



ELECTION PROGRAMME

2017 – 2021

Because the elderly are fed up!

The only party that truly stands up for the elderly!

WE'LL HIT BACK AT THEM!

In recent years the elderly have been hit hard by the policies of the ruling parties. But now, when the elections are drawing close, these parties have suddenly found a renewed interest in the elderly. Completely without any credibility or trustworthiness! These last few years the elderly have been robbed of the pensions that were promised them. There have been no indexations but reductions. And if nothing changes, this will continue to go on in the future, in spite of the fact that the pension funds have plenty of money. Increasing the age at which people are eligible for a state pension (AOW) has turned out to be a disaster. Tens of thousands of elderly people were unnecessarily put on unemployment benefits without having any chance on the job market. Many have or will find themselves in financial trouble because of these changes. People in their 50s and 60s are afraid of losing their jobs. They fear they will not be able to find new employment.

The current government's actions on health care are a big disgrace, especially where it concerns the elderly; absolute proof that they have been neglected by antisocial government policies. And at the same time they were confronted with ever increasing deductibles and considerable co-payments.

People aged 50 and over have to fear for their financial futures if the ruling parties remain in power after the coming parliamentary elections. People aged 50 and over have been hit hard by the policies of the established parties. The time to hit back at them is approaching fast! It can be done by no longer voting for parties that don't care about the elderly, but by voting for 50PLUS!

The only party that truly stands up for the elderly!

We'll hit back at them on March 15!

50PLUS IS NECESSARY!



It is important for 50PLUS to have a comprehensive programme. Short and clear. The green parties put emphasis on the environment, the VVD advocates for the rich and the Party for the Animals is primarily concerned with the welfare of animals. In this programme 50PLUS focuses on those aged 50 and over. They are the people who have sacrificed the most in recent years. The elderly have every reason to fear for their future if 50PLUS is not in the next government. And thus: vote 50PLUS!

15 important PLUS points:

- 1. Return the state pension age to 65.**
- 2. Retain the current pension system. Stop raiding the pension coffers: no reductions in pensions, but indexations!**
- 3. Stop trifling with home care! More recognition and funding for home care workers. Put a stop to all budget cuts to elderly care.**
- 4. A stimulus package must be enacted in order to help older workers find and keep jobs.**
- 5. Restore the purchasing power of the elderly and in the future keep it in line with that of working people.**
- 6. Abolish the inheritance tax!**
- 7. Get rid of deductibles. First steps can be made by reducing them to a maximum of € 200. Put an end to market forces in health care. Push back on the power and costs of health insurance companies.**
- 8. Bathrooms in all trains.**
- 9. When travelling with public transport the elderly will get a discount in the off-peak hours. There will be seats for the elderly on every platform and at every stop.**
- 10. There will be more police stations and community police officers.**
- 11. 50PLUS is a critical supporter of participation in the EU and the euro, but does not want the Netherlands to pay for mismanagement and the deficits of other countries.**
- 12. Tough but fair refugee policy. Economic refugees will be sent back and borders will be better protected.**
- 13. A Dutch passport will only be provided to newcomers after a stay of ten years. Conditions: a 'certificate of good conduct' provided by the municipality of residence, full command of the Dutch language and an oath of allegiance to the Constitution.**
- 14. 50PLUS is against age discrimination in all laws and regulations, both nationally and locally.**
- 15. Local coaches will help the elderly with the Internet, administration, and literacy programmes.**



VOTE MARCH 15, 2017

50PLUS!

1. State pension (AOW)

Return the state pension age to 65.

This will create more job opportunities for youths. And fewer unemployment benefits for the elderly.

Premium payments stop at the state pension age.

Purchasing power of the elderly will be restored after years of reductions.

Structural increase of the indexed state pension.

No adverse changes in the tax code for pensioners.

No pension cuts for those receiving informal care.

2. Pensions

Don't change the current pension system; it is one of the best in the world.

Keep solidarity, collectivity and obligation central to the system.

Set the interest rate at 4% or base it on realised returns.

50PLUS does not accept pension reductions.

Pensions are deferred pay, not financial products.

