

# Programme

European Office, Brussels

## The Dutch government between ambitious domestic plans and challenging developments abroad

**Wednesday, 04 May 2022**

**11:00 – 12:00 CET**

**Online Event (via Zoom)**

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Almost exactly 100 days ago, the new government of the Netherlands was sworn in and concluded the longest negotiation period in the history of the country. This is all the more astonishing, since the incumbent four party coalition reaching from conservative liberal *Volkspartij voor Vrijheid en Democratie* (VVD) over social liberal *Democraten 66* (D66) and *Christen-Democratisch Appèl* (CDA) to the Calvinist *ChristenUnie* (CU) has already led the country during the last legislative term. Nevertheless, the old and new government set out an ambitious plan to make the Netherlands climate-neutral, to ensure affordable housing in all parts of the country and to play a constructive role on the European stage, where the country has often expressed outspoken views, which regularly weren't shared by the Southern EU member states.

However, before these plans could unfold, the Netherlands – like the rest of Europe – finds itself in a challenging international environment. Following Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, the Netherlands decided to provide weapons to the Ukrainian Army and humanitarian assistance to the population suffering from the invasion. Prime Minister Mark Rutte (VVD) underlined that the Netherlands stands with Ukraine and called for tough sanctions against the aggressor state, after having visited Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova only weeks before the invasion started. With the first 100 days (partially) being overshadowed by this crisis, the new government is confronted with massive challenges and ramifications that might only fully play out in the weeks and months to come.

What are the priorities of the new Dutch government and through which strategies does it intend to achieve them? Which conclusions can be drawn from the fact that it took almost one year to form a majority government and are there ways to work against the political fragmentation in Parliament? Which course will the new government take as far as European cooperation is concerned and will Mark Rutte's nickname "Mr. No" come out of use?

The event "**The Dutch government between ambitious domestic plans and challenging developments abroad**" will take place on **Wednesday, 04 May 2022** from **11:00 - 12:00 CET** via Zoom. We look forward to discussing the above-mentioned topics with **René Cuperus**, Senior Research Associate at Clingendael – Netherlands Institute of International Relations, **Hilde Palland-Mulder**, Member of the Dutch Parliament (CDA) and **Gudrun Engel**, Brussels Correspondent of German Public TV (ARD). After the discussion between the three speakers and the moderator, participants will have the opportunity to contribute their questions to the discussion. The event will be held in **English**.

We look forward to your participation!

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- 11:00                    **Welcoming Remarks**
- Dr. Hardy Ostry**  
Director of the European Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
- 11:05                    **Discussion about the Dutch government and its agenda against the backdrop of current developments on a domestic and international level**
- René Cuperus**  
Senior Research Associate  
Clingendael – Netherlands Institute of International Relations
- Hilde Palland-Mulder (TBC)**  
Member of the Dutch Parliament  
Christen-Democratisch Appèl (CDA)
- Gudrun Engel**  
Brussels Correspondent  
German Public TV (ARD)
- Moderation:
- Kai Gläser**  
Policy Advisor  
European Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
- 11:45                    **Questions from the audience**
- 12:00                    **End of Event**

## Informationen on Registration and Participation:

Please register by providing your name, email address, organization and position. You will then receive a confirmation of your registration and further information on how to participate in the online event.

## During the Online Event:

During the event, you will not be connected via video and will be muted by the host. After the speakers' short statements, you are welcome to join the conversation: you can ask the speakers a written question (click on the Q&A icon in the toolbar).