-friendly and fairer will strengthen the real economy in the long term. Such investments may not be impeded by an overly strict application of the current Stability and Growth Pact's 3% rule. The Stability Pact with its rules on budgetary deficits must be revised in favour of a welfare economy that will guarantee the socio-economic security of all European citizens and a healthy and green living environment.
- Instead of importing increasingly more goods, we aim to encourage the European manufacture of goods (and preferably only those that we truly need), produced with respect for people, animals and the environment.
- European manufacturers will be protected from unfair foreign competition. Imported products must, in all cases, be subject to the same regulations as those imposed on European products.
- National and regional government bodies will set a good example by only purchasing sustainable, fairly produced, and animal-friendly products. Semi-government bodies will be required to follow suit. The criteria for public tenders and procurement will be sharpened, and all public tenders and investments will be transparent.
- Current European tendering regulations usually result in tenders being awarded to the contractor offering the lowest price. We will reform the EU tendering regulations to give governments the freedom to protect the public interest by opting for the sustainable, animal-friendly and social alternative in their choice of contractor.

Made in the European Union

More and more of the products we buy are made outside the European Union. This is not always beneficial to the environment: these products generally travel thousands of kilometres by sea or air. Aside from this, the environmental, animal welfare and social regulations imposed on the production of goods outside of the European Union are often far more lenient, resulting in adverse consequences for people, animals and nature. This import trade also increases our dependency on foreign suppliers, which in turn makes us more vulnerable – as we experienced during the COVID pandemic. The shipping of goods from one end of the globe to another is particularly harmful to the environment – and unnecessary. This is why the Party for the Animals advocates an increase in local, green production of goods that makes for quality employment opportunities.

Efficient use of resources

Our resources are finite, and their extraction is paired with damage to the environment and ecosystems, as well as the violation of human rights. We must treat our resources and raw materials more frugally and prioritise their reuse and recovery.

- A new action plan for a circular economy will be drawn up, with binding targets to reduce waste and keep the extraction of resources to a minimum, while encouraging their more efficient use.
- Binding European targets will be imposed on reducing our use of feedstocks, resources and raw materials.
- Strict sustainability criteria will be set for the import and extraction of all raw materials, in which compulsory audits will be imposed on companies to assess the impact of their raw materials and products on people, animals, the climate and the environment.

- Our ocean floors will be protected rather than exhausted. A prohibition will apply to deep sea and space mining.
- Raw materials whose extraction goes hand in hand with war and oppression (such as child labour), will not be permitted to enter the European market.
- Mining companies will also be subjected to increasingly strict regulations that protect the rights of the local populations, such as the Sámi, and warrant the environmental and nature requirements for the extraction of raw materials.
- Clean resource flows are of crucial importance to the creation of a circular economy. Manufacturers will be required to stop using packaging composed of mixed materials to the greatest possible extent.

Designs for the future

The easiest way to reduce the amount of waste in the world is to ensure that it is not produced in the first place. A lot can be gained if we give thought to the entire life cycle of our electronic devices and appliances, furniture, clothing and buildings, starting in the design phase. This must, of course, be anchored in law: the revenue models of many major corporations are based on the manufacture of products that need to be replaced within one or two years.

- Reuse and reparation will once more become the standard, and affordable for everyone. Sustainable practices such as this will result in the creation of new jobs. Europe will promote the second-hand market, barter and exchange platforms and repair services, including Repair Cafés.
- The right to have a product repaired will apply to all devices and appliances.
- The EU will introduce a life cycle label and a repair label containing information on the anticipated useful life of a product and its ability to be repaired.
- Strict criteria will be introduced in the regulations concerning extensive manufacturer responsibility (EMRs) to ensure, for example, that manufacturers adequately safeguard principles such as ecological design, the extension of a product's useful life, and the reuse and repair of products. This extensive manufacturer responsibility will be applied to as many product groups as possible.

- Strict requirements will be imposed on product design, including that of appliances, cars, furniture and clothing, to ensure that these will last longer and can be repaired, and that all the materials from which they are made can easily be recycled. This means that they must also be free from hazardous substances. Unsold stocks may not be burned or otherwise destroyed or dumped in any country outside of the EU.
- The EU will also impose strict sustainability criteria on products entering the EU through direct internet sales, such as those offered by manufacturers in China.
- Materials passports will be imposed on the manufacturing and construction industries. These will clearly indicate which materials are used in a product or building to facilitate the reuse of raw materials.
- Devices will be supported by software updates for a minimum of 15 years, to extend their useful life and cyber security.
- Affordable and accessible lease arrangements, in which companies retain ownership of a product and provide a service to the customer, will be encouraged. This will enable manufacturers to recycle more raw materials and promote life cycle thinking.
- Clothes are not disposable products. We will place restrictions on the fast fashion industry by imposing strict criteria on the sustainability of clothing and the number of new collections that may be brought to the market.
- The EU will stop exporting waste products and toxic substances to other countries for cheap processing.

Stop plastic pollution

Plastic is a by-product of the gas and oil industry that feeds the climate crisis and pollutes nature. Plastic waste ends up on a gigantic landfill, or floats around in the ocean and contributes to the plastic soup.

Animals become trapped in it or swallow it.

The production of plastic continues to increase exponentially. If we do nothing to put an end to this problem, people and animals will drown in the plastic soup we have created.

- A European action plan will be implemented with binding targets to prevent and combat litter on land and in the seas and oceans.
- The European ban on single-use plastic will be extended to include all types of disposable plastic. In those cases where plastic is still used, it must be recycled plastic. We will drastically reduce the use of packaging materials by promoting the use of reusable packaging and refillable packaging in supermarkets.
- The EU will oblige manufacturers that create litter to make a fair contribution to cleaning it up.
- An immediate ban will be placed on the addition of microplastics to products such as cosmetics and artificial fertilisers.
- Regulations will be imposed on manufacturers to combat the release of microplastics arising from the use of their products.
- The use of plastic pallets in maritime shipping often results in serious accidents, which in turn results in the large-scale pollution of beaches, seaports and marine ecosystems. Stringent regulations will be imposed to prevent pollution.
- Packaging will become reusable. A deposit programme will be introduced in all Member States for tins, cans, plastic bottles and other beverage packaging, with a sufficient number of accessible intake points.
- Companies will be obliged to use more recycled rather than virgin plastic. The use of different types of plastic in a single type of packaging, thus rendering it unfit for recycling, will be prohibited.

Eliminate greenwashing

Some companies present themselves as more ecologically responsible or animal friendly than they really are. However, the ecological crisis will not be solved by enticing citizens to pay exorbitant amounts of money for 'green' promises that are not met.

- Senseless claims that a product is ecologically friendly may no longer appear on labels, in advertisements and in annual reports. If a company claims that its product is more ecologically friendly than a comparable product, the company will have to prove this through independent test results.
- Claims concerning a company's ecological footprint must be substantiated through measurements confirmed by independent experts.
- The EU will commit to a ban on advertisements for fossil products, animal products and single-use products. Companies that derive more than three-quarters of their income through the use of fossil fuels are no longer permitted to advertise their products.
- Products that are demonstrably hazardous to our health may no longer be designated as 'green'.

Clean chains

Many chemical substances are seriously hazardous to our health, such as endocrine disruptive substances, harmful PFAS and chromium trioxide. There is a European list of carcinogenic substances, substances that can damage DNA, or substances that can accumulate in our bodies and in nature – all of which should therefore be replaced. The Party for the Animals feels that this process is going far too slowly, and wants a prohibition to be introduced on the most hazardous substances as soon as possible. As long as toxic substances end up in consumer products, the raw materials from which they are made cannot be reused in a circular economy. People have the right to a toxin-free living environment.