Flexible retirement age or partial pensions will remain possible.

Pension funds need to be transparent in their finances.

Europe has to keep its hands off of our pensions.

3. Work and unemployment

Unburdening employers by reducing social contributions and services for workers from the age of 45, including a maximum of 8 weeks of continued payment of wages in case of an illness, followed by payment through a government fund.

A stimulus package will be enacted in order to help older workers find and keep jobs, and it will give special attention to training new workers by older, experienced workers (tandem jobs).

People aged 50 and over will be taken seriously in job interviews. They are experienced and not more expensive or less productive. There is no more need for additional days off for seniors.

The government has to lead the way by giving plenty of opportunities to people aged 45 and over.



4. Volunteers

Volunteers deserve social recognition and support, but employing volunteers should not lead to the loss of jobs.

Volunteer compensations up until a certain amount will not be taxed.

No unnecessary regulations for volunteers and volunteer work.

When needed for volunteer work, a certificate of conduct should be given free of charge.

5. Benefits

Benefits for the unemployed elderly (such as the IOAW, IOW and IOAZ) will be left in place and will continue until retirement age.

The IOW will continue beyond 2020.

Annually index the minimum wage, thereby also indexing the associated benefits.

6. Income policy and purchasing power

The loss of purchasing power suffered in recent years by pensioners and (early) retirees must be reversed. The large gap in purchasing power with working people must be bridged.

The elderly are also entitled to structural tax cuts. They too paid for to the massive increase in financial burdens since 2008.

Equal development of purchasing power for working people, people who are unable to work and pensioners.

All government bodies must work harder to reduce poverty.

7. Government finances

50PLUS wants to reduce the national debt to a maximum of 60% of the gross domestic product. We do not want to burden future generations with a huge national debt.

8. Taxes

The elderly are driven crazy by the accumulation of tax increases directed solely at the elderly.

50PLUS will put an end to this.

Abolish the inheritance tax, thereby reducing flight of taxes and capital.

Fiscal policies must be based on equal treatment of working people, people who are unable to work and pensioners.



Tax-free gifts up to € 100,000 without restrictions on age or intended purpose.

50PLUS will not tamper with the mortgage interest deduction. The current arrangements will stay in place.

Get rid of the real estate transfer tax for transfers to first and second degree family.

Levying a 4% tax on capital (in box 3), as has been happening for years, is theft. Tax the actual gains.

Structural increase of the deductions for the elderly.

Abolish the discriminatory 4% tax addition for the elderly in the first tax bracket, which was implemented in 2013.

The elderly may continue to submit their tax returns on paper.

There is no longer room for perverse incentives (including tax avoidance schemes) in our tax system.

Change the value-added tax. If it's healthy and sustainable: apply the low tariff. For example, at the moment toothpaste is taxed with the high tariff, while soda, sweets and cake have the low tariff. This should and can be changed.

9. Banking

The government establishes a bank which sets an example on all fronts. A bank where socially responsible saving and borrowing is possible. This should also benefit small and medium-sized enterprises (SME).

Safeguard the public function of the banks.

Abusive interest rates on consumer credits will be restricted by law.

10. Health care system, national and local / deductibles

50PLUS wants a new health care system by 2020. All research and preparations for this will begin after the elections. 50PLUS employs the following starting points:

Reverse the market forces in health care.

50PLUS is opposed to profit distribution by health insurance companies.

Combat the expensive annual advertising campaigns aimed at convincing people to switch health insurance companies.

Establish a national, independent administrative office that takes care of the administrative aspect of the new health care system, 'Health Insurance Fund 2.0'.



When 'Health Insurance Fund 2.0' is introduced, health insurance companies lose their current function. This will mean there is no more need for deductibles. First steps can be made by reducing them to a maximum of € 200. This will prevent people from not seeking out health care.

Health insurance companies will only offer additional health insurance.

Basic dental care and physical therapy are included in 'Health Insurance Fund 2.0'.

Less paperwork, fewer managers and fewer meetings.

Not just emergency care will be available 7 days per week, but also general practitioners and outpatient clinics must strive towards being open 7 days per week.

