

**YOUR
FREEDOM
OUR
MISSION**



ELECTION PROGRAMME 2024

ChristenUnie

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Feeling the wind in your hair. The laughter of a child rolling off the dunes. Enjoying an ice cream on a sunny day. Reading a book without paying attention to time. Also: Feeling safe and carefree. Being free to believe and free to build a lasting future. That is freedom and so much more. Freedom to be found in the Netherlands and Europe.

70 years ago, European collaboration rose from the ruins of two world wars. 'Never again'. The forerunner of the European Union originated from a desire for peace, justice and freedom. This was based on Christian norms and values such as human dignity and a social and just policy. What we see both in Europe and the Netherlands is that over the years this has given way to individualism, belief in the 'make-ability' of society and the law of the strongest. This puts our freedom under pressure.

Religious freedom is no longer self-evident; at the borders of Europe there is war and discontent; the power of Big Tech limits our freedom online; human trafficking; a complicated or lacking asylum policy and confusion about labour migration cause many people to be unfree.

There are many concerns, but as ChristenUnie [Christian Union] we see opportunities for a safe, just, sustainable and free Europe, in which Christian values are paramount. 6 June is Election Day and this year, for the first time, you can vote for us as an independent party.

FOR A FREE EUROPE, BECAUSE YOUR FREEDOM IS OUR MISSION.

A Safe Europe

The ongoing war in Ukraine threatens the borders of Europe, and therefore the safety of Europe. That is why we advocate continuous support and sufficient funds for defence, to guarantee Europe's security in collaboration with other countries. But we also want a safe environment online. For ourselves and our children. That is why the influence of Big Tech must be restricted, with measures to decrease addictive behaviour.

At the same time, we must have a clear policy on which countries can be admitted to the European Union and which cannot. It is important that countries are democratic and respect the constitutional state. This means that they are committed to free and democratic elections and are against corruption. They must respect European Law and promote fundamental rights such as religious freedom. A country such as Turkey does not fit in with this, as far as we are concerned.

Being safe is having room to believe what you believe. Anja Haga (lead candidate for the European elections) puts it like this: 'Christian principles in Europe are under pressure. I stand for the freedom of people to believe what they want and how they want. The Christian voice is therefore essential in the European Parliament'.

A Sustainable Europe

We find our freedom by striving for a sustainable 'economy of enough' and a circular economy.

We do this from our mission to take good care of the earth, something that connects us to people around the world: because our actions have a global impact. As these issues are often cross-border, they also need to be addressed at the European level.

When it comes to the transition to renewable energy, we are focusing on self-generation, so that we reduce our dependence on other countries and make energy cheaper.

But we also believe that plastic packaging should be banned. And the fewer raw materials we need, the less dependent we become on countries like China for production and raw materials.

That is why we (re)value what we already have: for example, we favour the right to repair, to encourage reuse. And we are proud of our European farmers, nurserymen and fishermen and the products they supply. We do believe that agriculture and fishery have to be done differently. We want to reward green achievements, focus more on vegetarian food and continue to ensure that families earn a decent income from their farm.

We travel a lot in Europe and wish to do so as sustainably as possible. With more and cheaper trains, encouraging alternatives to (short) flights and a good transition to zero emissions on the road by 2035.

A Just Europe

Each life is valuable to us, which is why we stand up for a decent life, whether unborn, challenged or elderly. Every human being is valuable and should be treated with respect.

Freedom means that there is no room for modern slavery and human trafficking. Countries that make this possible must be punished. Europe needs a clear asylum policy to help refugees who are entitled to build a new future but also to make a quick decision for people without the right to stay in Europe. Quick screening and a fair distribution across Europe will ensure clarity.

In addition, we need clear rules on labour migration: We therefore advocate a European pact on labour migration with agreements on numbers and the duration of the working period. We think it is important to cooperate with the countries of origin so that labour migration does not have negative consequences.

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Sensible judgements

Anja Haga: 'On all these points, I think it is important to make sensible judgements. For example, with religious freedom, you want to give everyone the freedom to believe on the one hand and fight extremism on the other. You want to improve the climate as quickly as possible and at the same time it must remain feasible for businesses. In the case of migration, we will receive every asylum seeker humanely and also ensure that people go back if they are not entitled to a status in Europe. I like to say: yes and yes. It's not always either...or. That leads to zig-zag policy and polarization. I would prefer to see sound legislation in which justice is done, through balanced policies. That's the only way we can live together in freedom.'

Choice for freedom

Party leader Mirjam Bikker looks forward to the elections: 'Especially now, the ChristenUnie wants to make a full choice for freedom, for room to believe, for a safe and sustainable Europe. As ChristenUnie, we are in the unique position to stand up for freedom from our faith. The freedoms we, as a Christian minority, enjoy in the Netherlands are of great value, but they are under pressure. With this programme, we demonstrate how Christian politics stands for deep values and in this way makes a difference'.

VOTE



ChristenUnie