



**Pekka Kallioniemi** @P\_Kallioniemi

Nov 30, 2023 · 22 tweets · [P\\_Kallioniemi/status/1730164699835023855](#)

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In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce a Dutch politician and leader of the Party of Freedom (PVV), Geert Wilders (@geertwilderspvv).

He's best-known for his populist, anti-immigration and anti-Islam rhetoric, and for his warm and close relations to the Kremlin.

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After graduating from school, Geert dreamed of traveling around the world. He went to Israel and volunteered in an agricultural community known as moshav in an Israeli settlement in the West Bank. After saving some money, he also traveled extensively...

His goal after finishing school was to see the world. But he lacked the money to get to Australia, his preferred destination, so he went to Israel instead. Wilders, who speculates that some of his ancestors were Jewish, felt completely at home upon his arrival in Israel. "It felt like I had been there before," he says. He supported himself by working long hours in a bread factory, and he traveled extensively in the surrounding Arab countries. The Israelis, he felt, were not as pigheaded as the Arabs. "But when the Egyptians talked about Israel, you could see the hatred in their eyes."

He visited Muslim countries again and again. Even in the late 1990s, he flew to Iran, Syria and Jordan. To this day, he waxes poetic over these "magnificent countries," but then he adds: "It's a real shame that these places are so chaotic." Wilders is very familiar with the Arab world, the same world where he is now causing such a commotion. It is shortsighted to describe him as ignorant.

...to the neighboring Arab countries, calling them "magnificent countries" but also "chaotic". After returning home from Israel, he claimed to be having a "special feeling of solidarity" towards the country. Since then, he's visited Israel over 40 times.

After spending a year in Israel following his graduation from secondary school, he claims he found a “special feeling of solidarity” for the region and its Jewish foundations. He has professed to returning to Israel at least 40 times since.



After working in the health insurance industry for a while, Geert got interested in politics. He started writing speeches for the Netherlands' People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD), after which he became parliamentary assistant to the party leader Frits Bolkestein.

corruption, when he worked for the Dutch social insurance agency. In 1990 he joined the People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD), which purported to fight precisely that tangled social network. Frits Bolkestein, the party's charismatic leader, became his mentor and discovered Wilders' talent for writing speeches.

Wilders, the pupil, also shared his new teacher's sharp criticism of Muslim immigrants.



Bolkestein was the first Dutch politician to talk about the consequences of mass immigration of Muslims for Dutch society, which Geert seemed to admire greatly. Wilders copied Bolkestein's confrontational speaking style and his anti-immigration rhetoric.

In a recent biography by a political analyst, Geert Wilders is labelled the sorcerer's apprentice. Trained by one of the most prominent Dutch politicians in recent decades – “sorcerer” Frits Bolkesteijn – Wilders transformed from a relatively unknown Member of Parliament into the most outspoken and influential politician in the Netherlands. But his magic seems to have worn off, as Dutch voters are increasingly getting tired of his yearning for political hysteria.

After becoming VVD's public spokesman in 2002, he became well-known for his criticism of Islamic extremism. He also resisted Turkey's entry to EU. Due to this, he was expelled from the VVD parliamentary party, only to form his own, Party for Freedom or PVV for short.

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#### **Breaking point**

Wilders was unhappy with the moderate stances of the Conservative VVD leadership, and increasingly challenged the party line, especially after the attacks on the World Trade Centre. He accused the VVD leadership of embracing a multi-cultural worldview, and underestimating the threat posed by Muslims in the Netherlands. But in the end, it was his opposition to Turkey's potential membership in the EU which was the breaking point. He left the VVD, and started the process of forming his own party.

The Freedom Party is more a movement than a political party. It has no members, only supporters. But Geert Wilders learned from the travesty of the List Pim Fortuyn, the right-wing party established by the flamboyant populist which floundered after Fortuyn's murder. The LPF caucus was inexperienced and undisciplined, and quickly self-destructed due to internal bickering.

The Freedom Party is nothing if not disciplined. But Wilders was also careful in selecting his list of candidates for parliament, and trained them extensively. In his role as party leader, Mr Wilders is a micro-manager who likes to be in control.