The positive experiences with Neighbourhood Care will play an important role in the development of the new health care system.

50PLUS supports the initiative to have a National Health Care System.

Implement a data card for medical information, including organ donor registration. This will eventually make the electronic patient file obsolete.

Equal basic care and nursing hours in all municipalities (including capped, limited co-payments).

Full transparency on treatments and medical professionals' history.

50PLUS believes that a government that relies on elderly people living by themselves for as long as possible should also work on making this feasible.

11. Patient care

Strengthen the position of patients in medical malpractice cases by appointing a 'deputy ombudsman for health care' and establish a compensation fund for victims of medical malpractice.

Waiting lists for health care and surgeries are unacceptable.

12. Care and home care

Residents of nursing homes are entitled to a more humane existence with more personal attention and more activities.

After the massive reduction in care homes, it is important that the government keeps as much of the remaining ones open as possible, and add to their number if they can. In addition, good initiatives for shared and cooperative living should be supported and any obstacles removed.

Decent pay and working conditions for care workers.

Stop trifling with home care. On a local level there will be a basic package for home care, support for informal care and daily activities. This should put an end to uncertainty and differences between municipalities.



13. Prevention, sport and exercise

Additional preventative care will be given to the elderly.

Encouraging healthy eating and a healthy lifestyle, in part through measures in the food industry.

A vaccination programme for the elderly, including vaccinations for shingles and pneumonia.

There will be a programme to get the elderly to exercise more and longer.

In both primary and secondary education there will be a minimum of five hours of sports, swimming and gymnastics for all students.

14. Informal care

Support for informal care will be part of local basic health care packages. This should put an end to large differences between municipalities.

A national registry of informal caregivers, enabling an easy implementation of measures, financial and otherwise, to support and recognise informal caregivers.

15. Euthanasia

Palliative care will always be available.

The options given in current legislation should remain available.

While exercising due diligence and with the strict condition that it is subscribed by a physician, 50PLUS is in favour of introducing a 'last-will-pill'. There needs to be room for discussion of these issues.

50PLUS poses that physician-assisted euthanasia without a medical basis should be allowed when there is suffering that is unbearable and without prospect of improvement (completed life).

16. Housing and construction, including extended living at home

50PLUS wants to require housing corporations to provide sufficient and suitable (and energy efficient) homes for the elderly.

There will be financial incentives to encourage energy saving.

Construction regulations need to be changed to ensure more buildings will be age-proofed and energy efficient.

Total housing costs can be reduced by the use of modern techniques. The government and the private sector will be required to work together to accomplish this.

Family homes where three generations of the same family live together will receive financial benefits.



17. Housing corporations and rent

50PLUS is opposed to the landlord levy/rental income tax.

Annual rent increases will be restricted.

We prefer small and involved housing corporations.

Corporations are charged with minimising costs for tenants.

There will be a national programme aimed at eliminating the shortage of affordable rental properties.

18. Quality of life, neighbourhoods, welfare

Every possible means must be called upon to combat loneliness, of course while respecting people's own choices.

Neighbourhood care and district nursing are key pillars of the community.

There will be more police stations and community police officers.

Planting trees and plants to make neighbourhoods greener and attract birds and butterflies.

19. Areas with population decline / city-countryside

The Netherlands is made up of wonderful regions, cities and villages. Each has its own character, and we need to preserve that. It's what 50PLUS is proud of.

Good connections are necessary to ensure the future and the development of areas with population decline.

All National Landscapes and nature reserves will be maintained.

20. Traffic and roads

There will be many more self-driving cars in use in the coming years. This will blur the line between public and private transport and will be a boon to the elderly and less mobile travellers. Policy decisions should reflect this development.

As much as possible, transportation should be independent of fossil fuels.

No motor scooters on bicycle paths.

Improved maintenance of sidewalks and roads.



21. Public transport

People eligible for a state pension can use public transport with a discount in the off-peak hours.

The government will provide tailor-made 'door-to-door' services and reduce costs for travellers.

There will be seats for elderly and disabled people on every platform and at every stop.

Reverse market forces in public transport.

