

Dutch polls indicate close election

Dutch voters are preparing to elect a new lower house, as polls predict a tight contest between prime minister Mark Rutte and Freedom Party leader Geert Wilders, for the right to form a new coalition government



Geert Wilders
Freedom Party

Wants country to leave EU and euro, while calling for a stop to "Islamisation". Party slipping in polls but remains on track to make big gains

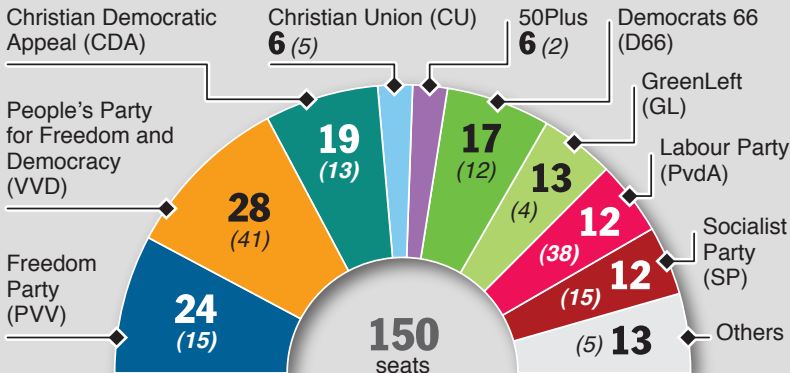
Mark Rutte
Liberal Party

In power since 2010. Banking on economic growth to restore popularity after four years of austerity. Rules out coalition with Freedom Party



2017 ELECTION FORECAST*

Seats in House of Representatives
(2012 election result)



Majority government: 76 seats required (current VVD-PvdA coalition has 79). Polls suggest four or five parties will be needed for majority without PVV

*Online survey of 1,189 Dutch voters conducted between Feb 28 and Mar 2