# Regulations of the Party for the Animals

*Including amendments adopted on November 24 in Doorn.*

*At the party congress of November 24, 2013 progress was made with renewing the Regulations of the Party for the Animals.*

*The Regulations consist of a number of chapters and appendices:*

*Chapter 1 – General*

*Chapter 2 – Members*

*Chapter 3 – Party congress*

*Chapter 4 – Party executive committee Chapter 5 – Advisory board*

*Chapter 6 – Sections*

*Chapter 7 – Appeals committee*

*Chapter 8 – Finance*

*Chapter 9 – Elections*

*Chapter 10 – Compatibility of positions*

*Appendix 1 – Contribution rule for political representatives*

*Appendix 2 – Regulation for compatibility of positions*

*At the party congress of November 28, 2010, the content of Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 were decided upon. At the party congress of November 27, 2011, the content of Chapters 7 and 10, the addition to article 3.6 and the regulation for compatibility of positions were decided upon. At the party congress of April 7, 2013, the content of the Chapters 8 and 9, and an amendment to the Appeal regulation (Chapter 7) were decided upon. At the party congress of November 24, 2013, the content of the contribution rule for political representatives was decided upon*.

*The following are the Regulations, as in force since the party congress of the November 24, 2013.*

## Chapter 1 - General

### Article 1.1: Terms and definitions

1. These regulations are the Regulations of the Party for the Animals. The references made herein are to the Regulations, unless explicit reference is made to articles in the Charter.
2. For the purposes of these Regulations "the Charter" shall mean the Charter of the Party for the Animals.
3. For the purposes of these Regulations "the Party" shall mean the Party for the Animals as referred to in article 1 of the Charter.

## Chapter 2 - Members

### Article 2.1: Start of membership

1. Application for membership occurs in writing to the party bureau or via the on line application form on the website of the Party for the Animals.
2. The party executive committee may carry out an investigation before it decides on the admission of a member or a group of members. The prospective member concerned will be notified as soon as an investigation is carried out. The prospective member will be notified of the decision on admission within three months of the application. Any decision to refuse membership will be justified by the party executive committee.
3. The membership starts in principle on the date of registration of receipt of the application, provided that the first membership fee is paid within the stipulated period. If an investigation is to be carried out, the membership will not start until the time of the party executive committee's decision to approve membership. In that case the period referred to in article 16, paragraph 1 of the Charter will be reduced by the length of time that has passed between the application and the decision to approve membership.
4. If the party executive committee decides to refuse membership on the basis of the investigation, any membership fee already paid will be refunded and the membership will be considered not to have started.

### Article 2.2: Duration of membership

1. The duration of a membership year is twelve months. An exception to this is when registration is made in the month of November, the membership year will then be for a period of fourteen months, and when registration is made in the month of December the first membership will be for a period of thirteen months.
2. Next to the membership for which an annual fee is payable, the Party for the Animals also has a "Membership for Life". This membership is substantially the same as the membership with an annual fee, with the proviso that the member only has to pay a once only fee (which is higher than the annual fee).

### Article 2.3: Fee

1. The fees shall be collected by the party bureau under the responsibility of the treasurer of the party executive committee. The party bureau ensures that the members will timely receive a request for payment and in the event of non-payment members will be reminded at least once of their obligation to pay.
2. The fee for a membership year must be paid before the end of that membership year, or in case of new membership - within two months of receipt of the application for a new membership.

### Article 2.4: Termination and disqualification

1. The party executive committee's decision to end membership as referred to in article 6.3 of the Charter, or to disqualify a member as referred to in article 6.4 of the Charter, must be notified to the concerned member, accompanied by the grounds, immediately but in any case within one month.
2. The decision to disqualify a member will be notified to the member concerned with acknowledgement of receipt, stating the possibility to appeal.