Public transport, with sufficient bathrooms in all trains, has to be accessible to less mobile travellers.

Purchasing and travelling with digital tickets (without printout) has to be possible in the short term.

There will be a public awareness campaign to encourage travellers to give up their seats for elderly and disabled people.

22. Energy

No nuclear energy as long as there are still associated risks and no solution for nuclear waste. We will not burden future generations with these problems.

50PLUS wants as much renewable energy as possible for the lowest possible rates.

Energy saving measures will be encouraged and, if necessary, enforced.

Drilling for gas may never endanger residents.

50PLUS is opposed to drilling for shale gas.

23. Environment and sustainability

By reducing the emission of CO₂ and other environmental measures 50PLUS is looking after the quality of life for future generations.

50PLUS supports the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

To emphasise the huge importance of sustainability, 50PLUS calls for a minister of Innovation and Sustainability.

24. Nature and animal welfare

Existing nature reserves will be protected and opened to the public as much as possible. Nature should be experienced and should therefore be easily accessible.

The growth of cities will be offset by the development of new nature reserves.

We will fight against animal suffering. There will be harsher penalties for animal cruelty.

50PLUS is in favour of a ban on the unanesthetised, ritual slaughter of animals.



25. Domestic security / crime

Encourage fireworks-free zones and professional, municipal fireworks displays. There will be a ban on the private use of fireworks.

Enhance crime prevention and the information gathering on radicalisation through increased community policing.

More funding aimed at improving the clearance rate of crimes.

Increased speed controls on highways and in neighbourhoods using modern techniques.

There will be increased attention to and improvement of the position of victims of crime.

The emergency number 112 should also be reachable using text and other messaging services.

26. Police

The reorganisation of the police forces has turned into a disaster. Mend this by implementing decentralised decision making wherever possible.

The National Crime Squad is concerned with cross-border crime.

There will be more police stations and community police officers.

Less than 10% of all domestic burglaries are solved. This is unacceptable. There will be more police personnel.

27. Justice system and sentencing

The public prosecutor and the courts need to be more efficient: only 6% of all reported crimes result in a trial. That percentage has to be increased dramatically.

10,000 convicted criminals have not yet been locked up. This has to change.

Every single cent of criminal money needs to be returned. Damage caused by rioters will be fully recovered from the perpetrators.

More prison sentences instead of community services.

Ensure easy access to the justice system; everybody should be able to get their day in court.

28. Drug policy and alcohol

50PLUS wants to decriminalise soft drugs by legalising domestically grown marijuana, provided it is done under strict conditions and with a proper licence.

No experimentation with drug policy on a local level. Instead implement changes nationally and simultaneously. Experimentation causes legal inequality and confusion.



Close monitoring of sales points. Important criteria are age restrictions (18 and over), the absence of hard drugs and the proximity to schools (at least 500 metres).

Increase efforts to track the trade and production of hard drugs.

The government needs to pursue a clear, engaged and comprehensive policy of discouraging the use of alcohol, tobacco and drugs.

The new health care system will include compensations for the medical use of, among other things, marijuana.

29. Immigration and integration

50PLUS believes in a strict, just and humane immigration policy.

Economic refugees and asylum seekers who have exhausted all legal remedies will be sent back to their countries of origin.

The Netherlands will take in a limited number of refugees, who will be distributed proportionally among the European countries and based on population density.

A Dutch passport will only be provided to newcomers after a stay of ten years. Conditions: a 'certificate of good conduct' provided by the municipality of residence, full command of the Dutch language and an oath of allegiance to the Constitution.

Introduce a 'newcomer's statement' (similar to that in Belgium).

Increased border controls and improved security of Europe's external borders.

Counteract human trafficking by imposing harsher penalties.

Provide refugee countries with clear information about the limited opportunities in the Netherlands.

50PLUS prefers that the reception of refugees takes place within the region as much as possible.

50PLUS is opposed, wherever possible, to dual citizenship.

30. Discrimination

50PLUS is against age discrimination in all laws and regulations, both nationally and locally.

Age discrimination will be defined in the Constitution.

The prevention of all kinds of discrimination must remain a priority.