- People, animals and the environment will no longer be exposed to toxins. A concrete action plan will be drawn up, including a clear schedule and binding targets.

- The REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorization, and Restriction of Chemicals) regulation will be extended in such a way that if one substance from a group of comparable chemicals is hazardous to the health of humans, animals or the environment, the entire group will be prohibited.
- Proposed improvements with a view to stopping pollution by the chemical industry must be implemented as soon as possible. The REACH regulation will be significantly improved to ensure that unnecessary chemical substances will finally disappear from the market, the safety of chemical substances will no longer need to be assessed through animal testing, and we can truly facilitate the sustainable manufacturing industry.
- The production and use of all PFAS will be fully banned. The development of safe alternatives has our full support. As long as this ban has not been implemented, we will at least ensure that companies stop emitting PFAS into the air or discharging it into the soil or water.
- The EU will take all endocrine disruptive chemicals off the market as soon as possible. Stringent audits will be imposed on the use of endocrine disruptors and on imported products that contain (or could possibly contain) these substances.
- Chemicals that are so dangerous that they are no longer permitted to be used in Europe may no longer be produced for export purposes.
- We will accelerate this process in order to put a definitive stop to the use of hazardous substances. The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) will be allocated a larger budget for this, and the Member States will provide more staffing.
- Today, companies can still quickly and easily obtain a permits for the use of highly hazardous substances. We aim to impose stringent criteria on this. Rather than being led by economic interests, we will prioritise the health of people and their living environments.
- People are entitled to know what they are buying. A good information system will be implemented to inform people about the chemical substances in consumer products, materials and waste, for example through labelling.

Proper risk assessments

Agricultural toxins, genetically modified crops and chemicals can all pose a risk to the health of people, animals and nature. It is therefore of crucial importance that these risks are properly assessed before the above toxins, crops and chemicals are permitted to be used. Currently, this is carried out on the basis of studies whose results are submitted by the manufacturers themselves. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) plays a decisive role in the authorisation procedure of pesticides and genetically modified crops. Unfortunately, the EFSA is not always unbiased, and regularly chooses the side of the chemical industry. The Party for the Animals wants this to change.

- Pesticides, endocrine disruptors and genetically modified crops will no longer be assessed by manufacturers but by independent scientists. A manufacturer applying for a permit must pay for this independent assessment.
- The EFSA and the ECHA (European Chemicals Agency) will be reformed in such a way that they operate transparently and completely independently from politics and trade. Sufficient funds will be made available for a thorough, independent risk assessment. Former employees of chemical companies or people with ties to the industry are prohibited from having a seat in these organisations.
- All information used in the risk assessment will be actively made public so that citizens, scientists and social organisations have access to this.

Care for all

There is hardly anything as valuable as good health. The coronavirus crisis has shown us that the way we treat animals and nature is of vital importance. The enormous number of livestock farms, pelt farms and fish farms poses a serious threat to public health: they are factories where zoonoses (animal diseases that can be transmitted to humans) and resistance to antibiotics originate. Additionally, the excessive use of pesticides in the agricultural and market gardening industries is not only hazardous to nature and animals, but it can also cause serious health problems in humans such as cancer, infertility, cardiovascular diseases, pulmonary diseases, chronic illnesses, developmental disabilities, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases and ALS. Europe is, in fact, a pressure cooker in this respect. The Party for the Animals wants to prioritise public health. Prevention is better than cure. Therefore, prevention should be the guiding principle rather than an addendum in public health policy. The right to a healthy living environment takes precedence over corporate profit. Health will be the cornerstone of all European policies.

- The EU will consistently apply the One Health approach and recognises that public health is partly determined by the health of animals, agricultural and market gardening practices, and our treatment of ecosystems and nature.
- The EU will apply the principle of precaution to all its policy areas and put a stop to the major disease inducers.
- The EU will ensure a toxin-free agricultural and market gardening industry and, in doing so, protect the health of farmers, residents, and consumers.
- To prevent prices of medicines from excessively rising, the EU will publish the composition of these prices, combat monopolies on medicines and safeguard the accessibility to medicines.
- Animal-free scientific research on new treatments and drugs will be supported by the EU. We will ensure that all citizens can benefit from the results of this scientific research.
- Investments will be made in the better approach to post-infectious conditions such as long COVID and the Q-fever fatigue syndrome.

- Medicines must be accessible to all, particularly those developed with the aid of public funding. Patents may not obstruct this development. The pharmaceutical industry's profit-driven approach will no longer be facilitated.
- In the event of urgent threats to public health, patents for crucial medicines may be waived or suspended to facilitate their large-scale production and will thus be accessible to every citizen requiring them.
- The European Commission will provide full insight into its past, present or future agreements with the pharmaceutical industry, such as on the deal made in relation to the COVID-19 vaccines.
- A prevention-based approach to public health also means that the EU is required to promote a healthy lifestyle and will no longer allow itself to be led by the food producing industry and the tobacco and alcohol lobbies.
- The European Medicine Agency (EMA) will become more transparent.
- We will make cross-border medical care easier and more accessible.
- The benefits to public health and the environment resulting from the legalisation and regulation of drugs will be taken into consideration in the EU's policy on drugs.
- The EU recognises and supports the therapeutic and medical potential of psychedelic substances by actively financing scientific research into the use of these substances in health care.

Corporate social responsibility

Without drastic changes, global warming will surely reach the 3°C mark by 2050. Global warming is, in fact, already causing irreparable damage to people, animals and the environment. The corporate community bears a great responsibility. The era of voluntary International Corporate Social Responsibility (ICSR) has come to an end. The time has come for strict and binding measures.

- Ambitious laws will be implemented for International Corporate Social Responsibility (ICSR) at a European level, with binding measures. These laws will oblige companies to identify, prevent, and actively address human rights violations including child labour, pollution, attacks on animal welfare, and loss of biodiversity in their supply chains. Companies will also be required to contribute financially to restoring any damage they have caused.
- Parallel to the implementation of European ICSR legislation, Europe will commit to the implementation of internationally binding agreements for multinational enterprises within the context of negotiations for a UN treaty on 'human rights and the corporate community'. Compliance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will be made compulsory. This will apply equally to production processes abroad. Manufacturers in vulnerable countries will receive assistance in meeting these criteria.
- Mining can disrupt local communities. To prevent this, the input of local communities will be key to the decision-making process, and they will be entitled to benefits from projects.
- Mechanisms such as the Investment Court System (ICS) and Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) will be abolished in order to protect the environment, the climate, animals and human rights, rather than to help the fossil fuel industry and other polluting branches of industry realise bigger profits. A permanent Multilateral Investment Court (MIC) will not be instated.
- Corporations will be required to issue annual reports on their care obligation (Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive – CSDDD) to assess the adverse impact of their activities on the environment, animals and human rights. They will also be required to present a climate plan to demonstrate how they will cut back their emissions throughout the chain.
- Additional obligations in relation to respect for human rights and nature will be imposed on companies that engage in activities or maintain business relations in conflict and high-risk areas or in areas populated by indigenous peoples.
- The ecological integrity of the living environment of indigenous peoples will be recognised and protected. These populations are dependent on the area in which they live, for their subsistence and their housing as well as their physical and spiritual well-being.
- The Socially Responsible Procurement Policy (MVI) for corporate procurement will be brought in line with the OECD Guidelines as well as animal welfare guidelines. EU institutions will set a good example in this and will only procure products that are 100% sustainable, socially just and animal-friendly by 2030.
- Companies will provide insight into the origins of the materials they use and the circumstances under which their production processes take place. Each year, they will publish a balance sheet that covers their human, animal, natural, environmental, and climate costs. This balance sheet will provide an insight into the impact of the business on welfare and well-being in the most general sense, as well as a record of the company's greenhouse gas emissions and raw materials consumption.
- All reporting and other measures in relation to CSR will apply to multinational, medium-sized and large companies from all sectors and branches of industry, including the financial sector.
- More funding will be allocated to the implementation of the Social Economy Action Plan in support of social enterprises and social innovation. A European-wide action plan will be drawn up to offer young persons with employment limitations a promising future.