## Chapter 3 – Party congress

### Article 3.1: Congress proposals

1. A congress proposal is a proposal to the party congress to take a substantive decision, which is to be addressed as a separate agenda item at the party congress.
2. Congress proposals may be submitted by the party executive committee or by a section.
3. Congress proposals by a section require that they must have been adopted in a sectional meeting as referred to in article 6.3. A congress proposal by a section must be received by the party executive committee at least 10 weeks before the party congress. The party executive committee is charged with drafting the agenda, but it may recommend to the party congress not to address such a proposal at all or to address it at a later congress.
4. The party executive committee has the right, in response to the discussion at the congress, to formulate congress proposals and to present them to the same party congress for approval. In this case, these proposals are items on the agenda.

### Article 3.2: Amendments

1. An amendment is a proposal to the party congress to not adopt a congress proposal in the form that it was submitted, but to adopt it in its amended form, as described in the amendment.
2. Members may submit amendments regarding all congress proposals on the agenda, provided they have not been subject to amendment before.
3. The party executive committee will decide in which of the following three categories the submitted amendment belongs:
	1. Category 1: are amendments which are of minor significance, that are small, non-substantive changes or that are of a purely editorial nature;
	2. Category 2: are amendments which reflect changes but do not lead to the revision of the main points of the current congress proposal;
	3. Category 3: are amendments which aim to make substantial changes to the current congress proposal.
4. The party executive committee may merge two or more amendments with a similar effect into one amendment.
5. The party executive committee will publish the submitted amendments and their categorization, with possible comments and explanations and with its motion to adopt or reject the amendments.
6. If a submitter does not agree with the categorization, he may raise objection at the party congress. The party congress may move an amendment to another category.
7. All amendments belonging to category 1 will be bundled and voted upon together, without discussion, at the party congress in accordance with the party executive committee's motion.
8. The amendments categorized in category 2 will be voted upon separately after (possible oral) explanation by the party executive committee, however, without discussion at the party congress.
9. The amendments categorized in category 3 will be voted upon separately after (possible oral) explanation by the submitter and after possible discussion at the party congress.

### Article 3.3: Motions

1. A motion is a written invitation to the party congress, in which the party congress is called upon to give its opinion on a request to an agent of the Party to act on something or to omit doing so. A motion can be filed by a member present at the party congress or by the party executive committee.
2. Motions must be filed in writing. The motion may be filed to the party executive committee prior to the party congress, or during the meeting by the chair of the meeting. Motions that have been filed prior to the meeting will, as much as possible, be announced by the party executive committee together with the amendments submitted.
3. The chair of the meeting will decide if the communications submitted will be dealt with as a motion. If this is the case, the chair will decide, in consultation with the party congress whether, and

if yes, for how long the motion will be debated. The submitter of the motion must be at the meeting when the motion is called.

### Article 3.4: Speaking time

1. Any member present at the party congress may speak there as a guest speaker.
2. The division of the available meeting time between the items listed on the agenda is stated in the congress agenda. Motions to amend the agenda can be made when the agenda is established.
3. After the speakers have introduced their agenda items, the chair will identify how many speakers there are and determine the maximum speaking time per speaker.

### Article 3.5: Time frame

1. The party executive committee will set the date of the party congress (article 13, paragraph 3 of the Charter).
2. In addition to the provisions of article 15.2 of the Charter, the following time frame is used as much as possible:
	1. the notice calling the congress will be forwarded two months before the congress, announcing the date and the agenda items of the party congress, to the extent possible with explanation, and stating how and when to register for the congress;
	2. the term for the registration for the party congress starts at least 1 week after publication of the congress agenda and the congress proposals;
	3. the congress agenda and the congress proposals will be published on a closed part of the Party's website four weeks before the party congress;
	4. amendments may be submitted up until three weeks before the party congress;
	5. the amendments submitted will be announced by publication on a closed part of the Party's website one week before the party congress at the latest;
3. If the time frame referred to in the previous paragraph is amended, the party executive committee will state this, with reasons, in the notice convening the congress, indicating the replacement times that will be used.

### Article 3.6: Congress report

1. The party executive committee will publish an impression of the party congress on the website as soon as possible after the party congress. It will consist of short summaries of the agenda items that were addressed.
2. The draft report of the party congress will be available to the members on a closed part of the Party's website, from two months after the party congress. The draft report will be finally adopted at the first following congress.
3. The proceedings at the party congress will be audio recorded. The party executive committee will ensure that these recordings are kept at the party bureau. The members can listen to the recordings at the party bureau (on appointment) from two months after the party congress.