31. Primary, secondary, higher and scientific education

50PLUS is in favour of reducing the size of classes in primary education and reducing the number of hours per teacher. Also reduce secondary tasks, leaving more room to focus on the students.



The standing, compensation and authority of teachers and educators needs to be improved. Schools should be able to have sufficient support staff.

We need to bring back lower level technical schools as well as middle level general education.

Education should reflect the rapid developments in society.

The accessibility of higher education needs to be safeguarded. 50PLUS is opposed to the current student loan system.

50PLUS sees the pros and cons of special education and would like a public debate about this subject.

50PLUS does not support 'appropriate education'.

32. Adult education

Middle level professional education should also provide for adults.

Getting rid of the maximum age restriction in adult education.

Adult general secondary education should be available both during the day and in the evening.

Adult general secondary education will be directly available for free for everyone who is unemployed and entitled to unemployment benefits. The Employee Insurance Agency (UWV) will be a driving force.

The budget for adult education needs to be increased drastically.

Adult education needs to become more accepted and be considered a basic right.

Local coaches will help the elderly with the Internet, administration and literacy programmes in order to combat functional illiteracy.

33. Public broadcasting and the media

Public broadcasting produces many great programmes and that needs to continue. Diversity is of great value. Broadcasting associations play a key part in this.

Broadcasters will have more freedom to work together with publishers.

Every Dutch person, and not just members of a political party, should be able to apply for key positions at the Dutch Public Broadcasting Agency (NPO) through public application procedures.

34. Culture and the Dutch language

50PLUS continues to support the cultural youth card (CJP) and would welcome a similar arrangement for elderly people with limited funds. Last minute tickets are a good option.

Art and cultural institutions/companies need to be encouraged to schedule more exhibitions/performances during the day.



Active and passive participation in cultural activities is good for the development of both the young as well as adults. Culture begins at school, but the government can also arrange programmes for people entering their second youth.

It is important to remember achievements of the past that tell us about how our country functioned and how the people of the time lived. This heritage makes us aware of our past and shows us where we come from.

The government should encourage cultural innovation.

The language of instruction in education, and specifically in higher education, should be Dutch (in accordance with the Higher Education and Research Act, WHW).

35. The Internet and social media

Curb anonymous Internet usage by implementing a digital passport.

More funds and resources for Internet police investigating fraud and scams.

Freedom of speech is not a license to denigrate others or use abusive language. It should be commonplace to point out indecent behaviour. Harsher penalties for defamation.

The government must be mindful of people who do not have Internet and computer skills.

36. Agriculture, horticulture and fishing

50PLUS is in favour of strengthening the position of the agricultural sector.

There will be an increased stimulus for agricultural technology, sustainable practices, innovations and agricultural education.

50PLUS is well disposed towards fair trade.

Food safety and the prevention of waste are key points.

The use of fertilizer and poisonous pesticides in agriculture and antibiotics in animal farming needs to be reduced substantially.

The fish population needs to be maintained; necessary measures will be taken, such as the stimulation of fish migration projects.

Put limits on large-scale intensive animal farming; 50PLUS is against factory farms.

37. Tourism

50PLUS is proud of the Netherlands and is eager to show our country to tourists.

The Netherlands should take more effort to promote itself as a tourist destination.

Public transport should be very customer friendly and accessible to tourists.



50PLUS considers tourist and commuter taxes a thorn in our sides.

Better possibilities to stay in a holiday home or caravan throughout the year.

Create better touristic connections between the Randstad and regional tourist attractions.

38. Entrepreneurship / SME

Remove unnecessary regulations concerning the transfer of a family business to children.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and an increasing number of freelancers form the foundation of our economy. These enterprising people deserve more support, protection and guidance from the government.

Support a pension fund for entrepreneurs.

39. Innovation and the knowledge economy

Use the purchasing power of the government to speed up sustainable innovation.

To emphasise the huge importance of innovation, 50PLUS calls for a minister of Innovation and Sustainability.

40. Privatisations

No privatisations if they aren't in the best interest of society.