Destructive free trade

Today, the main purpose of a free trade agreement is to help business enterprises trade in goods, make investments and provide their services across borders at a lower cost. The winners are the biggest companies that can produce their goods as cheaply as possible. However, 'cheap' in most cases means that costs are shifted to employees, animals, the environment, and local residents. Free trade agreements are often unfavourable for Dutch and European farmers. Aside from this, many free trade agreements undermine democracy. They are an obstacle for countries in amending their legislation in favour of the well-being of humans, animals, nature, and the environment. Additionally, they give multinational enterprises the power to file billion-euro claims against democratic resolutions if they see their mega-profits threatened.

- The security of our sustained livelihood, a healthy climate, biodiversity, public health, human and animal rights, and regional agriculture will become the guiding principles in European trade policy, rather than the short-term interests of multinational enterprises and the agro-industry.
- We aim to promote international agreements that protect people, animals, nature, climate, and the environment and that enhance the sustainability and fairness of the economy, instead of more destructive free trade agreements.
- The EU will cease its negotiations concerning the Amazon-destroying EU- Mercosur treaty with Brazil and Argentina. The treaty not only leads to the destruction of precious nature and condones the hunting of animals, but also violates the rights of the indigenous population. The European Union will also revoke other trade treaties that have a detrimental impact on nature, animals and people, such as treaties concluded with Thailand, New Zealand and Australia.
- When the EU does conclude trade agreements, these should focus on a green, animal-friendly economy and improve the position of vulnerable and marginalised people. They should include binding and enforceable agreements in all instances where sustainability, biodiversity, climate, human rights, and animal welfare are concerned.

- Products that are imported into the EU must meet at least the same environmental, climate and animal welfare conditions as products that are produced here, or they will be subject to tariffs at the border in order to protect farmers and other manufacturers and producers from unfair competition. If that is not possible within the regulations of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Europe will not be afraid of bringing such considerations to the courts for a trial or full procedure.
- EU Member States will agree to stop funding insurance for fossil-fuel based projects or the livestock industry outside the European Union (export loan insurance).
- During negotiations on trade, we demand that civil society organisations, indigenous peoples, and trade unions from those countries are given a strong voice. Decisions that affect them should not be made without their input.
- Free trade agreements often have a restrictive effect on the input of national and local parliamentarians. We want the negotiating mandate for the European Commission to be submitted to national parliaments.
- Decisions concerning trade treaties are made by national parliaments. Their being taken into effect, however, is subject to the approval of all EU parliaments. This principle will be strictly enforced, National parliaments will no longer be confronted with actions taken without their consent, but will be adequately informed of the negotiations from the very beginning.
- The House of Representatives and the European Parliament will be given more possibilities to check negotiations on trade treaties.
- Europe will revise all treaties that allow multinational enterprises to file claims for billions of euros, circumventing the regular court system, through investment protection measures (such as ICS or ISDS). This also applies to the CETA Treaty with Canada.
- The Energy Charter Treaty is a fossil from the fossil age. The European Union will stick to its decision to fully withdraw from this treaty.

- The CEPA Treaty is a disaster for nature and the indigenous populations in Indonesia, such as the West Papuan people. Negotiations with Indonesia about CEPA will be terminated and any agreements already made will be subject to revision.

Curbing the power of banks

A transition to a sustainable economy is impossible without a bigger contribution from the financial sector. Banks, insurance companies, asset management firms and other financial institutions must take more responsibility for this transition. However, in 2024 the majority of these institutions still focuses on high-risk short-term profit.

To guarantee both financial and ecological stability, strict regulations must be imposed on the financial sector. This applies to all players with activities on the European financial market.

- Clear regulations will be drawn up for banks to increase transparency on the amount of money they invest in climate targets and in enhancing the sustainability and animal-friendliness of the European economy.
- Investments in gas, nuclear energy, biomass and the livestock industry may never be counted as sustainable investments: EU regulations will be amended on this point.
- To prevent a possible run on the banks, they will be obliged to hold larger reserves. Banks that pose a threat to the financial system should they collapse (too big to fail) will be split up.
- The EU will curb the speculation with food and energy prices.
- Banks and investment platforms will not be permitted to take risks at the expense of their clients. Non-transparent financial products will be abolished.
- We support the regulation of crypto platforms, with the ultimate goal of improving the sustainability of crypto.
- The EU will promote the introduction of a bank tax and a tax on financial transactions, of which the proceeds will be divided among the EU Member States.

- Banks, insurance companies, asset managers and other financial institutions will be prohibited from investing in the arms and fossil fuel industries, as well as any other project that is uncontestedly hazardous to our climate, nature and the environment. Strict human rights, animal welfare and climate criteria will be applied to investments.

Tackling tax evasion

Everyone must pay their just share of taxes. This is currently not the case. We are seeing that major corporations are doing everything in their power to pay as little taxes as possible. The Netherlands is still one of world's foremost tax havens and facilitates tax evasion. The cost of this tax evasion is shifted to ordinary citizens, small business and countries in the global South. The European Union will play a key role in tackling cross-border tax evasion to ensure that major corporations and their shareholders will pay their just share of taxes.

- The EU will pare down both formal and informal agreements on tax rates (rulings) between major corporations and government bodies to the greatest extent possible and will demand transparency in regard of any existing agreements.
- The EU will promote collaboration between the various tax authorities in Member States in order to tackle tax evasion.
- To counter tax evasion, public country-by-country reporting (CbC, country reports) will become compulsory for all countries where a company is engaged in business activities, in which companies will report the tax amount paid in each country. This will also apply to countries not on the blacklist as well as companies with revenues under 750 million euros.
- The blacklist for tax havens in the EU will be expanded with countries (including those in the EU) that allow companies to pay, in practice, a tax rate of zero per cent or facilitate the no-traceability of company owners. Sanctions will be linked to this list. The list will be compiled by an independent institution according to preset criteria that can be publicly consulted.

- The EU encourages green tax agreements among Member States. Supplementary taxes will be levied on environmentally polluting and animal unfriendly products, including those imported into the EU. The proceeds from these taxes will be used to greenify the economy and help people living in poverty.
- Taxes on digital services will be levied so that tech giants will pay their just share of taxes.
- Inventions developed with the aid of public funding and therefore taxpayers' money will be placed in public hands. No patents will be issued for inventions and products developed with the aid of public funding. This will enable everyone to benefit from these inventions, both in and outside of Europe.



