



**Pekka Kallioniemi** @P\_Kallioniemi

Jan 8, 2024 · 20 tweets · [P\\_Kallioniemi/status/1744346831801217111](https://twitter.com/P_Kallioniemi/status/1744346831801217111)

In today's #vatniksoup, I'll introduce a Dutch, far-right political party Forum voor Democratie (FvD for short; @fvdemocratie). They're best-known for their anti-Ukraine and pro-Kremlin politics, and for their tendency to support the craziest conspiracy theories out there.

1/19



FvD was initially founded as a think tank by Thierry Baudet and Henk Otten in 2015. Their main goal was to oppose the Association Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine and the Dutch membership in the EU, calling for a referendum act on the issue.

2/19

## Dutch referendum voters overwhelmingly reject closer EU links to Ukraine

Two-thirds of voters oppose political, trade and defence treaty, showing strength of Eurosceptic feeling in the Netherlands

Reuters in Amsterdam

Thu 7 Apr 2016 11:24 CEST



Dutch prime minister Mark Rutte casts his vote in the referendum in The Hague. Photograph: Bart Maat/AFP/Getty Images



Dutch voters have overwhelmingly rejected a Ukraine-European Union treaty on closer political and economic ties, in a rebuke to their government and to the EU establishment.

The broad political, trade and defence treaty - which had already been signed by the Dutch prime minister Mark Rutte's government and approved by all other EU nations, and Ukraine - provisionally took effect in January.

But on Wednesday 64% of Dutch referendum voters rejected it; the turnout was just 32% - barely enough for the result to be valid.


GeenPeil is one of a raft of new parties competing in the Netherlands' parliamentary election on March 15th. Many Dutch call it the strangest race they have ever seen. Other newcomers include the Forum for Democracy (FvD), headed by Thierry Baudet, a swaggering Eurosceptic intellectual; For the Netherlands (VNL), a tax-cutting, anti-immigration party headed by a sassy news-comedian; Denk ("Think"), a party that appeals mostly to immigrants from Turkey and Morocco and their offspring; and the Dutch Pirate Party. Because the Netherlands has no minimum threshold for entering parliament, any of these parties could win seats.


Otten was kicked out of FvD after he allegedly led the party apparatus in a dictatorial way and transferred some money from party donors to his own consultancy company, without permission. Baudet has been introduced on #vatniksoup previously:




**Pekka Kallioniemi**   
@P\_Kallioniemi · [Follow](#) 

In today's #vatnik soup we'll travel to the land of tulips & get to know a Dutch politician & a conspiracy theorist, Thierry Baudet (@thierrybaudet). He's the founder and leader of Forum for Democracy (FvD) party and also a member of the House of representatives since 2017.

1/12



1:22 PM · Jan 12, 2023 

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In Sep 2016, FvD was converted into a political party and announced its intention to take part in the 2017 general election, in which they won two seats in the House of Representatives. After that, the party grew fast, and in 2019 they had nearly 31 000 members.

## 2017 Dutch general election



← 2012

15 March 2017

2021 →

All 150 seats in the [House of Representatives](#)

76 seats needed for a majority

Turnout

81.9% (▲ 6.3 pp)

Party	Leader	%	Seats	±/...
VVD	Mark Rutte	21.29	33	-8
PVV	Geert Wilders	13.06	20	+5
CDA	Sybrand van Haersma Buma	12.38	19	+6
D66	Alexander Pechtold	12.23	19	+7
GL	Jesse Klaver	9.13	14	+10
SP	Emile Roemer	9.09	14	-1
PvdA	Lodewijk Asscher	5.70	9	-29
CU	Gert-Jan Segers	3.39	5	0
PvdD	Marianne Thieme	3.19	5	+3
50+	Henk Krol	3.11	4	+2
SGP	Kees van der Staaij	2.08	3	0
DENK	Tunahan Kuzu	2.06	3	New
FvD	Thierry Baudet	1.78	2	New

This lists parties that won seats. See the complete results below.

FvD really took off in the 2019 provincial elections, when they won 86 seats. They were the largest party in three provinces, and 2nd or 3rd in many others. Most of their candidates had no prior experience in politics or in political parties.