The government should maintain or regain a majority stake in key activities such as public transport, communications, energy, water and health care, and, wherever possible, organise them as public utility companies.

41. Schiphol airport and the Port of Rotterdam

The growth of Schiphol airport, with spill over possibilities at Lelystad airport, will be allowed to secure the position of the Netherlands as an appealing business location. The nuisance to citizens and businesses should be kept to a minimum by strict enforcement of noise regulations.

Schiphol should be a frontrunner in reducing all emissions to zero.

All existing regional airports will be allowed to continue and expand their activities as long as they comply with local regulations.

The government needs to pay careful attention to the interests of the KLM (Royal Dutch Airlines).

The Port of Rotterdam will be given enough space and resources in order to achieve growth.

42. Parliament, ministries and cabinet, allowances

The Senate (Eerste Kamer) will be abolished.

There will be an electoral threshold of 3%.

Reduce the number of members of the House of Representatives (Tweede Kamer) to 100.

Members of the House of Representatives who leave their parliamentary party before the expiration of the period for which they were appointed will be excluded from the provision governing financial support for elected parties.

Members of parliament who leave the House of Representatives before the expiration of the period for which they were appointed will receive an allowance comparable to a severance package in the private sector.

The police should be brought back under the control of the minister of the Interior.

There will be a coordinating minister of 'Elderly Affairs' on the areas of housing, health care, work, and income.

43. Administrative reform and local taxes

Mayors will be elected directly by the population.

50PLUS is opposed to an expansion of municipal taxes because this will again lead to an increase in financial burdens for citizens and the elderly, who did not get to benefit from previous reductions of these burdens. Therefore, 50PLUS will fight against new legislation on this subject.

The province as an administrative level will be abolished and provincial tasks will be allocated to the national government and/or the municipalities.

Borders, identity, culture and names of the provinces will be maintained.

Where there is a vacancy, one of the deputies will perform the tasks of the King's Commissioner. This position will be discontinued at the next provincial elections.

50PLUS supports research by a state committee on the sustainability of the parliamentary system.

It is not fair that the Water Boards charge a water treatment levy for a two-person household based on three pollution units.

44. Caribbean Netherlands (Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba)

Reduce poverty, including through raising basic state pensions to an acceptable level.

Bring local services up to standards, in accordance with the promises made in 2010.

Give proper attention to the growing unrest on the islands.

Contribute to effectively fighting increased crime and corruption.



45. Democracy, elections and referenda

There will be binding regional and national referenda. Members of the public will also be able to propose (binding) referenda under legal conditions. A direct democracy to complement the parliamentary democracy. 50PLUS is inspired by policies set forth in Switzerland.

To ensure that municipal elections focus on local politics instead of national politics, these elections will no longer be held simultaneously in each municipality, but on different dates.

To counteract the unreasonable costs in some municipalities, it will be made possible to apply for certain services such as passports and driver's licences in other municipalities with more affordable costs.

On 5 May, 50PLUS wants to celebrate both the Day of Democracy as well as Liberation Day.

Each year this day will be designated a national holiday.

Voting from abroad will be made easier.

Voting using DigiD (digital identification) will, once it is safe and responsible, be made possible.

46. Europe, EU and the euro

The European Union will hold off on adding new member states.

50PLUS is against leaving the EU.

50PLUS is in favour of a strong, stable euro, if necessary with a reduced number of affiliated countries.

50PLUS opts for a practical, realistic and critical approach.

The European Union has only three key tasks: economic and monetary policy, environmental and energy policy, and border policy (security, defence and foreign policy).

At this moment, under no circumstances can Turkey join the EU.

Put a stop to the constant travelling between Brussels and Strasbourg.

Reduce the number of seats in the European Parliament from 750 to 375.

Use part of the agricultural subsidies for services for the countryside.

50PLUS is opposed to the trade agreements TTIP and CETA.

47. Defence and security

The Netherlands strengthens efforts in international counterterrorism, intelligence services, and dealing with jihadists.

Take preventive action against people who are planning terror attacks.

The armed forces can be deployed against a terror threat.



Veterans deserve lasting appreciation and recognition. The government subsidy for the organisation of 'Veterans' Day' and other activities will be maintained.

