

**European  
elections  
2014-2019**

**“BECAUSE EQUAL  
ACCESS MEANS  
MORE THAN  
EQUAL RIGHTS”**

**Vrouwen Partij**  
INNOVATING EUROPE



## Foreword

In line with the theme of the coming elections for the European Parliament – “This time it’s different” – the Vrouwen Partij [the Women’s Party] has chosen to highlight the theme of equal access. Although the family is no longer the cornerstone of society, it still forms the foundation for the earning models on which European society is based. It is a typical case of the interest of the individual being seen as a collective interest. These collectives must now be reformed to reflect diversity and similarities.

The Netherlands and Europe must make choices that are not based only on ‘more efficiency’ and ‘cheaper’. Our election programme is aimed at making the face of this new Europe more visible. A Europe in which women and other minority groups also have access to a good life. In which European law actively encourages corporations to make good quality choices and can take responsibility for their own actions. Without imposing improper business risks on governments, consumers, clients and the young generation. The aim of our election programme is to encourage everyone who is willing to do so, to think about their own position within the context of the big European picture.

**“This time  
it’s different”**



Party executive, Vrouwen Partij

# Table of contents

## Introduction

Key focus 1   Equal access across Europe	1
Key focus 2   Basic income 3.0	2
Key focus 3   European circular economy	3
Key focus 4   European perspective on food, health and care	4
Key focus 5   European education, knowledge sharing and childcare	5
Key focus 6   European safety	6

**“Because equal access means more than equal rights”**

Foreword

1  
Introduction

1  
Key focus 1  
Equal access across Europe

2  
Key focus 2  
Basic income 3.0

3  
Key focus 3  
European circular economy

4  
Key focus 4  
European perspective on food, health and care

5  
Key focus 5  
European education, knowledge sharing and childcare

6  
Key focus 6  
European safety



# Introduction

Our aim is to move towards a circular economy in the Netherlands and Europe, our key focus areas being equal access, a basic income 3.0, and investments in infrastructure. These three areas are strongly interconnected. To achieve a healthy level of welfare within Europe, it is essential that these issues are focussed on.

On the one hand, within the European context, affairs such as the free movement of individuals, capital, goods and services will need to be restructured. On the other hand, the basis for this will have to be laid by forming a new modern financing model.

The Vrouwen Partij wants priority given to this restructuring and reform. It wants a single barcode, combined with a sophisticated processing system, that is directly related to national and European taxes.

The free movement of individuals, capital, goods and services can thus be better assured. Linking National and European legislation to the EU barcode will make it possible to trace whether companies are paying fair wages. Additionally, checks can be made to establish whether products and services are produced in a sustainable manner according to existing regulations, and that they are transported in a climate-neutral way.

Companies and individuals will be given the opportunity to conduct business and work together, inside and outside Europe, in a humane way. As a result, Europe will be able to make binding agreements with all countries so that money can be reserved for a new social safety net based on realistic percentages. A safety net that generates a locally-indexed basic income and that provides the Dutch and the other Europeans equal access to work/income. The key reason the Vrouwen Partij will devote its time and energy in Europe is that European women currently form the largest group of people that are lagging behind in terms of equal access to work and income.



**Moving towards  
a Dutch  
and European  
circular economy.**

Foreword

**Introduction**

1

**Key focus 1**

Equal access  
across Europe

2

**Key focus 2**

Basic income 3.0

3

**Key focus 3**

European circular  
economy

4

**Key focus 4**

European perspective on  
food, health and care

5

**Key focus 5**

European education,  
knowledge sharing and  
childcare

6

**Key focus 6**

European safety



## Key focus 1 | Equal access across Europe

Society is increasingly feeling the effects of what can happen when equal access to justice, work, income, healthy food, education and safety at the national and European levels is not optimally assured. We are seeing a growing gap between rich and poor, with women and children the major sufferers. Despite the existence of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the European Charter, large groups of people are being excluded, and an increasing number of people in Europe are being faced with no prospect of a better future.

The rules and regulations that are now being drawn up in Europe are written in the language of the elite, making them difficult to understand and lacking in transparency. Favours are granted whereby expertise is no longer a criterion. We want to expose this facade of a society.

The Vrouwen Partij wants a gender-sensitive parliament in Europe, that will speed up the change whereby equal accessibility becomes the key driving factor, enabling the development of an internationally fair distribution of welfare.