## Anti-immigration populists surge in fragmented Dutch elections

**FvD party on course to win 12 seats in upper house of parliament that will contain a record 12 parties**

**Jon Henley** *European affairs correspondent*

@jonhenley

Thu 21 Mar 2019 13.55 CET



Forum for Democracy (FvD) party leader, Thierry Baudet, on election night. Photograph: Bart Maat/EPA

An anti-immigration populist party has won the most votes in elections for the upper house of parliament in the **Netherlands**, days after a shooting in Utrecht, robbing the governing coalition of its majority and forcing it to seek new alliances on the left.

In a further fragmentation of Dutch politics, the Forum for Democracy (FvD) party of Thierry Baudet, a flamboyant former academic and columnist, is on course to win 12 seats in an upper house containing a record 12 parties, none with more than 12 seats.

FvD suffered from internal issues due to their rapid growth, and in 2018 many prominent members left the party because they felt it lacked democracy in its decision-making. In 2020, the party was again a target of controversy, when its youth wing made racist...

## Exodus at Forum for Democracy sticks to

The procession of prominent members who turn their backs on Forum voor Democratie does not seem to have come to an end.

ANP



Hiddema and Baudet IMAGE ANP

Susan Teunissen, the first successor of MPs Thierry Baudet and Theo Hiddema, also resigned on Friday for a lack of participation. The young party sees the exodus of [disaffected members](#) as a natural process and does not think about changing course.

The [quarrel within FVD-eating came](#) to light on Monday when the party Robert de Haze Winkelman and his partner gave the guard. The former VVD-senator, who financed FVD and helped select candidate MPs, would have wanted to have a coup.

... and homophobic comments. The party leader, Baudet, was also accused of promoting antisemitic conspiracy theories. Baudet temporarily stepped down as party leader, only to return for the 2021 general election. The party campaigned against COVID-19 lockdowns,...

# Dutch right-wingers share meme of Anne Frank snorting cocaine

Forum for Democracy party distances itself after members of WhatsApp group for young backers of faction also share anti-Semitic remarks

By **CNAAN LIPSHIZ**

29 April 2020, 10:07 pm | 3



A screenshot of the meme of Anne Frank shared on the WhatsApp group of the young supporters of the Forum for Democracy party in the Netherlands. (HPDeTijd via JTA)

AMSTERDAM (JTA) — Young supporters of the Dutch right-wing Forum for Democracy party shared memes of Anne Frank snorting cocaine and made anti-Semitic remarks in internal correspondence.





A Forum voor Democratie political poster in Zuidbroek, Groningen, during the 2019 European Parliamentary elections campaign. May 23, 2019 - Credit: [Donald Trung Quoc Don \(Chữ Hán: 董國權\)](#) / Wikimedia Commons - License: [CC-BY-SA](#)

POLITICS FORUM VOOR DEMOCRATIE JFVD ANTI-SEMITIC HOMOPHOBIA

SUNDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2020 - 12:30

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## Members of the youth division for the right-wing Forum for Democracy dismissed after anti-Semitic and homophobic messages

... and managed to win 8 seats. Due to controversies such as comparing the COVID-19 lockdowns to Nazi occupation of the Netherlands, and protesting against Zelenskyy's speech to the House of Representatives, many of the party's representatives abandoned the party.



COVID-19 SERIES

## Rewriting the Netherlands' Past and Future: Thierry Baudet's Use of Holocaust Analogies during the COVID-19 Pandemic



### EU Monitor

News ▾

#### FVD denounces the invitation of President Zelensky to address the Dutch House of Representatives


Source: [Forum voor Democratie \(FVD\)](#), published on Thursday, March 31 2022.

**FVD denounces the invitation of President Zelensky to address the Dutch House of Representatives and will be absent during his speech and from the ensuing parliamentary debate**

On Thursday 31 March, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky will give a virtual address to the Dutch House of Representatives. The parliamentary group of Forum for Democracy in the House of Representatives will not attend this speech, nor will it participate in the debate that follows.


From the beginning, FvD along with its leader has called for better relations between the Netherlands & Russia. Baudet strongly opposed the sanctions against Russia after the occupation of Crimea & co-signed a letter calling for new investigation on the shoot down of MH17.