48. Development aid

The Netherlands will comply with international agreements regarding the provision of development aid, but specifically asks for guarantees that the aid is used correctly.

The Dutch private sector must consolidate its lead in international cooperation.

The Netherlands will not give money to criminal, corrupt regimes that violate human rights or to countries in a state of war.

When it comes to emergency aid, international cooperation and consultation is desired.

49. UN, NATO and international security

International cooperation is of great importance and self-evident to the Netherlands. Instrumental in this is an active role in the NATO and the UN.

The Netherlands is committed to national and international security. As the international city of peace and justice, The Hague provides additional opportunities and chances.

50. Dutch pensioners abroad

Emigrated Dutch people should be able to voluntarily join the Health Care Insurance Act (ZVW) in addition to treaty law.

The Netherlands should commit itself to preventing double payment of health care costs in countries that finance health care using public funds.

When entering in new tax treaties, it is important to take into account existing situations, for example by including a transitional arrangement for such cases.

Members of the Election Programme Committee: Maurice Koopman (chairman), Jan Nagel, Henk Krol, Jaap Haasnoot, Harry Lamberts, Ruud Koornstra, Toine Manders, and secretary Simon Geleijnse.



Why you need to vote for 50PLUS on March 15:

50PLUS is all about people!

The elderly have been robbed of the pension that was promised them. Their retirement provisions are being trifled with. The increase of the state pension age has put many elderly people in financial trouble. The consequences: tens of thousands of elderly people unnecessarily put on unemployment benefits without any chance on the job market. The budget cuts to health and home care is a big disgrace: absolute proof that the elderly have been neglected by antisocial government policies.

This all amounts to a sad state of affairs for people aged 50 and over in the so-called participation society as imagined by the Rutte government. The elderly pay a high price to maintain this illusion. They suffer the consequences of their good citizenship, thrift, dutiful payment of premiums and misplaced faith in untrustworthy politicians. They hit the most vulnerable people in our society on their weaknesses: state and private pensions, higher taxes, purchasing power and health care.

Getting older is still a great privilege. However, good health and a long life cannot be bought. And is a longer life also a better life? You would wish it upon anybody. Spending time with children and grandchildren. Without a care in the world! Because almost everybody wants to survive, wants to live a healthy life, a safe life, and wants to live with the knowledge that they can end their life with dignity.

But not everybody will be so lucky. Man is most vulnerable at the beginning and end of his life. In the beginning it benefits from the immense, loving care of parents, but a similar care is needed at the end of his life.

The degree of civilization can be measured by the way society treats people aged 50 and over. Are they neglected or does society treat them with respect? Because it is very clear that many elderly people are becoming more financially vulnerable, more dependent on care and security, sometimes faced with loneliness and more often have to rely on others. Against their will. For everybody has pride and that pride makes it difficult for them, after having lived independently and responsibly, to ask others for help.



Outside of election seasons, the other political parties have been grossly negligent regarding the effect of the steadily ageing population. They regarded ageing as a financial and business problem. This is why 50PLUS is necessary. Because they are all about people. Because the political establishment has neglected the elderly and treated them as second rate citizens when it comes to tax policy. If things don't change drastically, the same will happen to younger generations, only exponentially. And that too is why 50PLUS is necessary!

50PLUS: for a state pension age of 65, for attention and care, for care centres that function as safe havens for the elderly. For sufficient and suitable homes for the elderly that are both affordable and made for them. To repair that which has been broken: solidarity between the generations.

There have been ever increasing attacks on the incomes of the elderly. For years, the idea of a collective society has been under pressure. Selfishness is destroying solidarity. A new government that includes 50PLUS will have to bridge the gap between generations. Society – including both young and old – has to maintain social decency by showing solidarity with the vulnerable.

Solidarity is a great way to keep society going. It isn't all about efficiency and low costs. Citizens have been reduced to a number. With both the government and the private sector, all questions are answered by computers; personal attention and empathy are expensive and therefore a thing of the past. The government is ramming digitisation through the throats of the elderly. They are often willing to go along, but simply unable and help is not forthcoming. Many elderly people are being crushed under the weight of digital progress and deserve additional protection.