## Chapter 5 – Advisory board

### Article 5.1: Advisory board

1. The advisory board has, notwithstanding the provisions of the Charter, the duty and the power to initiate and conduct political debates.
2. The advisory board is appointed once every three years by the party congress, on nomination of the party executive committee.
3. The party executive committee decides, subject to the provisions of article 12, paragraph 2 of the Charter, on the scope of the advisory board. The party executive committee recruits and selects the candidates for the board from among the members of the Party, based on a profile approved of by the party congress.
4. Members who have signed up as a candidate during the recruitment procedure, but are not nominated by the party executive committee, may put themselves forward as a rival candidate of one of the nominated candidates.

## Chapter 6 – Sections

### Article 6.1: Sectional board

1. The sectional board will consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of seven members. The number will be decided by the sectional meeting, on a motion by the sectional board.
2. The members of the sectional board will be appointed by the sectional meeting from among the members of the section. The sectional board will make a non-binding nomination for that purpose. Members who are not nominated by the sectional board may put themselves forward as rival candidates. The chair, the secretary and the treasurer will be appointed to a position. The members of the sectional board will allocate other positions among themselves. The appointment of the first sectional board is subject to the procedure stipulated in article 18, paragraph 3 of the Charter.
3. Membership of the sectional board is incompatible with membership of any other political party.
4. The members of the sectional board are appointed for a three-year term and can be reappointed upon the expiry of their term of office.
5. Membership of the sectional board will end upon a member's death, dismissal, by giving notice, on expiration of the term of (re)appointment, and/or when their membership of the Party ends.
6. An interim position in the sectional board will, if possible, be filled provisionally at the first following sectional meeting. Prior to this, the sectional board is authorized to fill provisionally positions from among the members of the section.
7. A member of the sectional board may be suspended by the party executive committee. Suspension may be imposed for a maximum of three months. Except when the suspension ends by a decision to dismiss or to give notice, the suspension will end by the lapse of time, or sooner by a decision of the party executive committee to lift the suspension.
8. A member of the sectional board may at any time be dismissed by the sectional meeting. The sectional meeting will not make its decision until the concerned member of the sectional board has been heard by the sectional meeting, or at least has been given the opportunity for a hearing.
9. The party executive committee is authorized to temporarily assume the responsibility of a section if the current board is no longer active. The party executive committee will in such a case convene a sectional meeting as soon as possible in order to address the situation and adopt solutions.

### Article 6.2: Sectional board's duties and powers

1. The sectional board has the duty and power to organize its own activities within its section. The focus of these activities is on the acquisition of new members, strengthening of member commitment, civic education of members, support and conduct of election campaigns, and on the support of the parliamentary parties represented in the Provincial Council, Municipal Councils and Water Authority boards.
2. The sectional board is authorized to carry out the section's duties with regard to the acquisition and selection of candidates for the lists of candidates and to prepare the election programs for the Provincial Council, Municipal and Water Authority board elections.
3. The sectional board is authorized to set up or to abolish regional or local working groups. The members of a working group are organized on a local or regional level in order to carry out the activities of the section. The organization and the activities of a working group fall under the responsibility of the sectional board.
4. The sectional board is authorized, on its own initiative, or at the request of, or on a motion by one of the section's members, to prepare a draft congress proposal and to present it to the sectional meeting.
5. The sectional board is responsible for the spending and accountability of the financial means allocated to the section, and will annually forward an annual report adopted by the sectional meeting, including a financial statement, to the party bureau. The sectional board will do so in accordance with the practical guidelines as laid down in the handbook for the sections of the Party.

