



**FOR FREEDOM
AND DEMOCRACY**

WELCOME

VVD International is responsible for VVD's international contacts and collaborations. The main aim is realising, maintaining and enhancing relationships with sister parties around the world and participating in international liberal networks. One of the priorities is contributing to the capacity building of liberal parties in Eastern Europe, at the Balkans, the Middle East and Northern Africa. The latter is made possible thanks to the MATRA programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Over the past 25 years VVD International has successfully supported political movements abroad, through the deployment of our best trainers and experts in these areas, whom provide trainings in organization of debates, liberal principles and campaigning. Examples of successful collaborations are the training of candidates of SMC (Slovenia) and Nasa Stranka (Bosnia and Herzegovina). But also the full support of Afek Tounes (Tunisia) in the fields of campaigning, data and strengthening the party structure.

In this brochure you will find information about the VVD and the history of the party, but also more on the work of VVD International and the collaboration with our partners.

We hope to welcome you soon!



THE VVD

The People's Party for Freedom and Democracy wants to give people the capacity to make something extraordinary out of their lives in the Netherlands. To not just let their lives pass by, but to let them live with fervour.

The VVD provides opportunities for the hard-working Dutchman who wants to give form and meaning to the future. For professionals such as teachers, police officers and care workers. For people with the guts to start their own business. The VVD wants to be there for everyone who wants to give meaning to their lives. By not making people dependent on the government, but helping them to stand on their own feet.

The VVD is optimistic. About the future and the opportunities for the future generations. About the Netherlands as a strong, leading country, in Europe and worldwide. The Netherlands has a rich tradition of initiative, optimism and boldness. The Dutch dream is closely tied to the liberal dream.

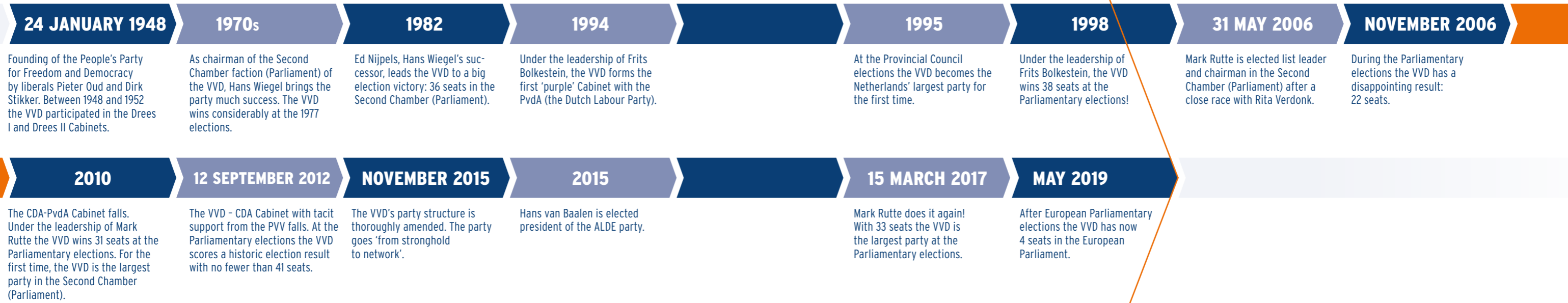
LIBERALISM

The VVD is a liberal party. It considers individual freedom, both in a mental a material sense, as our greatest asset. Every human being has the right to freedom of speech and respect of their privacy, integrity of their own body and self-determination. Freedom and responsibility are inextricably linked. In freedom, each human being not only bears responsibility for himself, but also takes account of the freedom of others, of the interests of the elderly, of future generations and of the free society as a whole.

Other liberal principles emanate from freedom and responsibility: equality, tolerance and social justice. The VVD is open to anyone who shares its liberal principles. The VVD wants to be a place for anyone who wants to commit himself with reason and passion to increasing the liberal content of society.

HISTORY

Liberals are writing history. The ideas of the liberal Thorbecke formed the basis of the Dutch Constitution, and our state system is based on his vision as well. The liberal party formation started in the late 19th century and on 24 January 1948 resulted in the founding of the People's Party for Freedom and Democracy: the VVD.



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

ALDE

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, the liberal faction in the European Parliament.

You can find more information about ALDE here: <https://alde.eu/en/>.

ELF

The European Liberal Forum (ELF) is a non-profit European political foundation. ELF brings think tanks, political foundations and institutions from all over Europe together to observe, analyse and contribute to, for instance, the debate on European policy and the European integration process through education, training and research.

You can find more information about ELF here: <https://www.liberalforum.eu/>.

LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL

Liberal International is the worldwide federation of liberal political parties. You can find more information about Liberal International here:

<http://www.liberal-international.org/>.

LIBSEEN

The Liberal South East European Network (LIBSEEN) was founded in 2008 to bring liberal political parties in the region together and contribute to the development of the region by implementing liberal policy in the politics of these countries. You can find more information about LIBSEEN here: <http://libseen.tumblr.com/>.

ARAB LIBERAL FEDERATION

The Arab Liberal Federation (ALF) is an alliance of several Arab political parties and liberal activists who strive for a larger role of liberalism in their countries and societies. In collaboration with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF), VVD International supports this initiative that ensures mutual sharing of knowledge and information.

ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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VVD INTERNATIONAL



LENNART SALEMINK

Lennart is a member of the national main board. He is responsible for VVD International, trainings and talent management. In addition, he is working at the Ministry of I&W as head of the Amsterdam Metropole region. Before that, he used to be a policy officer of foreign affairs for the Second Chamber (Parliament) faction and political advisor of minister Schultz.

CONTACT

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GIJS HOUBEN

Gijs has worked for the VVD since March 2018 as an International Officer. He is responsible for the collaboration and relationships with the sister parties and organisations in the Middle East, Northern Africa and the Caucasus. Liberal International also belong to his portfolio.

CONTACT

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DEBBIE VAN DE WIJNGAARD

After having been involved in three successful election campaigns in the campaign team of the VVD, Debbie has been an International Officer as of August 2018. She works on projects in Eastern Europe, at the Balkans and the collaboration with sister parties of the VVD within the ALDE.

CONTACT

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