The privilege of a longer life is seen as a problem of the elderly, one which the political establishment is increasingly unable to solve. Society has pushed people to the background. Public services are taken over by managers and their practices. They are a growing, almost indestructible plague in health care, security, education and other areas.

In all it is a terrifying thought for those growing older. They are being confronted with a society that is growing ever bleaker. Intolerance is gaining the upper hand.

Political parties continue to pay lip service to the needs of the elderly, but always end up neglecting them. The elderly fear for their safety. They are less able to defend themselves physically. For fear of violence, many rarely go out anymore. That is why there need to be more community police officers



and harsher penalties for those who target the defenceless. Police, public prosecutors and the courts need to make society safer by punishing criminals harsher and more often.

Those who are privileged to grow old are naturally also responsible for themselves and should not solely rely upon government services.

Of course there are seniors who are doing well, but it is unfair to them to have to pay extra just because they have always been frugal and accumulated a degree of wealth. They should be able to transfer the family business to their children without any hindrance and without bankrupting themselves. And they should be able to leave a larger inheritance to their heirs. After all, savings have already been taxed on a yearly basis through income and capital taxes.

Most of the elderly live on a state pension supplemented by a small private pension. It is not possible for them to add to that income because they are usually no longer physically able to work. And even those who have saved more money for their retirement and planned a carefree old age should not suffer the consequences of one-sided and unjust measures.

The increase of the state pension age to 67 – and for someone who is 30 now to the age of 71 – is a disaster. We are being deceived by calculating number crunchers.

There is no, nor will there be, work for the unemployed elderly. With the increase in automation and efficiency gains, the Rutte government's theory of working longer is being overtaken by the reality that there are no jobs for the elderly now and in the future. One reason is that they are insufficiently skilled for the current job market. That is why free education should be a basic right for the elderly. Another reason is that regulations and the height of the employer contributions prevent elderly people from being hired.

The steep increase of the state pension age is a joke. An empty shell, a castle in the sky. With the increase of the age came the increase in the number of unemployed. The age should be returned to 65. Not out of political opportunism, but because it fits the reality of the day.

At the same time we have lost sight of what matters most: people. When it comes to housing or budget cuts to home care or other services. From the disappearance of benches in public spaces, the



sky-high parking costs that make social visits in large cities expensive, the community police officer who provides a feeling of safety on the streets, activities for the elderly or the necessary attention given in care centres.

There are big and small solutions. Why doesn't a general practitioner take more time for a good conversation? Why does a hospital need to make a profit from a procedure? Why can't the elderly reap the benefits of new prosperity while they did have to pay the costs of the economic recovery?

The previous governments have shown that they do not care about the needs of the elderly. They do not matter in the so-called participation society; they are neglected. Both in purchasing power as well as services. Even pensions are at risk due to unnecessary interventions. With disastrous results.

Those who have worked for forty years, paid taxes, and actively participated in society have the right to a secure future, especially considering their impending vulnerability. Not out of compassion or pity; it is simply a part of an inclusive society.

This is why it is necessary that 50PLUS joins the government. It is because the elderly have been ignored for too long! That is why 50PLUS needs to obtain more seats. Other parties will no longer be able to ignore us. It is possible, but we need your vote on March 15!

50PLUS in government!

- ✓ With a **minister of Social Affairs** who gets the elderly back to work and fixes stupid rules.
- ✓ With a **coordinating minister of Elderly Affairs** who needs to make quick work of lowering the state pension age, securing pensions and restoring the purchasing power of the elderly.
- ✓ With a **minister of Innovation and Sustainability** to emphasise the huge importance of sustainability for all generations.

All citizens matter in the Netherlands. Young and old. We can be proud of a country that is innovative, enterprising, caring, that bridges the gap between generations, where citizens should feel safe, where we cherish traditions and our culture and where managers do not have the final say. A country that once again will be all about people.

In that country, that beautiful country, the Netherlands, it should be a privilege to grow old.

Vote for 50PLUS, the only party that truly stands up for the elderly!