5. Green, transparent and democratic

Harnessing the power of citizens

All inhabitants of our planet, humans and other animals, have the right to a safe, healthy and stable future, without having to suffer extortion, hunger or violence. The European Union is responsible for making a proper contribution to a green, just and animal-friendly world. However, this cannot be achieved without transparency and democracy, in a European Union that does not prioritise the mega-profits of the agro-industry and multinational enterprises, but the interests of its citizens, animals, nature and the environment. Therefore, we must defend the rule of law, democracy and the freedom of the press, and take an active stand against injustice, both in Europe and elsewhere in the world.

All too often, European decision-making is the result of negotiations behind closed doors, of obscure bureaucracy, and of concealed lobbies by the corporate sector. The pursuit of total free trade with countries outside of the EU, with as few regulations for companies as possible, comes at the expense of people, animals, nature and the environment.

Not greed and a hunger for economic growth, but compassion and sustainability must be the cornerstone of European policymaking. This is why the Party for the Animals is striving for a European Union in which Member States join forces to safeguard the continued existence of humans and other animals and in which we take a stand alongside citizens who are showing us the path to a safe, green, social, and animal-friendly world. Together, we will topple the old hierarchies of power, so that all people can reclaim their right to collectively shape our future. Destructive commercial interests will surrender some of their power. We will strengthen the position of citizens and civil society organisations. Rather than focusing blindly on economic growth, we want to cooperate at international level for a liveable Earth.

In order for Europe to be a just and social society, democracy should be as close to its citizens as possible. This is why we regulate what we can close to home, and everything outside this scope in the EU. Tackling problems that transcend the borders of individual countries, such as the climate and biodiversity crisis, requires pan-European cooperation. It is also crucial that the EU defends human and animal rights, as well as fundamental rights such as democracy, the independent rule of law, and free journalism. In other areas, we prefer a more specific approach at a national level that takes into account how citizens are impacted by policies. The organisation of our social security system, our pension system, our care, defence, and other public services is, principally speaking, managed by national authorities. The extent to which all of the above comply with the principles of democracy is determined by the Member States' national parliaments.

The Party for the Animals embraces a constructive perspective on European plans that really do bring about social, ecological or animal-friendly progress.

A democratic European Union

A major part of Brussels' authority lies with the European Commission, an undemocratic administrative body over which citizens and their elected representatives barely have any control. Negotiations on legislature between Member States, the European Commission and the European Parliament often take place behind closed doors, frequently leading to far-reaching decisions that are, in many cases, insufficiently coordinated with citizens and their representatives. The well-being of humans and other animals must be prioritised in European policies. We want to improve democratic control over the decisions made in Brussels. The voices of citizens and the rights of our voiceless planet will become the guiding principle in European policymaking.

- The influence of European citizens will be broadened by giving the European Parliament, in addition to the European Commission, the right to initiate new legislation.
- Voting by the Council of Ministers and the currently confidential prior administrative coordination (by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, COREPER) will become public and broadcast live on the internet.
- Prior to voting in the Council, the ministers will duly inform their national parliaments of how they intend to vote in order to give their parliaments sufficient time to take action if necessary, should they object to the intended vote.
- Negotiations on legislation between Member States, the Commission and the Parliament will become public and broadcast live on the internet.
- All meetings attended by the 27 European Commissioners, in which far-reaching decisions are made, will be made public.
- Every voice must be heard. We resist the introduction of voting barriers in the European parliamentary elections.
- The voting age for the European Parliament will be lowered to 16 years of age.

- As long as the democratic content, accountability and transparency of the European Union remains inadequate, the EU will not be granted any new powers. If such plans are nevertheless in the making, the population must be given a say in these matters through national referendums. These referendums will be carefully organised, in which guarantees must be provided to ensure that citizens will receive sufficient and objective information.
- Decisions with regard to European foreign policy and taxes must take place by consensus to the greatest extent possible. In the event of violations of human rights, decisions will be made by a qualified majority. This would prevent, for example, Hungary from blocking sanctions imposed on Russia or denying support to Ukraine.
- Europe will openly take a stand against ecocide and the violation of human and animal rights. Europe will impose targeted sanctions on countries guilty of such violations, on the condition that a qualified majority of EU Member States supports this.
- The EU will impose sanctions on Member States found guilty of violating fundamental rights.

Independent and transparent

Ties between Brussels and the business sector are too strong. Multinational lobbies have a significant influence in the EU, while citizens are largely side-lined. Lobbying activities generally take place behind closed doors, precluding democratic control. The Party for the Animals wants Europe to operate transparently and independently of multinational enterprises.

- European Commissioners, EU Presidents and their immediate relatives or circle of acquaintances should not have interests that inhibit (or could inhibit) their ability to function independently. After leaving their post, they should refrain from any lobbying work or other form of employment that might imply a conflict of interest for a period of five years.

- Stricter rules will be imposed on Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to avoid the appearance of conflicts of interest. MEPs will not be permitted to sit on committees that make decisions about companies and branches of industry in which they personally have a financial interest.
- Fossil lobbyists have no business in EU institutions and will henceforth not be tolerated.
- We will ensure that all lobbying attempts are transparent and that the public is aware of the parties with which European Commissioners, MEPs and other officials are conducting negotiations.
- Missions by parliamentarians will always be paid for from their own budget, without financial compensation from third parties.
- Registration in the lobby register will become compulsory for all EU institutions. As a result, all contacts with lobbyists and other advocates during policy formulation will become more transparent. Registration will be strictly enforced, and the data entered will be monitored.
- We want a truly open government. Citizens and organisations should be allowed easy access to proposals and decisions. Documents concerning legislative issues will be published proactively.
- When decisions are made on legislative proposals and policy, the European Commission and all members of the European Parliament will clearly identify the way in which lobbyists have influenced the formulation of their policy.
- Salaries and expense allowances of MEPs from the different countries will be aligned with the average salaries of parliamentarians from all EU Member States.
- Stricter rules will be introduced for the appointment of officials and employees of the European Commission, consultancy bodies and implementing organisations in Brussels, such as the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). This will truly counter conflicts of interest, and put a stop to the revolving door constructions that allow employees of the chemical industry and pesticide plants to authorise their own products.

A say for all

Our democracy is precious. We are all responsible for maintaining that democracy. Nonetheless, many people feel that they have not been heard by the political establishment for far too long. We aim to change that. European Citizens' Initiatives are one of the scarce options for citizens to get important topics on the European agenda. Several of these initiatives have already met with success. Remarkably, they often address issues that the Party for the Animals campaigns for every day, such as the abolition of the livestock industry, of fur and of hazardous agricultural toxins such as glyphosate. Unfortunately, this important instrument is not functioning properly yet, as successful citizens' initiatives for a prohibition on glyphosate and fur, or for a cage-free Europe were shoved aside by the European Commission and the European Parliament. This does not do justice to citizens' concerns, and will not allow us to achieve sustainable solutions for these concerns. We aim to regain citizens' confidence in our political system.

- Signing a European citizens' initiative will become easier. A successful citizens' initiative endorsed by more than one million signatures will always lead to the adoption of a standpoint by the European Parliament and to meaningful action and legislative proposals by the European Commission.
- When instating citizens' panels, roundtable discussions and citizens' assemblies, these must comprise a well-balanced representation of society. We will ensure that this participation is not hijacked by the corporate community or multinational enterprises, or is used for policy greenwashing.
- The European Commission will actively bring public consultations to the attention of European citizens.
- When public consultations are held by the European Commission, the input provided by citizens and social organisations will weigh at least as heavily as that of the corporate community.
- The European institutions will safeguard and guarantee the right to protest.