**Equal access  
leads to a sustainable  
peace in society  
in Europe.**

Foreword

Introduction

1  
**Key focus 1**  
Equal access  
across Europe

2  
**Key focus 2**  
Basic income 3.0

3  
**Key focus 3**  
European circular  
economy

4  
**Key focus 4**  
European perspective on  
food, health and care

5  
**Key focus 5**  
European education,  
knowledge sharing and  
childcare

6  
**Key focus 6**  
European safety



## Key focus 2 | Basic income 3.0

The distribution of incomes in Europe highlights the big differences in the income that people have available to spend per country. The unemployment statistics also vary but taken as a whole, a figure of 10.7%<sup>1</sup> is generally accepted. This means that in Europe, roughly 25.9 million people are unemployed. Where is their social safety net? According to the Dutch Food Bank, in the Netherlands at least 70,000 people cannot afford to buy enough food. Families are placed on waiting lists and one in four children under the age of 18 in the Netherlands grows up below the poverty line. The countries in Europe with higher unemployment figures often work through charities to alleviate this human suffering. And we all know what that leads to... even more inequality.

We want to work on a solution by introducing a European locally-indexed basic income 3.0, implemented on a broad scale so that people can generate an income that will provide them with a perspective for the future. The aim is that people who cannot earn a social minimum through work will become eligible for supplementary income. Based on the strategy of “A stronger safety net for those in need”, a basic income 3.0 should be sufficient for the European countries. If a choice is made based on a European generically fair system, the focus will switch to the facts. The tax authority could be responsible for implementing this, leading to fewer possibilities for fraud and creating a perspective for a peaceful society geared towards a common European future.



**Implementing  
a basic income 3.0  
will result in a  
more balanced and  
stronger Europe.**

<sup>1</sup>December 2013, Eurostat

## Key focus 3 | European circular economy

The way in which we in Europe deal with the whole concept of industrialisation has led us into an economic, ecological and social crisis. There is another option. We have to take a new look at the entire infrastructure governing the way our welfare is produced, including how we use, process and transport raw materials.

As far as this theme is concerned, the essence lies in awareness and change. It means a new way of offering educational material, and new legislation governing production and distribution in society. Manufacturers will remain responsible for their products, from the raw material to the waste phase, so that unacceptable risks can not be placed on the shoulders of the consumer. By taking into account the people and the planet, a fair and just society can be created so that a healthy state of welfare is possible for every European.

To help create transparency, a single European barcode is needed that is able to regulate a range of affairs such as taxation, energy consumption, CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral distribution, use of recyclable materials, as well as other ingredients such as a fair wage. In this way, every producer and consumer will contribute fairly to the construction of a new contemporary Europe.



**Investments in  
a sustainable  
circular economy  
will lead to welfare  
for everyone.**

Foreword

Introduction

1  
**Key focus 1**  
Equal access  
across Europe

2  
**Key focus 2**  
Basic income 3.0

3  
**Key focus 3**  
European circular  
economy

4  
**Key focus 4**  
European perspective on  
food, health and care

5  
**Key focus 5**  
European education,  
knowledge sharing and  
childcare

6  
**Key focus 6**  
European safety



## Key focus 4 | European perspective on food, health and care

The food industry in Europe has a powerful lobby. Added to the fact that agriculture is one of Europe's main sources of income, it is hardly surprising that it is difficult to imagine an independent and powerful European watchdog in this area. Food is increasingly being manipulated to influence its colour, taste, spreadability, freshness and preservation, with the prime idea of maximising profits. Consequently, today's food chain seems more and more to form part of the problem, kept in place by the efficient workings of the legal network that does its job while circumventing the lobby groups.

We will work to reduce the unacceptable business risk that the food industry imposes on consumers. That would mean that European legislation is required governing the entire production process that will motivate companies to develop an innovative sustainable policy that also ensures that as little manipulated food as possible is made available on a large scale. Decentralised, high-tech food production should be produced under a system of zero-level pesticides, hormone disruption or other chemical means controlling perishability, to make better use of the underlying problems concerning raw materials that are required in the food production process. We must be able to establish where and how food is produced quickly, as well as whether a local tax has been paid in the correct way. Because the food industry, with its outdated economic convictions, also often makes no contribution to a sustainable society. Just like the Platform Landbouw, Innovatie en Samenleving [Agriculture, Innovation and Society Platform], we see that Europe has a strategic interest in becoming less dependent on the imports of raw materials and that the European food industry will need to focus strongly on a circular economy.



