

## Polity IV Country Report 2007: Netherlands

<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">Score:</td> <td style="width: 15%;">2006</td> <td style="width: 15%;">2007</td> <td style="width: 15%;">Change</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Polity:</b></td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Democ:</b></td> <td>10</td> <td>10</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Autoc:</b></td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Durable:</b></td> <td></td> <td>61</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Tentative:</b></td> <td></td> <td>No</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Score:	2006	2007	Change	<b>Polity:</b>	10	10	0	<b>Democ:</b>	10	10	0	<b>Autoc:</b>	0	0	0	<b>Durable:</b>		61		<b>Tentative:</b>		No		
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SCODE	<b>NTH</b>	CCODE	<b>210</b>	Date of Report	<b>1 November 2008</b>																				
<b>Polity IV Component Variables</b>																									
XRREG	XRCOMP	XROPEN	XCONST	PARREG	PARCOMP																				
3	3	4	7	5	5																				
<b>Date of Most Recent Polity Transition (3 or more point change)</b>																									
End Date		15 November 1917		Begin Date		16 November 1917																			
<b>Polity Fragmentation: No</b>																									
<b>Constitution</b>	1814																								
<b>Executive(s)</b>	Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende (CDA); became prime minister 22 July 2002, following the resignation of PM Wim Kok (PvdA)																								
<b>Legislature</b>	Bicameral: Second Chamber (150 seats; proportionally elected; most recent elections, 22 November 2006) Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA): 41 Labour Party (PvdA): 33 Socialist Party (SP): 25 People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD): 22 Other parties: 29 First Chamber (75 seats; indirectly elected by 12 provincial councils on the basis of the proportional representation at the provincial elections; most recent elections, 29 May 2007) CDA: 21 PvdA: 14 VVD: 14 SP: 12 Other parties: 14																								
<b>Judiciary</b>	Supreme Court																								

## **Narrative Description:<sup>1</sup>**

### **Executive Recruitment: Competitive Elections (8)**

The Dutch prime minister is recruited through a competitive multiparty electoral system. The majority party (or majority coalition) in the Second Chamber selects the chief executive. Members of the Second Chamber are popularly elected.

### **Executive Constraints: Executive Parity or Subordination (7)**

The parliamentary structure of governance found in the Netherlands places significant constraints on the autonomy of the chief executive. The prime minister is elected by, and is directly accountable to, the legislature. The coalition-based nature of governance in the Netherlands further limits the independence of executive action. The judiciary is independent from executive influence.

### **Political Participation: Institutionalized Open Electoral Competition (10)**

The Netherlands is a competitive multiparty democracy that has traditionally been dominated by four subcultures (Catholic, Protestant, socialist, and liberal) and two parties (the center-right Christian Democrats and the center-left Labor Party). Historically, both of these parties have been dependent on coalition partners to govern. Freedom of speech and assembly are constitutionally protected and the civil rights of citizens are generally respected.

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