A liveable and affordable Europe

The European Union's multiannual budget amounts to 1211 billion euros. In 2021, the European Commission borrowed another 807 billion euros for the European COVID and restoration fund. The total EU budget for 2021-2027 therefore amounts to over 2000 billion euros. So, there is a lot of money in Brussels, but it is often spent on the wrong things. Just over one third of the European basic budget is allocated to subsidies for the agricultural and fishing industries, which are used to finance mega barns, monster trawlers and toxic agriculture. At the same time, there is a constant call for even higher EU budgets. This cannot be justified in times where ordinary citizens can barely make ends meet. We want a liveable and affordable Europe, where money is spent with ample consideration on matters that serve the public interest.

- The current polluting and destructive European agricultural and fishing industries subsidies will be abolished. The money saved will be used to help farmers and people working in the fishing industry in their transition to sustainable jobs, plant-based and organic agriculture and nature recovery.
- An end will be put to the expensive and environmentally polluting relocation of the European Parliament from Brussels to Strasbourg and vice-versa. From now on, the European Parliament will meet exclusively in Brussels and will continue to facilitate online meetings.
- The EU budget will not be increased. Instead, existing funds will be redistributed to serve the interests of people, animals, nature, climate and the environment. Unused money will be returned to the Member States. European money may no longer be used for anything that causes climate damage.
- When the EU allocates subsidies, binding social, animal welfare and sustainable requirements will be imposed.
- Thousands of EU officials enjoy a higher income than even the Dutch Prime Minister, for example. The Party for the Animals wants the high salaries of EU officials and European Commissioners to be cut down.

- The Eurozone will not be expanded any further.
- The European Parliament in its entirety will be given voting rights on the management, maintenance, purchase and rental of buildings for EU institutions. This cannot be left to the select group of MEPs who are currently concluding inordinately expensive leases for buildings in Brussels and Strasbourg.
- Greater solidarity among Member States will be encouraged, but they will not jointly bear other members' debts.
- Member States will maintain control over their own public services such as public transport and the supply of water and energy. Europe will not be permitted to force Member States to exploit their natural resources, such as natural gas in Groningen. We will, however, commit to better European cooperation to tackle cross-border bottlenecks, such as the need to promote an extensive, affordable and easily accessible railway network.
- EU countries will retain control over their own budgets and the proceeds from taxes will go to the Member States. The authorisation of national parliaments with regard to decisions made on behalf of citizens concerning the collection of tax money may not be impacted.

Equal opportunities and freedom of choice for everyone

Instances of racism and other forms of discrimination occur on a daily basis in Europe, and have pervaded our systems and structures both visibly and invisibly. We are fighting against this. Everyone must be given equal opportunities and be able to feel free and safe. We attach great value the right to self-determination, such as the right to exercise full control over your own life and body, the right to love whomever you want, the right to believe in what you want, and the right to present yourself as you want. The European Union is committed to equal rights for all citizens and equal opportunities for everyone. Discrimination on any grounds is unacceptable. It is the duty of the EU to protect and facilitate these rights. In the European Union, we speak out against every form of racism and discrimination.

- The EU opposes and will combat all forms of discrimination, whether this is based on origin, gender identity, gender expression, gender, age, disability, exterior characteristics, religious conviction or sexual orientation.
- Enforceable legislature must be adopted to combat discrimination. The EU is committed to resolute enforcement and promotes awareness and information.
- Gender equality, diversity and inclusion will be safeguarded in all European policy areas.
- Online security is of crucial importance. An action plan will be implemented to prevent group defamation, cyberbullying, discrimination and calls for racial violence and every other form of violence on social media and internet forums.
- The EU encourages equal opportunities for people of all genders on the labour market, in public administration, in politics and in sports.
- The EU will commit to eliminating the wage gap and the glass ceiling.
- We will ensure an equivalent representation of marginalised groups (e.g., people of colour, women and LGBTQIA+ persons) in governing bodies, on executive boards and in politics.
- The EU will set the right example by ensuring a better representation of marginalised groups in European top positions in the European Commission, the European Parliament and other European institutions and agencies.
- Equal rights for elderly citizens and people with a disability will be safeguarded. Access to public facilities, public institutions and public transport should be self-evident. All legislative proposals will be assessed according to the UN treaty on the rights of persons with a disability.
- Nobody should ever be obstructed by or be placed at a disadvantage on account of their origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious conviction, neurodivergence, disability, skin colour or other exterior characteristics. The work floor will be made suitable for and by all employees.
- The EU will take further steps to ensure that all Member States meet the criteria set down in the UN treaty on the rights of persons with a disability.

Methods such as investments in concrete goals, supporting funds, monitoring, sharing knowledge and raising awareness will all be used to achieve this. When drawing up policies, information will be requested from experts with hands-on experience; persons with a disability will always be included in matters pertaining to their situation.

- Migrant workers will be better protected against exploitation. We are very concerned about the circumstances under which these people are required to live and work, often in return for mere pittance.

Support for the rainbow community

LGBTQIA+ persons are confronted with stereotyping, discrimination, exclusion and violence. Despite many European laws and intentions, they are given inadequate protection. We are calling for progress on this front, and demand that all people are given the same rights and liberties.

- The European Union will draw up a charter for the fundamental rights of LGBTQIA+ persons, in which their rights are explicitly guaranteed.
- The EU will invest in more funding and support for the LGBTQIA+ movement in countries where LGBTQIA+ persons are under pressure, as is presently the case in Central and Eastern Europe. The EU will also endeavour to ensure that emergency aid reaches oppressed groups such as LGBTQIA+ persons.
- The EU will promote and facilitate a targeted LGBTQIA+ emancipation policy.
- All European countries must make every effort to prevent and combat the discrimination of LGBTQIA+ persons. Special attention will be paid to dealing with discrimination on multiple grounds, such as people who identify as LGBTQIA+ who are also persons of colour or who have a bicultural and religious background. Greater attention will also be given to transgender, intersex and non-binary persons.
- The EU will commit to preventing and combating violence against LGBTQIA+ persons.
- European countries establishing non-LGBTQIA+ zones will be severely penalised.

- We will abolish the official registration of a person's gender in Europe wherever possible.
- Every form of marital status will be recognised throughout Europe. The fact that you are married to a person of your own gender cannot result in yourself or your partner being discriminated, no matter where you are in Europe.
- All couples will be given the same rights as heterosexual couples, also in relation to the adoption of children. Multi-parenthood, in which a child may have more than two legal parents, will be recognised throughout the EU.
- The compulsory sterilisation of transgender persons will be prohibited throughout the European Union.
- In the interest of donor children, a European sperm and ovum data bank will be established to maintain a record of when and how often a donor made a donation, and in which country the donation was made. Europe will support countries in conducting investigations into donor fraud where necessary.
- A European law recognising surrogacy will be implemented. The EU will commit to preventing the commercial (or other) exploitation of surrogate mothers.
- The EU will protect intersex children from medically unnecessary treatments. Intersex children must be permitted to decide independently what happens to their bodies.

Free press and media

Independent, pluriform journalism and media and the reliable provision of information are essential for the proper functioning of a democratic society. The Party for the Animals wants the EU to protect and encourage free journalism.

- The EU will fight the concentration of power and conflicts of interest between media and politics. It will support a free press, a diversity of media offerings and the legal right for journalists not to reveal their sources.
- We want to strengthen the accessibility and breadth of funding for independent journalism and support greater investments in investigative journalism. In this, attention is paid to sustainability, inclusion and diversity.