### Article 6.3: Sectional meeting

1. The sectional meeting consists of all members of the section with voting rights, who are present at the meeting.
2. The sectional meeting will meet at least once a year. Except in emergencies, the annual sectional meeting will be held in the month of March, April, May or June. The date of the sectional meeting may not coincide with the date of the party congress.
3. The sectional meeting will be convened by the sectional board. The sectional board will set the subject or the subjects of the sectional meeting and decide the date and venue of the sectional meeting.
4. At the request of at least one tenth of the section's members with voting rights, the sectional board must convene an extraordinary sectional meeting. This sectional meeting must take place within four weeks of receipt of the written request.
5. The party executive committee is also authorized to convene a sectional meeting and will in such a case set the date and venue of the sectional meeting and the subjects to be addressed. The party executive committee will in such a case also appoint a chair for the meeting.
6. All members under the sectional meeting will receive a notice convening the meeting, which will be forwarded by mail, or if the member has agreed herewith by providing his email address to the Party, by email. The agenda and other meeting documents will be forwarded together with the notices convening the meeting. If an election of members of the sectional board or the audit committee is on the agenda, the names of the nominated candidates will be forwarded together with the notices convening the meeting, as well as the procedures for putting forward rival candidates. Notice will be given at least one month in advance.
7. The members have access to and may exercise voting rights at the sectional meeting three months from receipt of the party executive committee's confirmation stating that they have been registered as a member.
8. A voting member present at the sectional meeting may table an amendment during the meeting regarding the proposals on the agenda. A member present may also forward a motion in which the sectional meeting is called upon to give its opinion on a request to the sectional board to act on something or to omit doing so

### Article 6.4: Sectional meeting's duties and powers

1. The sectional meeting will assess the policy pursued and to be pursued by the sectional board on the basis of a written annual report and activity plan.
2. The sectional meeting will assess the policy pursued by the parliamentary parties in the Provincial Council, Municipal Councils and Water Authority boards, which are active within the section, on the basis of written reports.
3. The sectional meeting will elect the members of the sectional board, to the extent that there are vacancies on the board and/or the board member's term of office has expired.
4. The sectional meeting will on a motion by the sectional board decide on the section putting forward congress proposals.
5. The sectional meeting will annually appoint an audit committee consisting of at least two members, who are not members of the sectional board. The audit committee will audit the section's financial statements and will report on this to the sectional meeting.
6. The sectional meeting will, also on the basis of the audit committee's report, assess the section's financial statements of the previous year.

## Chapter 7 – Appeals committee

### Article 7.1: Appeal regulations

1. The articles 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5 and 7.6 are considered to be the appeal regulations as referred to in article 19, paragraph 6 of the Charter).

### Article 7.2: Appeals committee

1. The appeals committee consists of a minimum of three and a maximum of five members. The number will be decided by the party congress on a motion by the party executive committee.
2. The members of the appeals committee will be appointed by the party congress from among the members. The party executive committee will make a non-binding nomination for that purpose.
3. Membership of the appeals committee is incompatible with membership of the party executive committee or with a paid position within the Party.
4. The members of the appeals committee are appointed for a three-year term and can be reappointed upon the expiry of their term of office.
5. Membership of the appeals committee will end by dismissal, giving notice, on expiration of the term of (re)appointment, and/or when the membership of the Party ends.
6. An interim position on the appeals committee will, if possible, be filled at the first following party congress. Prior to this, the party executive committee is authorized to fill provisionally the positions from among the members.

### Article 7.3: Appeals committee's powers

1. The appeals committee will, at the request of the member concerned, hereinafter referred to as the "appellant", judge the party executive committee's decision to disqualify the member (article 19, paragraph 6 of the Charter), or the party executive committee's decision to refuse a member admission to the procedure for nomination of candidates (article 9.5, paragraph 6).
2. If there is a relationship between the appellant and a member of the appeals committee, as a result of which the board member's impartiality or independence may be called into doubt, the board member concerned will not participate in the hearing of the appeal.
3. The appeals committee has the power to decide on the admissibility of the appeal lodged.
4. When the appeal is allowable, the appeals committee will fully assess the decision in question. This means that the board will check to see if the procedures have been applied correctly and it will also assess the content of the decision.
5. With due regard to the provisions set out in these appeal regulations, the appeals committee will set its own working methods.