**A food chain without any chemical preservation agents will result in a healthy circular economy.**

*Key focus 4 continues on the next page*

Foreword

Introduction

1  
**Key focus 1**  
Equal access  
across Europe

2  
**Key focus 2**  
Basic income 3.0

3  
**Key focus 3**  
European circular  
economy

4  
**Key focus 4**  
European perspective on  
food, health and care

5  
**Key focus 5**  
European education,  
knowledge sharing and  
childcare

6  
**Key focus 6**  
European safety





## Key focus 4 | European perspective on food, health and care

In the same vein as healthy food for Europe, we want the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations EFPIA to focus more on the development of gender-differentiated medication. We want more research conducted into “best practices” so that better European guidelines concerning gender-differentiated healthcare and public health can be achieved. Current policies will need to be improved immensely since women are suffering from them.

The reason that this industry does not work in a sustainable manner nor accept its responsibility sufficiently is the rising costs and the earning models of the pharmaceutical and care industries. Because the conflicts of interest are too great, and due to a high degree of dependence on the pharmaceutical industry, the European Parliament must make special efforts to guarantee the rights of the users in this domain.



**Gender-differentiated  
healthcare  
will lead to all Europeans  
growing old happy.**

Foreword

Introduction

1  
**Key focus 1**  
Equal access  
across Europe

2  
**Key focus 2**  
Basic income 3.0

3  
**Key focus 3**  
European circular  
economy

4  
**Key focus 4**  
European perspective on  
food, health and care

5  
**Key focus 5**  
European education,  
knowledge sharing and  
childcare

6  
**Key focus 6**  
European safety



## Key focus 5 | European education, knowledge sharing and childcare

Education in Europe is not accessible for everyone, resulting in an inequality in knowledge sharing. Educational institutes and publishers lack the appropriate stimulus required to raise the level of the European education system. This means that we must accelerate the speed with which advanced and complex knowledge becomes accessible at every level in every country. A life-long learning cycle must be made available for every European, with English as the main language. Additionally, knowledge will need to be more aligned with an individual's communication profile, their information need, and their learning style.

European guidelines for childcare must become a key element in education policy. And it is not only the parents that must be held financially responsible for this. If childcare also then becomes a part of the education system, an integral approach can be adopted to achieve the happiness of the future generation of Europe.



**A humane and progressive Europe provides a “state-of-the-art” education system.**

Foreword

Introduction

1  
**Key focus 1**  
Equal access  
across Europe

2  
**Key focus 2**  
Basic income 3.0

3  
**Key focus 3**  
European circular  
economy

4  
**Key focus 4**  
European perspective on  
food, health and care

5  
**Key focus 5**  
European education,  
knowledge sharing and  
childcare

6  
**Key focus 6**  
European safety



## Key focus 6 | European safety

The security policy in the Netherlands and Europe is an industry in itself. Despite the Council of Europe Treaty concerning the prevention and combating of violence against women, insufficient resources are being implemented to deal with domestic violence. A central overarching legislation is required that ensures that extra resources are made available to the institutions that are involved with assuring safety, with the inequality of access to filing criminal complaints, with the administration of justice, and prevention.

We want European society to better assure the interests and the conflicts of interest of all groups and individuals, and to devote the attention to them that they deserve. We are also observing a trend in the polarisation between North and South Europe. We are deeply concerned about the rising wave of extreme right-wing and ultra-liberal support, depicting immigrants as economic delinquents, and this seems to be resulting in borders once again becoming walls. The European Parliament will need to review the whole security issue from another perspective. We want the member states to contribute jointly to this so that everyone's security and safety is assured. The problem will not be resolved if the current approach to the theme of safety within the EU does not change.



**A better guarantee  
for the interests  
and conflicts of interests  
for all groups.**

Foreword

Introduction

1  
**Key focus 1**  
Equal access  
across Europe

2  
**Key focus 2**  
Basic income 3.0

3  
**Key focus 3**  
European circular  
economy

4  
**Key focus 4**  
European perspective on  
food, health and care

5  
**Key focus 5**  
European education,  
knowledge sharing and  
childcare

6  
**Key focus 6**  
European safety



**It is not the case that the economy does not have our priority. It is the combination of people and society that determines whether we will also be able to live in a peaceful European society tomorrow.**

**In Europe today, there are at least 25.9 million people (M/F) looking for work. Work that is largely no longer available because the world is in a state of transition, resulting in the old economy no longer being able to adapt to the new, and ultimately doomed to disappear. On all fronts, Europe needs a smarter new infrastructure to assure equal accessibility for all.**

**“Global  
solidarity and  
humanity for all  
Europeans”.**

*Vrouwen Partij | Februari 2014*

**Colofon**

The foundation for this election programme was created in 2014 by, among others, Mar de Jong (party executive), Wietske van der Schaaf, Monique Sparla (party executive) and a number of volunteers.

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