- We will protect the rights of journalism organisations and makers to ensure fair remuneration by tech giants (Google, Meta, etc.) for the use of their journalistic content.
- A transparency obligation will be imposed on providers of AI (Artificial Intelligence) in relation to their use of news articles and other sources.

Education, science and culture

Access to education will help eradicate poverty and social exclusion, maintain human and social values and tackle all forms of discrimination. According to recent figures published by the OECD, 20% of the European working population is still battling with a lack of skills in terms of literacy and mathematics. Roughly 25% of European adults are unable to effectively use information and communication technology. Even in a country as rich as the Netherlands, 10% of all children grow up in poverty. Giving everyone in Europe access to good education will enhance everyone's chances of success on the labour market. Culture promotes understanding and connection. We support a strong arts, culture, and media sector that is given ample freedom for innovation and criticism, and in which makers receive fair remuneration for their work.

- Member States will guarantee the right to access inclusive education for all children and young persons.
- The influence of companies and multinational enterprises on the content of education and scientific research will be restricted. The EU will ensure that universities become less dependent on commercial funding.
- Scientific publications must be freely accessible.
- The EU encourages cultural cooperation between national governments and with international organisations. In this, investments will be made in common and fair working conditions and in reimbursements for makers of art, culture and literature.
- The creative sector and the heritage sector will be involved more actively in tackling social issues such as social justice and the climate and nature crisis. The power of culture will become part of the Green Deal.

- The EU will finance and facilitate initiatives in the areas of film, the plastic and performing arts and the creative sector in its entirety. In this, promoting the diversity, affordability and accessibility of the offering is important.
- The EU will promote the dissemination and accessibility of literature by investing in translation and digitisation.
- The EU will help the Member States protect their cultural heritage. Cultural heritage does not include anything that negatively impacts the well-being of animals, nature or the environment. Bullfighting and the production of foie gras are barbaric practices that will not be granted heritage status. Instead, they will be abolished.
- Copyright law and copyright contract law will be modernised to strengthen the position of authors and artists.
- The position of authors and artists in relation to for instance streaming services such as Spotify will be strengthened to ensure that they receive fair remuneration for their work.

Privacy is not a trade commodity

Digital rights, such as the right to privacy, self-determination, and personal development, will become the guiding principle in how we deal with digital technology. Digitisation offers increasing opportunities, but also comes with numerous risks. We can connect with people all over the world in the blink of an eye and learn from each other. Time saved by automatisisation can be used to spend together, or on meaningful work. We can share our knowledge and expertise all over the world and, by doing so, accelerate green transitions. However, if we are not careful, there are major negatives. Digital intimidation, deep fakes, and data mining by multinational enterprises and governments are jeopardising the privacy and security of ordinary citizens.

- The EU will protect personal details at the highest level, and safeguard the privacy of users of chat apps and other internet services.
- Companies will be strictly held to the principles of Privacy by Design and Privacy by Default.

This means that as little data as possible is collected, and that all default settings are privacy friendly at all times.

- User data may not be sold to third parties or used for commercial gain. We are committed to implementing a general European prohibition on the tracking technology used to gather huge quantities of personal data to be subsequently bundled and sold to third parties. The unsolicited collection and retention of personal details belonging to European citizens and companies by foreign intelligence services is unacceptable. The EU will take measures to stop these breaches of privacy as soon as possible. The current EU-US Privacy Shield is not conclusive and must be improved.
- The collection of data by business enterprises is always subject to explicit prior permission, following a brief, easy-to-read explanation to the user about how their data will be used. Refusal must always be an option.
- Members of the public will be given a greater insight into the data that is stored about them and can have themselves struck from data systems more easily. Companies will report on the number of times they were forced to disclose personal data for justice purposes.
- The collection and exchange of biometric data will be prohibited, unless this is required for identification purposes for the benefit of the judicial system, by means of fingerprinting or DNA analysis.
- A notification requirement will be enforced for data leaks. Companies will be obliged to also notify the data subjects concerned in person in the aftermath of a data leak. Hackers who expose security breaches will be protected.
- All European policy that involves the tapping, collection, and storage of citizen data will be critically re-assessed in the interests of privacy. This should put an end to the retention of telephone and internet data, passing on passenger information to the US, American access to European banking transactions, and the obligation to provide fingerprints for travel documents.

- Any new proposals for EU policies and laws will be assessed in light of their impact on privacy. Should it become clear that they have an impact on the protection of privacy, they will be either amended or rejected. Cyber security cannot be achieved by breaching constitutional rights.
- Investigation authorities should not be granted access to computers without a serious reason that is assessed in court.
- All banking and payment details of citizens are and should remain confidential. The ‘third-party access to current accounts’ clause in the new Revised Payment Services Directive (PSD2) will be struck.
- Cloud services of major internet services must be physically stored within the EU.
- The IT infrastructure and services essential to the operation of European institutions will be managed by European services or placed under the relevant institution’s own management.
- The privacy of participants will be protected. Checking the IDs of peaceful protesters constitutes a violation of the right to protest, the right to privacy, and the right to data protection. The surveillance of peaceful protesters will no longer be permitted.
- Citizens have a right to a free Internet without filters, barriers, or the transfer of data by providers. Net neutrality will be guaranteed by law.
- Machine-learning systems in which computers make decisions about people without human interference will be subject to strong ethical and privacy monitoring restrictions. Monitoring to make sure that these systems do not make discriminatory decisions will also be implemented. The government will not use any black-box algorithms.
- When new artificial intelligence is developed, it will be subjected to a compulsory ethics assessment. All systems currently in existence will be subjected to ethical assessment.
- It must be possible to immediately identify content created by artificial intelligence, i.e. by means of a watermark or a logo.
- The EU will invest in scientific research into responsible, safe, and secure artificial intelligence.
- Thanks to artificial intelligence, computers can create art in the style of existing artists at the touch of a button. We will therefore update copyright laws in line with the requirements of our modern era. It is imperative that authors and artists are given due compensation.
- Strict sustainability standards will be imposed on the ICT sector, including energy-slurping data centres, in order to save energy and water.
- Europe will encourage the use of open standards, open-source software and open hardware, and government bodies will use this wherever possible.
- Citizens who are not able to use the digital services provided by the government must be assured of assistance at a physical help desk. Communications by post will continue to be an option. The principles of digital inclusion and accessibility will be observed by and applied at all levels of government.
- Access to cash and its function as legal tender will be safeguarded.



6.

Bright

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boration**

For peace and justice

The Party for the Animals stands for international solidarity and cooperation with people all over the world who are actively engaged in safeguarding the rights of people, animals and nature. Internationally, we are cultivating a courageous political movement that puts this well-being first and respects the ecological limits. To accomplish this, the Party for the Animals has been joining forces with its sister parties and activists in Europe, the Middle East, Canada, the USA, South America, Asia, and Africa for many years now. We are also constantly engaged in forging strong coalitions within the European Union, where our unique voice makes a difference each and every day.

A border-transcending mindset has always been engrained in the DNA of the Party for the Animals. All our activities and solutions are based on a planet-wide, eco-centric perspective. Our goals address universal needs. No matter where on the planet, all citizens of the world (humans and other animals) have the right to a safe, healthy, and stable living environment. In a world where peace, human rights and democracy are under pressure, the Party for the Animals is making a stand for the protection of fundamental rights, and is showing solidarity.

