

Annual Rule of Law Report - Council of Europe contribution

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

2026

Directorate General Human Rights and Rule of Law (DG I)

Netherlands

I Justice System

CEPEJ

The European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) regularly collects data on judicial systems concerning efficiency and quality of the justice system. In the framework of the CEPEJ Study for the EU Justice Scoreboard, CEPEJ prepares Country profiles annually, including the [Netherlands](#).

The 2024 data have been collected, quality checked and sent to DG-JUST in the framework of the 2026 EU Justice Scoreboard. The publication of the country profiles based on 2024 data will depend on final acceptance of the CEPEJ Study by DG-JUST. The CEPEJ Secretariat (christel.schurrer@coe.int) remains at the disposal of European Commission for any question related to these data.

VENICE COMMISSION

[CDL-AD\(2025\)047](#)

Amicus curiae brief for the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Kuijt v. the Netherlands on participation of additional judges in supreme court deliberations.

II Anti-corruption framework

GRECO

[Addendum to the Second Compliance Report](#) (4 July 2025)

5th round: Preventing corruption and promoting integrity in central governments (top executive functions) and law enforcement agencies

III Media pluralism

N/A

IV Other institutional issues related to checks and balances

PACE

Monitoring committee

The Netherlands | [Doc. 16316](#)

The report on the Netherlands has been under preparation for a considerable amount of time. In 2023, a preliminary draft report was transmitted to the Dutch authorities for comments. However, when we were preparing our final draft, the government fell, and new elections were called for 22 November 2023. The elections dramatically changed the political landscape with the hard right and populist party of Mr Geert Wilders (Party for Freedom, PVV) emerging as the largest party. In the increasingly polarised political environment, the negotiations to form a government were drawn out and contentious and concluded only after 223 days.

Given that the political makeup of the country had completely changed, the original report needed to be thoroughly rewritten and preparations for a new visit by the co-rapporteurs were underway when, on 3 June 2025, Mr Wilders announced that his party was withdrawing its support for the coalition. The government fell, and new elections were called for 29 October 2025. The margin of votes and seats between the winning and second placed parties, Democrats 66 (D66) and Party for Freedom (PVV), was the smallest since the size of parliament was last enlarged in 1956. Given the expected timeframe for establishing a new government, the committee agreed to request an extension of the reference until March 2027.

An agreement to form a minority government was finally reached on January 27 between D66 and two center-right parties, led by Rob Jetten, leader of D66. A fact-finding visit to restart the periodic review will now be organized shortly from scratch.