**Thierry Baudet**   
@thierrybaudet

Putin is right. The West IS behaving like a bandit - and HAS BEEN behaving as one since the illegal war against Serbia in 1999. NATO/EU/US should STOP this senseless escalation, accept neutrality for Ukraine and build a bridge with Russia, our common European neighbor in the East



**Reuters**  @Reuters · Mar 5, 2022

Kremlin says the West is behaving like a bandit [reut.rs/3HKVPkr](https://reut.rs/3HKVPkr)



8:05 PM · Mar 5, 2022

# Dutch court convicts 2 Russians, 1 Ukrainian of murder in 2014 Malaysian jet downing over Ukraine

PUBLISHED THU, NOV 17 2022-10:30 AM EST | UPDATED FRI, NOV 18 2022-1:52 AM EST

AP

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## KEY POINTS

- A Dutch court convicted two Russians and a pro-Moscow Ukrainian separatist in absence of the murders of 298 people who died in a 2014 downing of a flight over Ukraine.
- The three were sentenced them to life imprisonment, and one Russian was acquitted because of a lack of evidence.
- Against the geopolitical upheaval caused by Russia's full-blown invasion of Ukraine, the court also held that Moscow had overall control of the separatist Donetsk People's Republic in eastern Ukraine, from where it said the attack was launched.



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In 2020 Dutch TV program Zembla published Whatsapp group messages with interaction between Baudet and Russian Vladimir Kornilov. Based on NYT, Kornilov has ties to the Kremlin and Vladimir Putin, and in his messages Baudet described him as "a Russian who works for Putin."

Top

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**Vladimir Kornilov** @Kornilov1968 · 17h

Replying to @hendrikotten3 @ZEMBLA and @thierrybaudet

I just want to ask all of you, guys: are you serious???



32

69

363



# WhatsApp leak exposes Russia link to Dutch far right



FvD co-founder Thierry Baudet (r) is a keen chess player (Photo: Frans Peeters)

By **ANDREW RETTMAN** [✉](#) [t](#)

BRUSSELS, 17. APR 2020, 07:09

In one of the messages, Baudet told Otten that he wanted to stop working as a commentator on the the TV network Powned, and suggested that "Maybe Kornilov wants to pay some extra". After the messages were published, Thierry switched immediately to damage control mode...





During the referendum campaign, Baudet sent messages to Henk Otten — former treasurer of the FvD, who was expelled from the party last year — saying that he wanted to stop working as a commentator on the TV network Powned. “Maybe Kornilov wants to pay some extra,” said one of the messages. Another thanked Otten for his support, saying “Kornilov cannot compete with that with all his money.” Both messages were accompanied with winking and smiling emojis.

...declaring that the conversations about Kornilov were a "running gag" and "playful exaggeration". The messages also revealed that he wanted Netherlands to leave NATO, despite the party's election program declaring that Dutch collaboration with NATO should be increased.



In a statement published before the TV program aired on Thursday evening, Baudet denied the allegations and said the statements about Kornilov were part of a “running gag” and were “playful exaggeration.”

2

a new envoy  
East crisis

ind Nahal Toosi

“Undoubtedly, from a period of several years and several very intensive campaigns, a large number of statements can be found, made in internal WhatsApp groups or in other contexts, which are difficult to place, seem serious or, on the contrary, are difficult to take seriously. Sometimes we blew off steam in a message. Sometimes we got carried away,” he said.

In addition, Baudet has promoted conspiracy theories about "evil reptilians" and the "globalists" ruling over the world, the EU being a "a cultural Marxist project destroying European civilization," and that George Soros introduced the COVID-19 virus.

INTERNATIONAL • EUROPE

## Dutch far-right leader claims world is governed by 'evil reptiles'

Dutch MP Thierry Baudet, head of the Forum for Democracy party, was banned from speaking for eight days after making conspiratorial remarks in an interview and refusing to declare all of his income.