Countries in need of help can be assured of the support of the European Union. This support is, however, too often linked to economic benefits for Europe. As far as the Party for the Animals is concerned, such support should never be contingent upon the establishment of European companies or the conclusion of free trade agreements. Economic interests must be subordinate to protecting the well-being of humans and other animals, and their habitats or the environments in which they live.

The Party for the Animals believes that solutions for international conflicts can be found, above all, in strengthening democracy and cooperation. However, this cannot be achieved without decisive climate and nature policies or without strengthening civil society. Strengthening education, health care and inclusiveness are also priorities in this respect.

Europe in the world

The war in Ukraine clearly demonstrates how important it is that countries that uphold the values of democracy and the rule of law support one another. The financial aid provided to Ukraine and the solidarity with its citizens demonstrate the power and unanimity of the EU. It goes without saying that the Party for the Animals supports this too.

Unfortunately, not all European countries share the same views when it comes to protecting human rights. Europe, for example, has hardly spoken out against the violence caused by the Israeli government to the civilians in Gaza and on the West Bank. Apart from geopolitical interests, many decisions made in the EU are based on economic interests.

The Party for the Animals wants Europe to stop being guided by economic interests. but by human rights, animal rights and sustainability instead.

- The European Union is not a geopolitical union, but a union based on values, in which human rights, animal rights and rights for nature should serve as guiding principles.
- Europe will always speak out against violations of human rights and ecocide everywhere in the world.
- Member States are free to decide whether or not to deploy their armies or supply arms. There will be no European army.
- When considering the provision of military support, this decision will be guided by international solidarity, self-determination, human dignity and international law, rather than geopolitical power relations.
- European international policy should be focussed on sustainability, climate justice, humanitarian aid, eliminating poverty, animal welfare and human rights rather than trade and economic growth.

Support for neighbouring countries

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) governs the EU's relations with sixteen of its closest neighbours to the east and south. The Party for the Animals endorses the support for these countries. Aside from Ukraine, Moldavia, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan all want to become members of the EU. Expanding the EU is, however, not a viable solution as long as the EU continues to focus on unrestricted free trade and refuses to reform itself and become more democratic.

- Europe will support its neighbouring countries in building up and defending their rule of law and democracy, in the protection of humans and other animals, in safeguarding freedom of the press and in raising its social, environmental and production standards.
- The EU will support social organisations in neighbouring countries and facilitate connection and cooperation between and among these organisations.

Access to EU funding will be made easier for (smaller) social organisations committed to democratisation, human rights, animal welfare, climate, nature and the environment.

- The EU will not be expanded as long as democratic governance cannot be guaranteed and the single market is leading.

Support for Ukraine

The Party for the Animals condemns Russia's unprecedented aggression towards Ukraine. In light of war on the immediate borders of the European Union, it is imperative that we collaborate and demonstrate mutual solidarity. Ukraine has been resisting the brute violence of the Russian army ever since its illegal invasion. Just as the legal provision of weapons, this resistance is crucial for the protection of civilians. It is of paramount importance that the aggression by the Russian state, which is paired with war crimes, is stopped. Means of exerting pressure, such as sanctions, are justly being applied for this purpose. It is of crucial importance that we find ways to end this military violence and enable Ukraine to be rebuilt, in which it is imperative that Ukraine retains the power to decide whether or not it is prepared to enter into negotiations, when they should take place, and about what.

- Ukraine can count on humanitarian aid and financial support packages.
- We support the supply of legal arms to enable Ukraine to defend itself. Prohibited weapons, such as cluster ammunition, will not be supplied.
- More pressure will be exerted on Russia, both within a European and an international context, with severe sanctions such as revoking visas and freezing assets, with a view to ending the military aggression more quickly.
- European companies, such as chip manufacturers, that ignore such sanctions will be more severely punished.
- The EU supports the establishment of the Ukraine Court in The Hague.
- The EU will continue to provide proper shelter for Ukrainian refugees and their companion animals.

- The EU will provide Ukraine with reconstruction support and will also commit to restoring the unprecedented ecological catastrophe in this country and bringing those that caused this to account.

Support for Palestine

The Party for the Animals condemns the violence exerted by both the Israeli government and Hamas. The bombing must stop, the hostages must be released as soon as possible, and the blockade must be lifted to ensure ongoing and safe access for humanitarian aid. After decades of violence and oppression in the Palestine territories, it is of the utmost importance that people in Gaza and on the West Bank are given better prospects.

- The European Union will recognise Palestine as a state. The EU will actively campaign, within an international context, to achieve the recognition of Palestine as a state by countries that have not done so yet.
- The EU will speak out directly for a ceasefire and an end to all the violence.
- Gaza can count on humanitarian aid and financial support packages.
- The EU will provide Gaza with restoration support.
- The EU will use all its diplomatic channels to get organisations in the region that have dedicated themselves to peace and connection for years around the negotiating table.
- The EU will put pressure on the Israeli government to put an end to the occupation and annexation of Palestinian territory, if necessary through disinvestments and sanctions. The EU will also impose sanctions on colonists and their leaders who use violence on the West Bank. All colonists will be required to obtain a visa. And finally, sanctions will also be imposed on companies that develop activities in and to the benefit of Israeli colonists in Palestinian territory.
- The EU will suspend the Association Agreement with Israel.
- Europe will commit to ensuring that offenders are tried for war crimes and to putting an end to the apartheid regime and violations of human rights and international laws.

- The EU will oppose the supply of arms and other forms of military support to Israel.
- The EU will put Israel under pressure to terminate the administrative detention of Palestinians. Pressure will also be exerted on Hamas to release the hostages.
- Just as with Ukrainian refugees, the EU will facilitate a safe escape route and proper shelter for Palestinian refugees.

Peace and security

‘War: Never Again’ was an important motive for establishing the European Union. This still applies, even today. Our world is still riddled with civil and other wars, armed conflicts, coups d’etat and totalitarian regimes. Apart from the people living in Palestine and Ukraine, residents of Somalia, Yemen, the Democratic Republic of Congo and many other countries are confronted daily with aggression, fear and a lack of food, water and medical care – all due to armed conflict. The Party for the Animals seeks to put an end to this by investing in social organisations such as local women’s rights organisations, stability, strengthening democracy and eliminating fundamental causes of injustice. The climate crisis and the biodiversity crisis have not only caused areas to become uninhabitable and put food security under threat, but also serve as a source of conflict, and in some cases even armed conflict. The EU’s aggressive trade policy, at the expense of vulnerable countries, is also a significant cause of instability. This must change. Arms races are never the solution. Bombings and military involvement in conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, for instance, have not made the world a safer place. Instead, many civilians were wounded and killed, millions of people were forced to flee, violence and aggression still prevail in these countries, and the threat of terrorism still looms.

- The EU will increase its investments in peaceful instruments such as diplomacy, knowledge sharing, advice, training, civil society and citizen interaction across borders. By offering more and sustainable support to non-violent movements and democratic organisations, the EU strengthens the power of democracy in conflict and post-conflict areas, as well as in EU member states and candidate countries.
- With regard to restoration and peace negotiations, the EU always seeks to allocate social organisations, such as local women's rights organisations, a key role in these processes.
- There will be a greater commitment to providing assistance in environmental, natural, and humanitarian disasters, including animal rescue.
- The EU will no longer allocate billion-euro grants to the weapons industry in addition to Member States' individual military budgets.
- Europe will lead the way in developing an international legal framework for the prohibition of autonomous weapons.
- The weapons export policy will be strengthened to ensure that no weapons are delivered from the EU to repressive and authoritarian regimes that violate human rights.
- Where possible, an end will be put in the EU to the production and sale of semi-finished products and of chemical, nuclear and bacteriological weapon parts. As long as this is not yet the case, a blacklist will be established of countries and companies to which such items may not be supplied.
- The EU will work towards a universal ban on the use of any form of uranium in conventional and other weapons and will promote a comprehensive ban on nuclear weapons.
- Any nuclear weapons still present on European soil will be removed from the EU.
- Dangerous artificial intelligence will be curbed and monitored through an international treaty.
- The EU will speak out for human rights and the right to self-determination of oppressed peoples, such as the Uyghurs, the Western Papuans and the Tibetans, and will not shy away from imposing consequences such as trade embargoes.