### Article 7.4: Appealing against disqualification of membership

1. The appellant must notify the appeals committee, c/o the party bureau, by registered letter that he is lodging an appeal. Such a notice must be given within thirty days after the appellant was informed of the decision to disqualify him from membership.
2. At the same time as the notification, or as soon as possible, but no later than 14 days thereafter, the appellant will forward a reasoned notice of appeal to the appeals committee.
3. The secretary of the appeals committee will confirm receipt of the notification or the notice of appeal, to the appellant.
4. The chair of the appeals committee will notify the party executive committee of the lodged appeal and will forward a copy of the notification and/or notice of appeal to the party executive committee.

### Article 7.5: Hearing of the appeal against the disqualification of membership

1. The hearing of the appeal will take place in a closed session and is confidential.
2. The chair of the appeals committee will set, in consultation with the secretary and the other members of the board, the location, date and time of the hearing as soon as possible after the appellant and the party executive committee have been asked on which dates they are unable to attend.
The secretary will notify the parties of the date on which the appeal will be heard.
3. The appeals committee will hear both parties during the hearing.
4. Both parties may, prior to the hearing, provide additional information. This additional information should be available at such a time that the other party has the opportunity, if required, to respond to it in writing before the session. Information that is provided to the appeals committee by one party will also be provided to the other party by the appeals committee.
5. Where appropriate, the appeals committee will decide to hold a resumed hearing.
6. The appeals committee is obliged to decide on the appeal within six weeks after the date on which the hearing of the appeal was started. The committee is authorized to extend the term once with another term of six weeks. The chair of the appeals committee will inform the parties thereof, stating the reasons for extension.
7. The appeals committee will decide if the appeal is founded or unfounded. If the appeal is declared founded, the board will refer the issue back to the party executive committee. The party executive committee will then take a new decision, whereby it will naturally take the board's decision to heart.
8. The appeals committee will take its decision by a majority of votes. If the event of a parity of votes in the appeals committee, the chair shall have the casting vote.
9. The appeals committee's decision will be recorded and justified in writing and signed by the members of the committee. In the event a member is unable to sign the documents, the reason for this omission should be stated in the decision. A copy of the decision will be forwarded by the secretary to each of the parties. The secretary will ensure that the decision is available to the parties within two weeks of the decision.
10. The decision of the appeals committee is confidential. This confidentiality may be lifted at the request of the appellant or at the request of the party executive committee.

### Article 7.6: Appealing and hearing of the appeal against refusal of admission to the procedure for nomination of candidates

1. The appellant must notify the appeals committee, c/o the party bureau, by registered letter that he is lodging an appeal. Such a notice must be given within seven days after the appellant was informed of the decision of refusal of admission to the procedure for nomination of candidates.
2. The appeals committee may ask for a further motivation in writing to the party executive committee or the member concerned, or call them for a hearing.
3. The appeals committee will verify if the party executive committee was able to reach its decision within reason.
4. The appeals committee will give its decision within fourteen days of receipt of the appeal. The member concerned will be immediately notified of this decision. The decision is binding and confidential.
5. If the appeal is declared founded, the candidacy of the member concerned will be immediately involved in the procedure for nomination of candidates. The member will still be placed on the list of candidates or be given admission to the procedure to put himself forward as a rival candidate.

## Chapter 8 – Finance

### Article 8.1: Financial resources

1. Contributions, gifts, donations, subsidies and other income will be collected by the party bureau under the responsibility of the Treasurer of the party executive committee.
2. The party executive committee will annually prepare the budget, no later than October of the year before the financial year. The budget will be submitted to the party congress for approval at the first following party congress.
3. The party bureau maintains a list of all gifts to the Party. The Party will disclose the gifts it has received in accordance with legal provisions and threshold amounts. Contributions received by the Party from a donor during a calendar year, remaining below the legal maximum, will not be disclosed.
4. The party executive committee will be accountable to the party congress for the (financial) policy pursued, on the basis of the audited Annual Report (article 24 of the Charter).