#### Timeline

**10-1997** Wilders becomes a member of the municipal council of Utrecht, the fourth largest city of the Netherlands.

**08-1998** Wilders becomes a member of the [Dutch House of Representatives](#) for the [People's Party for Freedom and Democracy](#) (VVD).

**09-2003** Wilders report first threatening mails and publishes his *Ten Points Plan*:

- the VVD has to take a right-wing course,
- Turkey will never be a member of the E.U.,
- maximum driving speed must be lifted,
- money spend for development work must be halved,
- fighting terrorism stands above personal privacy,
- after three violent crimes lifelong imprisonment,
- if integration does not work emigration follows,
- the government can only make a rule if two other are removed,
- reviewing the election system is futile, politicians with guts and the will to act are needed,
- if the choice is between ruling with a [Purple](#) government or opposition, the choice will be opposition.

**09-2004** Wilders splits from VVD, because he is against talks with Turkey for E.U. membership, and starts his own party, named Group Wilders.

In 2005, Wilders published his political manifesto, suggesting changes like a ban on Islamic headwear in public, closing of all doors for asylum seekers, stop on enlargement of EU, ban on Islamic schools, and deportation of criminals with dual citizenship.

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03-2005 Wilders publishes his *Political Manifesto* which he calls the *Declaration of Independence*. The manifesto has the same points as his *Ten Points Plan*, and points like:

- a ban on Islamic headwear in in public functions,
- close all doors for asylum seekers,
- a maximum of 5000 political refugees,
- 5 year stop on brides of foreign countries,
- a dramatic tax decrease,
- decreasing number civil servants to 50%,
- stop on enlargement E.U.,
- five prisoners in one cell,
- build feeding camps and discipline schools,
- more police, and use of army within public zones,
- deport criminals with a dual nationality,
- ban on Islamic schools,
- test children on knowledge about national identity,
- administrative reorganisation of provinces and government,
- closing the [Dutch Senate](#),
- limit public television to a single channel.

In 2014 elections for the EU Parliament, PVV received four seats & tried to form a new parliamentary group together with France's Front National. This coalition was then joined by Italy's Lega Nord & Austria's FPÖ. Each of these parties have had close ties to the Kremlin.

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**RUSSIA**

## Revealed: The Explosive Secret Recording That Shows How Russia Tried To Funnel Millions To The “European Trump”

A close aide to Italy's deputy prime minister Matteo Salvini held covert talks to pump Russian oil money to his far-right party. BuzzFeed News has the tape.

 **Alberto Nardelli**  
BuzzFeed News Europe Editor

Posted on July 10, 2019 at 1:00 pm

NATIONAL SECURITY

# A Russian bank gave Marine Le Pen's party a loan. Then weird things began happening.



By [Paul Sonne](#)

December 27, 2018 at 9:47 a.m. EST



December 19, 2016 16:03  
GMT

## Austrian Far-Right Party Signs Cooperation Pact With United Russia

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Austrian Freedom Party (FPÖ) leader Heinz-Christian Strache renewed his call to lift "damaging and pointless international sanctions" against Russia over its actions in Ukraine.

In Oct 2023, investigative journalism platform Follow the Money (@FTM\_eu) published an article by @LaurensGR92 about Wilders' and PVV's connections to the Kremlin. The story was based on leaked documents that were allegedly hacked by a Ukrainian hacker group.

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**FOLLOW THE MONEY** ABOUT FTM THE FILES AUTHORS BY THE BOOKS PODCASTS TO PODCAST

FUNDING OF OUR POLITICAL PARTIES THE RUSSIA CRISIS

??? Sophia Twigt

19 OCT OBER 2023 · 10 MINMIN

### Leaked documents prove unknown connections between Russia and the PVV so far

BY LAURENS GROENEVELD THE INVESTIGATIVE DESK

6 CONNECTIONS 48 CONTRIBUTIONS

The Kremlin has been trying to develop ties with the PVV since 2013. And with success. The party is prominently featured in Russian influence campaigns, according to leaked documents. They also make it clear that Geert Wilders is trying to keep connections with Russia out of sight.