- We are calling for tougher sanctions against the regime that is responsible for the horrific beatings and killings of women and protesters in Iran. European countries will revoke the visas and freeze the assets of persons guilty of violating human rights. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard will be included in the European terrorism list.

Human rights for all

- European companies violate environmental and human rights on a regular basis. Their victims are often left empty-handed, without any recourse to justice. On top of that, a billion civilians in fragile states are threatened by violence and structural injustice. These people are partly dependent on our support for their safety and the safeguarding of their human rights. Victims of war and violence, oppression, persecution, famine, climate change and natural disasters all deserve our help. Human rights are always more important than economic growth and trade.
- Human rights, animal welfare and sustainability will serve as the touchstone of European policy. As a standard, an annex explaining a policy's impact on the environment, biodiversity, human rights, animal welfare and low-wage countries will be appended to all proposals for new European policy.
 - The EU will help victims of environmental and human rights offences to obtain justice, including those crimes that have taken place outside Europe by European companies.
 - The EU will not seek sales markets in countries where human rights are not guaranteed.
 - Curtailing trade with countries where these violations occur will be explicitly among the instruments used in exerting more pressure on those countries.
 - The EU will offer help to Member States at the European borders to combat human trafficking and human smuggling.
 - The EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime will be deployed to tackle serious violations of human rights and corruption, through such actions as imposing travel restrictions or freezing assets.

Developmental cooperation

The amount that is spent by prosperous countries on development cooperation will never be able to compensate for the damage done by wealthy countries elsewhere. Even today, the economic (and other) choices made here in Europe lead to significant problems in other countries, particularly countries in the southern hemisphere. The Party for the Animals wants Europe to stop implementing policies that adversely impact other parts of the world. Instead, we want to invest in the power of citizens of vulnerable countries themselves, whereby sustainability, animal welfare, education, health, children's rights, inclusiveness and equal treatment of all genders are of paramount importance.

- The EU will stop importing products that adversely impact living environments and habitats elsewhere, which are damaging to animal welfare, or which are paired with land-grabbing and other violations of human rights.
- European countries will strive to spend 1% of their gross national income (GNI) on developmental cooperation. These funds may not be linked to the trade in specific goods or services, or to amending local legislation to benefit international trade and/or commerce.
- Developmental cooperation should be directed at strengthening the position of oppressed groups, such as women, children and LGBTQIA+ persons and people with a physical or mental disability or divergence.
- The money provided through developmental cooperation in fragile countries can make a tremendous difference, provided this is used in a way that truly benefits the local population. The EU will explicitly take into consideration the demonstrated effectiveness of measures and investments in their decisions concerning the allocation of funding.
- Priority areas include clean drinking water and hygiene, good health care (including prevention), access to essential medicines and contraceptives, education, sustainable agriculture and clean energy. Supporting emancipation movements will give democratisation processes a better chance.

- The EU will commit to breaking taboos on sexual orientation, abortion and violence directed at women and LGBTQIA+ persons.
- Developmental aid will be directed at promoting the interests of humans and other animals and the environment in those countries receiving the aid, rather than at commercial interests in Europe.

A just asylum policy

The Party for the Animals is concerned about the welfare of refugees. In the next few years, it is expected that tens of millions of people will be forced to flee their countries due to climate change, famine, war and oppression. People on their way to Europe are facing inhuman conditions in camps and detention centres. European countries are sending people back to the dangers from which they escaped, for instance to Palestine, Syria and Afghanistan. And in Europe, refugees are forced to live under inhuman conditions in camps and detention centres, such as in Ter Apel (the Netherlands) or Moria (Greece). The Party for the Animals believes that helping people who are fleeing from war, famine or natural disaster is self-evident. The same applies to people who are being persecuted for their religious convictions of sexual orientation. The EU migration pact is inhumane, and full of empty rhetoric. Proposed measures, such as detaining families with children, is contrary to all human values.

- Everyone applying for asylum in the European Union is entitled to a proper asylum procedure. The EU will ensure that Member States provide a fair and fast asylum procedure and humane housing of refugees.
- International treaties such as the Geneva Refugee Convention and the European Convention on Human Rights will serve as the guiding principles for all decisions regarding migration policy. The EU will not agree to arrangements that violate these treaties, such as the Tunisia deal. Nor will the EU sign any deals with authoritarian regimes.
- Victims of war and violence, oppression, persecution, famine, climate change and natural disasters should be assisted in reaching a safe destination in Europe.

We will commit to facilitating more safe and legal refugee migration routes and the use of humanitarian corridors.

- The equitable distribution of refugees, according to each country's means and capacity, should be the EU's guiding principle. This kind of solidarity cannot be bought.
- The Netherlands opposes the current EU migration pact, which contributes to the violation of human rights and the criminalisation of NGOs.
- People without a residence permit are also entitled to fundamental rights, such as access to medical care.
- EU countries will not deport people to their country of origin if they have been or will be persecuted because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, political beliefs, ethnic background, life philosophy or religious convictions.
- Refugees and repatriated Europeans must be permitted to bring their companion animals with them to Europe.
- The EU will improve the living conditions of people in refugee camps and centres and create better prospects for their future. This means they are entitled to security, enough food and drink, education, legal counsel, medical and mental health care, and decent housing.
- Migration policy focuses on eliminating the root causes of why people flee their countries.
- The UN Human Rights Commission (UNHCR) quotas will be increased.
- Member States on the Mediterranean Sea should do everything in their power to save refugees from drowning at sea. As long as they do not, NGOs and other humanitarian organisations may organise rescue activities at sea without being obstructed or fined. After a rescue at sea, people will be brought to locations where they can request asylum.
- Countries that misuse border patrols to combat migration and to use violence against people will be called to account. The same applies to countries making use of pushbacks, whereby migrants who have arrived in the EU are pushed back over the border without being offered a proper asylum procedure and often with violence.
- The EU will cease to train and finance the Libyan coastguard, as this group has been accused of severe human rights violations.
- The European border guard agency Frontex must be replaced by humanitarian missions aimed at helping people in need. Investigations have revealed that Frontex repeatedly refused to help people in need, witnessed human rights violations and refused to intervene, and did everything in its power to conceal this from the outside world.
- We will protect the rights of all asylum seekers by committing ourselves, within the framework of the EU, to monitoring and imposing sanctions on Member States that violate these rights, i.e. in cases where people are detained unnecessarily and/or under inhumane conditions.
- Within an international framework, we will commit to ensuring that refugees fleeing from the consequences of climate change are officially recognised as climate refugees.
- The Dutch Temporary Protection Directive (RTB), which currently applies to Ukrainian refugees, will be expanded at European level to nationalities with a high approval rate (e.g. Syria, Eritrea, Yemen).



**Partij voor
de Dieren**