### Article 8.2: Sections

1. The party executive committee will make an annual budget available to every section.
2. In addition to the annual budget, the sectional board may require an additional budget on the basis of the project budgets to be presented. The director of the party bureau will decide on the allocation of any additional budget, taking into account the total annual budget for all sections together, and will report on this to the party executive committee, in accordance with article 20, paragraph 3 of the Charter.
3. The sectional board will annually account for the annual budget and the received additional project budgets to the Treasurer of the party executive committee.

### Article 8.3: Reserves

1. The Party will maintain a reserve fund, out of its own equity, to ensure that it can meet its obligations. The party executive committee decides on the required scope of this continuity reserve.
2. The Party also holds a reserve fund for future election campaigns. The balance of the special-purpose reserve will be presented annually to the party congress at the end of the fiscal year as part of the financial statements.

### Article 8.4: Contribution rule

1. The party has a contribution rule for political representatives.
2. The contribution rule clearly communicates what is expected in financial terms from the political representatives of the Party for the Animals.
3. The contribution rule is established by the party congress on a motion by the party executive committee.

## Chapter 9 – Elections

### Article 9.1: Applicability

1. This chapter applies to elections to the Municipal Council, Water Authority board, Provincial Council, House of Representatives, Senate, and European Parliament.
2. Regarding the responsibilities allocated to the sectional board in this chapter, it is applicable that, if the concerned province has not established a section, its responsibilities will lie with the party executive committee.
3. Regarding the Water Authority board elections, it is applicable that if a certain Water Authority is located in two or more provinces, the sectional board of the province where the Water Authority is registered will be leading.

### Article 9.2: Preparation of the election participation

1. The party executive committee decides on the party’s participation in elections.
2. The party executive committee is charged with the overall activities required to participate in the elections, such as the procedure for nomination of candidates, drawing up an election program, and conducting a campaign.
3. The party executive committee will set up a time frame for the activities in the run-up to the elections, including the relevant time limits and times, and will publish this no later than twelve months prior to the party congress where the list(s) of candidates will be adopted. In the event of early elections the period of publication set herein may be different.
4. The time frame will contain in any case:
	1. the final date on which the profile must be published;
	2. the final date on which members can apply for a place on the list of candidates;
	3. the date on which the party congress will adopt the election program and the list(s) of candidates.

### Article 9.3: Election program

1. The party executive committee is charged with the preparation of the draft election program.
2. The party executive committee has the power to assign the preparation of the draft election program to a program committee, which will be composed by the party executive committee.
3. The party congress will adopt the election program for the elections to the House of Representatives and European Parliament and the general election program for the Provincial Council, Municipal, and Water Authority board elections.
4. Regarding the Provincial Council, Municipal, and Water Authority board elections, every relevant sectional board is responsible for preparing the draft regional- or local-specific addition to the

general election program.The regional or local content of the general election program will be adopted by the party executive committee.

### Article 9.4: Preparation of the draft list of candidates

1. The party executive committee is charged with the preparation of the draft list(s) of candidates.
2. The party executive committee has the power to assign the preparation of the draft list of candidates to a candidates committee to be composed by the party executive committee.
3. As regards the Provincial Council, Municipal, and Water Authority board election, any candidates committee will be expanded per province with a number of members from the province concerned. At the party executive committee's request, the sectional board concerned will make a nomination for the expansion of the regional candidates committee.
4. The party executive committee will instruct the candidates committee in writing for what elections they have to draft a list of candidates and within what time frame. The instruction may also contain further conditions regarding the composition of the draft list of candidates, for example as regards diversity, regional spreading or fulfilment of one or more specific places on the list.
5. The candidates committee will carry out its work according to the protocol drawn up by the party executive committee. This protocol defines the procedure, confidentiality, reporting and communications of the candidates committee.