It exposed various collaborations between Russian officials and PVV members, and most of this was coordinated through the Russian Peace Foundation, a pro-Kremlin propaganda organization of the right-wing populist Parliamentarian Leonid Slutsky. The hacked documents showed,...

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...that Slutsky and his foundation have influenced and bribed Western politicians and decision-makers for at least ten years. These people were invited to election observation missions, events promoting "traditional values", conferences and anti-NATO and anti-EU events.

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PVV members have participated in Russian propaganda events, and their visits were organized by the far-right Duma member Leonid Slutsky. According to FTM, Slutsky is a central figure in the Kremlin's efforts to recruit Western politicians to its cause so that they can fight sanctions against Russia and the idea of a sovereign Ukraine in their own countries.

For example, Slutsky organized PVV MEP Andre Elissen's visit to Moscow in 2017 to "observe" the Russian elections. In 2018, Geert Wilders himself visited the Russian capital, a trip also organized by Slutsky. At the time, Wilders claimed that his visit was to "keep the dialogue open" after Russia annexed Crimea and the downing of flight MH17. Wilders did not comment publicly about the visit afterward.

The leaks also show that Wilders and PVV have tried to conceal its ties with the Kremlin. In one of the leaked e-mails from 2016, Wilders demanded that the general public would not see the Russian guests present at a meeting of European sister parties.

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«Caro Alexander,  
Lega Nord and European group are under attack of the press globalist and atlanticist. I send you some articles of important Italian newspapers. They talk about funding of Russia to Lega Nord.

We know that this is not true, but we must avoid the official presence at Jan 28 of Russian people that can cause other articles and international controversy. Wilders' party has officially requested that is better that Russian personality aren't at this public meeting in the evening of 28.

Konstantin phoned to Marine? So we can organize to meet her in hotel and not in a public, in the morning of 29. Then we have an official lunch with Matteo, you and Klimov. After lunch we will have a meeting with cultural association (LombardiaRussia, Veneto Russia, Liguria Russia, Piemonte Russia).

Matteo said me that this is the situation and we have to move very carefully and he is sure you understand very well.

Next monday I will have a dinner with Konstantin and 26 I will be in his office with business people at 12. If you can, we can meet you there before.

My russian phone number is +792 [REDACTED]

Cari saluti.  
Gianluca»

This collaboration was also evident from Wilders' and PVV's comments. In 2016, Wilders described Vladimir Putin as a "true patriot" and an ally in the war against Islamic extremism. In the same year, Geert opposed the Association Agreement between the EU and Ukraine.

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Listen to

## Wilders recognizes a 'real patriot' in Putin

THE NEWS PVV leader Geert Wilders has a conversation with Gennadi Gatilov, the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister.



Piet H. de Jong  
on Friday 2 March 2018 at 03:00



The Gennadi Gatilov

ap / Martial Trezzini

The PVV, being the oldest of the three, had consistently criticized the EU's opening to Ukraine in the 2010s. It did not condemn the Russian annexation of Crimea in 2014 (only a parliamentary minority of the CDA, D66, and the Greens supported a condemnation of Russia). The downing of MH17 made the PVV more critical of Russia, but the party argued that EU support for Ukraine had contributed to further escalation in the Donbas. In 2016, Wilders strongly opposed the [association](#) treaty with Ukraine and moved closer to Russia by describing Putin as a "true patriot" and depicting Russia as an ally in fighting terrorism and [immigration](#) (de Jong, 2018). Nevertheless, in its electoral manifesto, the PVV insisted that the perpetrators of the MH17 shooting be brought to justice (Partij voor de Vrijheid, 2020, p. 48). Wilders condemned Russian aggression in 2022 but considered the earlier prospect of Ukraine's NATO membership an escalatory step.

In 2017, Geert claimed that there was "hysterical Russophobia" in the Dutch government and that he wanted to counter this. This was after The Dutch Safety Board had issued its final report on the downing of MH17, concluding the crash was caused by a Russian Buk system.

