# EU Faces Conflict with Netherlands as Coalition Plans Strictest-Ever Asylum Rules



The European Union is heading towards a potential conflict with the Netherlands over asylum policies. The incoming Dutch coalition government, led by Geert Wilders' right-wing PVV party, has announced plans to introduce the country's "strictest-ever" asylum rules. These proposals include the forcible deportation of rejected asylum seekers and opting out of existing EU asylum policies.

Wilders, a Euro-skeptic, emerged victorious in last year's elections, and his coalition has since applied for an asylum opt-out similar to Denmark’s arrangement with the EU. However, EU officials, including European Commission spokesman Eric Mayer, have stated that no exemptions from existing treaties are possible.

The coalition, comprising the PVV, outgoing Prime Minister Mark Rutte's VVD, the NSC party, and the farmers' protest party BBB, aims to reduce the attractiveness of the Netherlands to asylum seekers and limit labor migration. They also plan to cut 14 billion euros in spending by 2028 and ensure that 2% of the GDP is allocated to defense as per NATO agreements.

Despite achieving a parliamentary majority, the coalition has yet to finalize the cabinet formation, which is expected to take another month. Wilders has chosen not to pursue the prime minister role to facilitate coalition negotiations.