By Jean-Pierre Stroobants (The Hague, special correspondent)

Published on October 21, 2022, at 3:00 pm (Paris) • ⌚ 2 min. • [Lire en français](#)



 Subscribers only



#1 BESTSELLER  
IN THE NETHERLANDS

The globalist takeover  
and the Great Reset

the  
**covid**  
conspiracy

**Thierry Baudet**

*Preface by Steve Bannon*





Thierry is a big fan of Putin, and he's called him the "hero that we need". He's also claimed that "he must win the war" in Ukraine and "we must do everything we can to support him". His former buddy Otten called him a "Manchurian candidate" over his support for Putin.



Thierry Baudet speaks during a debate about tensions in Ukraine. 3 Feb. 2022 - Credit: [Tweede Kamer / Tweede Kamer](#) - License: [All Rights Reserved](#)



POLITICS AIVD FVD RUSSIAN THIERRY BAUDET

THURSDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2023 - 09:25

## Dutch security service warned far-right leader Baudet over Russian influence

In 2020, intelligence and security service AIVD warned far-right FvD leader Thierry Baudet that Russian spies might be trying to influence him and his party. The service had information that a woman hanging around the party also maintained close contact with the Russian embassy, the [Volkskrant](#) reports.



**Thierry Baudet** ✓  
@thierrybaudet

Poetin toont zich steeds duidelijker de leider van conservatief Europa. Prachtige vent. En hij heeft zo gelijk over de NAVO-agressie en de absurde oorlogszucht van EU, WEF, etc.

Dus hup, MarkieMark, naar Moskou en een deal maken met die man. Sluit vriendschap met Rusland! [twitter.com/ASBMilitary/st...](https://twitter.com/ASBMilitary/st...)

12:38 PM · Feb

621 Retweets



Putin is increasingly showing himself to be the leader of conservative Europe. Beautiful guy. And he is so right about NATO aggression and the absurd warmongering of EU, WEF, etc.

So go, MarkieMark, to Moscow and make a deal with that man. Make friends with Russia!







Thierry Baudet interviewed during the FvD "Freedom Caravan" event. March 16, 2021 - Credit: [Sleutelstad / YouTube](#) - License: [CC-BY](#)

[POLITICS](#) [THIERRY BAUDET](#) [RUSSIA](#) [UKRAINE](#) [HENK OTTEN](#) [FVD](#) » [MORE TAGS](#)

SUNDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2022 - 20:15

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## Ex-Baudet colleague calls far-right leader "Manchurian candidate" for Putin support

FvD has received a lot of help from anti-EU political strategist John Laughland, who has allegedly designed the political blueprint for the party. Laughland is part of an international conservative network with direct ties to the Kremlin:

**Pekka Kallioniemi**   
@P\_Kallioniemi · [Follow](#)



In today's #vatnik soup I'll introduce a British euroskeptic, pro-Russian and anti-American author, John Laughland. He's best-known for his work for the Russia-funded Institute of Democracy and Cooperation and for Thierry Baudet's political party, Forum voor Democratie.

1/16



10:17 PM · Feb 23, 2023



 923  Reply  Copy link

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NBC NIEUWEGEIN  
25 AUGUST 2022 | 18:00

# CHINA SYMPOSIUM

**Confirmed speakers**  
John Laughland  
Lawrence Sellin  
Pete Hoekstra



 Forum for Democracy



In Jul 2023, Baudet and Laughland organized a Twitter Space called "The Decline of Western Civilization", to which they invited Russia's fascist #1 Alexander Dugin:

**Pekka Kallioniemi**   
@P\_Kallioniemi · [Follow](#)



In today's #vatnik soup I'll introduce one of the main architects of  geopolitics, Alexander Dugin. He's a far-right political philosopher, analyst & of course a fascist. His influence over Putin is disputed, but his books seem to be a blueprint for 's geopolitical strategy. 1/10




8:15 AM · Nov 29, 2022



 1.4K  Reply  Copy link

[Read 79 replies](#)



Forum for Democracy International  @FVD\_Intl · 5 jul.

...

Join our LIVE conversation with Alexander Dugin (@Agdchan) tomorrow at 2PM CEST!



FvD, like so many other pro-Kremlin parties around Europe, has been described as ideologically national conservative, eurosceptic & right-wing populist. With the likes of Le Pen & Wilders, the rise in their popularity was already evident in the 2014 EU Parliament election.



