# Dutch right-wing coalition government formed, Geert Wilders excluded as PM



**Dutch Right-Wing Coalition Government Formed, Geert Wilders Excluded as PM**

On May 15, 2024, Geert Wilders, leader of the far-right Party for Freedom (PVV), announced an agreement to form a new Dutch coalition government. This comes half a year after his party won a significant 25% of parliamentary seats in a surprising election outcome. Despite leading the negotiations, Wilders will not become the next Dutch Prime Minister. Instead, an experimental "business government" arrangement has been agreed upon.

The coalition, comprising PVV, center-right People’s Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD), New Social Contract (NSC), and the Farmer-Citizen Movement (BBB), intends to mix politicians with non-political experts in the cabinet. Formal approval by the individual parliamentary parties is pending, with a vote scheduled for the same evening.

Candidates for the Prime Minister position remain unspecified, though Ronald Plasterk, a former Labour minister, has been mentioned as a potential candidate. Pieter Omtzigt, leader of NSC, played a crucial role in advocating for an "extra-parliamentary government."

Despite stepping back from some of his extreme anti-Islam proposals, Wilders will have a significant influence as a member of the parliament. This unconventional coalition will face challenges such as addressing housing shortages, asylum policies, and economic concerns post-Groningen gas production.

The Netherlands joins other European nations experiencing a rise in far-right support, influencing upcoming elections across the region. The new government structure aims to create distance between the cabinet and parliament for more effective governance.

Planning for this coalition began after PVV's decisive victory in November 2023, which had a significant impact on the Dutch political landscape. Though Wilders steps back from the PM role, his party's influence remains substantial, shaping future policies, particularly on strict migration controls.