# Wilders says Russia is 'no enemy' ahead of Moscow visit



Until recently Wilders (r) has been much less vocal about defending Russia than his French ally Le Pen (Photo: European Parliament)

By **PETER TEFFER**

BRUSSELS, 23. NOV 2017, 09:23



News

## Dutch board says Russian-made missile downed MH17

*Findings do not specify who launched BUK missile which brought down passenger jet over eastern Ukraine in July 2014.*



Two hundred and ninety eight people - most of them Dutch and including 80 children - died in the crash on July 17, 2014  
[FILE - AP]

In 2018, he traveled to Russia and met with several senior Russian officials in the Duma. Before his trip, he tweeted "Russia. Moscow. Duma. Stop the Russiaphobia. It's time for Realpolitik. Partnership instead of enmity!" His trip was criticized harshly by the relatives...

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...of Dutch victims of the MH17 disaster, blaming Wilders for disregarding the Kremlin's involvement in the tragedy. On the day Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in Feb 2022, he tweeted "Do not let Dutch households pay the price for a war that is not ours."

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**NOS** The news ▾ Category: Sports and sports ▾ Live Live The programs

The foundation Fly Disaster MH17 does not have a good word for the visit to the Russian Duma of PVV leader Wilders.

Also a tweet in which Wilders shows a picture of a Russian-Dutch friendship pin on his suit, the relatives are strongly disapprove of.

"Messing friendship with Russia by a Member of Parliament is inappropriate," the foundation said. The relatives want apologies from the PVV leader. Wilders has not yet responded to the fuss.

by Geert Wilders ( ' )  
'sering wilder's fleet

I wear it here with pride. A Russian-Dutch friendship pin.  
<https://t.co/n0qPUTThsl>

16:30 and 30:30 • 27 February 2018



Wilders' PVV supported a (unsuccessful) motion to declare Dutch neutrality in Feb 2022 and to end sanctions on Russia in June 2022. He justified this by the rising inflation and the European energy crisis, completely disregarding Russia's genocidal war in Ukraine.

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In Wilders's tweets and the PVV's contributions to parliamentary debate, the war itself was seldom addressed but rather instrumentalized through the prism of the needs of the Dutch people. Wilders tweeted on March 18 2022: "I have sympathy for Ukrainians, but I represent the one million Dutch citizens who have elected me" (Wilders, 2022). During parliamentary debates, the PVV emphasizes the cost of the war for the Dutch people, linking high inflation and gas prices to sanctions on Russia. This is consistent with the PVV's welfare chauvinist economic positions. Regarding parliamentary actions, the PVV and the FvD supported an unsuccessful motion to declare Dutch neutrality in the conflict in late February and an unsuccessful motion to stop sanctions against Russia in early June, while JA21 opposed both motions (Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal, 2022a, 2022c). The PVV hinted at a willingness to house a limited number of Ukrainian refugees (preferably in the region or by expelling other refugees). Furthermore, the party leverages sympathy with Ukrainian refugees rhetorically (by labelling them "real refugees") as a counterpoint to other refugees (which they label "the wrong kind of foreigners") (Tweede Kamer der Staten-Generaal, 2022b).

Later in 2022, Wilders and PVV condemned the invasion, but strongly argued against military aid to Ukraine. Recently, in one of the last debates before the recent Dutch election, Geert stated that he would

not support sending Ukraine more weapon.

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Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Wilders has somewhat distanced himself from the Kremlin, calling the invasion a mistake. But a government under Wilders is unlikely to play the same role in helping Ukraine as seen under the longtime prime minister Mark Rutte, who led the effort to deliver F-16 combat aircraft to Ukraine.

In one of the last debates before the election, Wilders said he would not support sending Ukraine more weapons, a statement that will send a chill through Ukraine, as military aid already appears to be faltering.

Does Wilders' win mean that the Netherlands will stop their aid to Ukraine? Probably not. They got 35 out of 150 seats in the Dutch Parliament, and PVV will have hard time making it to the government without watering down their political manifesto:

19/21



Liam Fellagher  
@sjoerdeman · [Follow](#)



#Fellas, have Dutch elections caused some pessimism? Doom and gloom? Worried about right wing populism taking over Europe? ANOTHER TRUMP/ORBAN CLOWN? #NAFO fellas, you can relax. This bad Mozart-lookalike is no reason to worry, and I will explain exactly why, here;

IMPORTANT 📖



2:55 PM · Nov 23, 2023



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As a nation, the Dutch are overwhelmingly in favor of arming Ukraine. They were one of the first countries to promise F-16's to Ukraine, and even donated Ukraine tanks even though they don't even own any.