### Article 9.5: Nomination of candidates

1. The party executive committee will establish a profile for the (candidate) representatives to be recruited for elections. This profile will be published at the latest on the date set out in the time frame referred to in article 9.2, paragraph 3.
2. The profile will contain advice on the required composition of the draft list of candidates and the requirements that the individual potential candidates should meet. In this profile, a separate section may be devoted to the requirements set for the lead candidate.
3. Members of the Party may register as a candidate at the contact address stated in the publication of the profile. With that, they will present a motivated application letter and other information according to the profile requirements set out in the publication. Registration must take place no later than on the final registration date stated in the time frame referred to in article 9.2, paragraph 3.
4. The party executive committee or the candidates committee is authorized to ask a member who is not registered as a candidate to apply. In such a case, the final registration date stated in the time frame referred to in article 9.2, paragraph 3 does not apply.
5. A candidate may be asked by or on behalf of the party executive committee to submit a certificate of good behavior (VOG). Furthermore, candidates are expected to endorse the contribution rule for political representatives referred to in article 8.4, paragraph 1.
6. The party executive committee has the power to refuse a member admission to the procedure for the nomination of candidates if that specific member clearly does not fit the profile that has been drawn up or if there is an expectation that the admission of this candidate will harm the party. The member will be notified of this in writing no later than five weeks before the final adoption of the list of candidates. He will also be notified of the possibility of appeal.
7. When a candidate is not (or no longer) admitted to the procedure for the nomination of candidates, the candidate will have the right to lodge an appeal in writing with the appeals committee within seven days. The appeal has no suspensive effect on the drawing up of the drafts list of candidates.

### Article 9.6: Consultation of members on the lead candidate

1. The party executive committee may consult members on designating a prospective lead candidate for the elections to the House of Representatives. This consultation must be held at such a time that the outcome will be known before the procedure for the draft list of candidates by the party executive committee.
2. Prospective lead candidates are members who applied for the position of lead candidate and have been assessed as suitable by the party executive committee according to the profile of the lead candidate.
3. The consultation may only go ahead if there are at least two suitable candidates. If there are more than three available candidates who are suitable, only the three most suitable ones, at the discretion of the party executive committee, will be nominated. The party executive committee may indicate its preference for one of these candidates.
4. If the members are consulted on three candidates, a vote will be taken to decide the outcome, whereby the participating members will indicate their order of preference. In the event of such a vote, the participating members will indicate their first preference and second preference for the available members. Votes that do not state a first as well as a second preference are invalid.
5. When the outcome is determined, the number of first preferences each candidate has received will be counted first. If one candidate has received a majority of the validly cast votes, he will be elected. If none of the candidates has received a majority of the validly cast first preference votes on determination of the outcome, the candidate who has received the least votes will be eliminated. The first preference votes that were validly cast for the candidate who was first eliminated will be given to the second preference candidate. The candidate who has received a majority of the validly cast votes in this new situation, is then elected.
6. The consultation of the members will have no significance if the number of votes validly cast is less than 25% of the members that could participate in the consultation.
7. The prospective lead candidate who is elected according to the consultation of the members is the designated lead candidate. The party executive committee will place the intended lead candidate on the first place of the draft list of candidates.
8. The party congress only has the power to place a different candidate than the intended lead candidate in first place on the list of candidates if this candidate has received at least two-third of the validly cast votes.

### Article 9.7: Publication of draft list of candidates and procedure for rival candidates

1. The draft list of candidates will be published no later than four weeks before the party congress where the list of candidates will be finally adopted in accordance with article 3.5, paragraph 2. Additionally, the procedure for registration of rival candidates will be published.
2. Only candidates who are placed lower on the list of candidates or those who are not on that list but have applied within the procedure for nomination of candidates and have not been refused admission to the procedure for nomination of candidates, may register as rival candidates.

### Article 9.8: Final adoption of the list of candidates

1. The party congress will adopt the list(s) of candidates. Each place will be voted on, starting with the first place.
2. Both the candidates who are nominated for a place on the draft list and those who are in these places because they have registered through the procedure for rival candidates are eligible for these place. If there are no rival candidates for a place on the list, the candidates nominated will be declared elected for that place.
3. If there are two or more candidates for one place written votes will have to be cast. If a rival candidate is declared elected, the candidate nominated on the list for that particular place will move one place down, and the following candidates will consequently also move to a lower place on the draft list.
4. The party congress may withdraw the candidacy of any candidate before the candidate is put on the list by the party congress. Such proposals are subject to written votes.