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**The Dandy Thierry Baudet and the new Dutch Populism. An Interview with Sarah de Lange**

Alessandro Lanni 28 April 2019

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# Le Pen's National Rally pays off Russian loan ahead of EU elections

The loan has been a big thorn in Le Pen's side since Russia's invasion of Ukraine.



National Rally lawmaker and party treasurer Kévin Pfeffer told Le Figaro they will use their public funding to repay their debts | Thomas Samson/AFP via Getty Images

BY CLAUDIA CHIAPPA

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023 | 6:15 PM CET | ⌚ 2 MINUTES READ



BuzzFeed News; Getty Images; YouTube



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

Today, FvD is an unremarkable party and its leader Baudet is mostly being ridiculed, but a similar blueprint, with emphasis on anti-immigration, anti-EU/anti-NATO policies and populism, will be used to gain popularity in the future, too.



Similar policies brought success to Geert Wilders' PVV in the 2023 Dutch general election, when it became the largest party in the Parliament. Some political commentators have said that Wilders gained votes from former fans of newer parties like FvD:

19/19

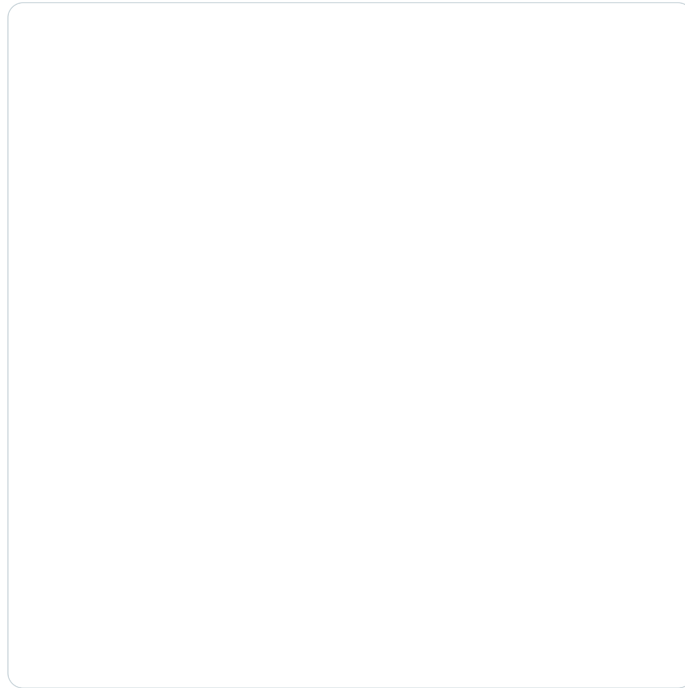
**Pekka Kallioniemi**   
@P\_Kallioniemi · [Follow](#)



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.

1/21



9:59 AM · Nov 30, 2023



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Just the beginning? PVV leader Geert Wilders (R) is hugged as he responds to the results of the House of Representatives elections in Scheveningen, Netherlands, 22 November 2023. EPA-EFE/REMKO DE WAAL

**News**

23 November 2023

## Landslide victory for Wilders in Dutch elections

The PVV party outperformed all predictions and more than doubled in size. From 17 seats, the party grew to 37: by far the largest party in the Netherlands

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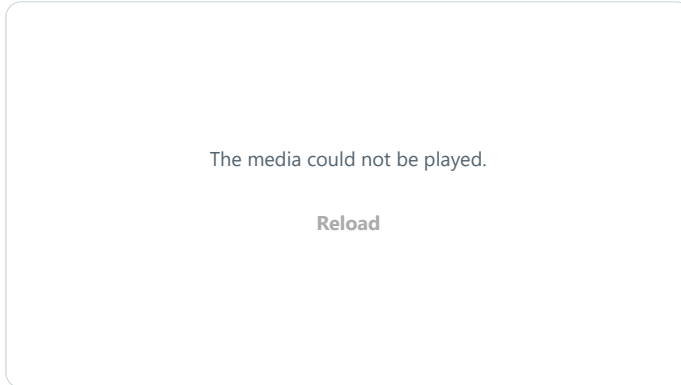


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A short clip from today's Hopak practice for the [#HopakChallenge](#).

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