Global

# Netherlands budgets \$2.2 billion in military aid for Ukraine

By [Rudy Ruitenberg](#)

Friday, Nov 17



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, left, is greeted by Dutch caretaker Prime Minister Mark Rutte in Eindhoven, Netherlands, Sunday, Aug. 20, 2023. (Peter Dejong/AP)

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<p><b>GEVECHTS-VOERTUIGEN</b>            T-72 tanks (45 stuks)            YPR-pantservoertuigen (196 stuks)            Fennek-verkeningsvoertuigen            Viking-rupsvoertuigen            Leopard 1 tanks (ten minste 100 stuks)</p>	<p><b>SENSOREN</b>            drones (143 stuks)            radars            detectiesystemen            nachtzichtapparatuur</p>	<p><b>VELDHOSPITALEN</b>            (10 stuks)</p>	<p><b>BRANDSTOFFEN</b></p>
<p><b>BRUGGEN</b>            Bailey bruggen (15 stuks)            M3 pontonsystemen (6 stuks)</p>	<p><b>INDIVIDUELE WAPENS</b>            pistolen            mitrailleurs MAG / MINIMI / 50            (lange afstands-) geweren</p>	<p><b>VELDKUUKENS</b>            (31 stuks)</p>	<p><b>AGGREGATEN</b>            (676 stuks)</p>
<p><b>VUURSTEUN</b>            PzH 2000 pantserhouwers            (8 stuks)            120 mm mortieren</p>	<p><b>MUNITIE</b>            bleis            bommen            zware munitie            anti-tank (LAW + Panzerfaust)</p>	<p><b>VOERTUIGEN</b>            vrachtwagens            ziekenwagens            Amazok persenvoertuigen</p>	<p><b>RESERVEDELEN</b></p>
<p><b>LUCHTVERDEDIGING</b>            Patriot lanceerinstallaties (2 stuks)            met raketten            MIM-4 mobiele luchtdoelkanonnen            (100 stuks)            Stinger-raketten            overige raketten en raketssystemen</p>	<p><b>VAARTUIGEN</b>            mijnerjager (2 stuks)            overige (4 stuks)</p>	<p><b>VAARTUIGEN</b>            mijnerjager (2 stuks)            overige (4 stuks)</p>	<p><b>LOGISTIEK MATERIAAL</b>            hijskranen (2 stuks)            heftrucks (21 stuks)            shovels (10 stuks)</p>
<p><b>PERSONEEL</b>            100 militairen</p>	<p><b>RANTSOENEN</b></p>	<p><b>MEDEISCHE GOEDEREN</b></p>	<p><b>PERSOONLIJKE UITRUSTING</b>            bijsluiting, helm en scherfvesten            slaapsakken</p>
<p><b>DE-MINING EQUIPMENT</b>            mijn-ontruimingsmiddelen            EOD kits            pompbussen en helmen            Scanlack mijnruiminstallatie (1 stuk)            Bozema mijnruiminstallatie (2 stuks)</p>	<p><b>TENTEN</b>            (500 stuks)</p>	<p><b>DE-MINING EQUIPMENT</b>            mijn-ontruimingsmiddelen            EOD kits            pompbussen en helmen            Scanlack mijnruiminstallatie (1 stuk)            Bozema mijnruiminstallatie (2 stuks)</p>	<p><b>DE-MINING EQUIPMENT</b>            mijn-ontruimingsmiddelen            EOD kits            pompbussen en helmen            Scanlack mijnruiminstallatie (1 stuk)            Bozema mijnruiminstallatie (2 stuks)</p>




Deze lijst is niet uitputtend, operationele veiligheid is leidend t.a.v. wat openbaar gemaakt wordt.

We should always respect the results of a democratic elections, but the Dutch election is still a wake up call for the whole of Europe - pro-Kremlin political parties have been extremely successful in EU and NATO countries like Hungary, Slovakia & now in the Netherlands.







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