### Article 9.9: Electoral pacts

1. The party congress will decide, on a motion by the party executive committee, on entering into an electoral pact for the elections to the House of Representatives or European Parliament.
2. The party executive committee will decide, on a motion by the sectional board, on entering into an electoral pact for Provincial Council, Municipal or Water Authority board elections.
3. The party executive committee will decide on entering into an electoral pact for Senate elections.

## Chapter 10 – Compatibility of positions

### Article 10.1: Regulation for compatibility of positions

1. In addition to the legal regulations regarding the compatibility of positions, the Party for the Animals applies additional regulations.
2. The additional regulations are contained and explained in the Regulation for compatibility of positions. This regulation is incorporated as appendix to the Regulations.

### Article 10.2: Combinations of positions

1. The overview presenting possible combinations of positions is divided into the following categories: not permitted combination, undesired combination, possible combination, desired combination and not applicable, and is part of the regulation for compatibility of positions.
2. Not permitted are the combinations of positions that are prohibited by law or that are considered to be incompatible in the Charter or elsewhere in the Regulations. It is not permitted to make an exception to this.
3. Combinations of positions are considered to be undesired when they can hardly be fulfilled by the same person. An exception may be made to this if there is good reason to do so, in which case article 10.3, third and fourth paragraph, will apply.
4. Combinations of positions are considered to be possible if there is no strong objection against them beforehand. However, for this category it would be preferable to have as many people as possible involved with the party and to divide duties and responsibilities.
5. Combinations of positions which are considered as desired are those that add value because the positions are combined and carried out by one person.

### Article 10.3: Compliance

1. The party executive committee and the sectional board are responsible for the observance of the regulation for compatibility of positions within their field of activities.
2. Sectional boards may consult the party executive committee on the application of this regulation.
3. If a sectional board deviates from the regulation for compatibility of positions by combining positions that are considered as an undesired combination according to the regulation, it will submit this decision to the party executive committee for approval and report it at the first following sectional meeting.
4. If the party executive committee deviates from the regulation for compatibility of positions by combining positions that are considered as an undesired combination according to the regulation, it will report this at the first following party congress.

## Appendices

1. Contribution rule for political representatives
2. Regulation for compatibility of positions

# Contribution rule for political representatives

*As adopted at the party congress of Sunday November 24, 2013 in Doorn.*

## Validity

The contribution rule of the Party for the Animals applies to people's representatives: members (who share a position) in Water Authority boards, Municipal Councils, Provincial Councils, the House of Representatives, Senate and European Parliament.

## Contribution payment

The contribution amount is related to the statutory gross monthly compensation for the labor carried out and will be determined as follows:

* 1. On the first €500 of the monthly compensation, the contribution payment amounts to 0%;
	2. On the part of the monthly compensation between €500 and €1000, the contribution payment amounts to 5%;
	3. On the part of the monthly compensation between €1000 and €2500, the contribution payment amounts to 10%;
	4. On the part of the monthly compensation between €2500 and €4000, the contribution payment amounts to 15%;
	5. On the part of the monthly compensation above €4000, the contribution payment amounts to 20%.

## Exemption

There may be reasons to apply for (partial) exemption from contribution payments. In these cases, the following criteria will apply.

* 1. There is an exemption limit. If the total gross income of the concerned people's representative does not exceed the maximum council member remuneration in the largest municipality, exemption may be obtained.
	2. If the gross income is below the limit mentioned under a., after deduction of the contribution payment, (partial) exemption may be obtained.
	3. In special cases, it is possible to obtain partial or full exemption from the contribution payment, such at the discretion of the party executive committee.

Exemptions are granted on a calendar year basis and must be applied for to the party bureau on a calendar year basis.

# Regulation for compatibility of positions

*As adopted at the party congress of Sunday November 27, 2013 in Doorn.*

## Introduction

The Party for the Animals aims to have an active base. An important starting-point for the assessment of the combination of two or more positions held by one person is that it is preferable to have as many members as possible actively involved with the Party for the Animals to share the duties and responsibilities. In this way, knowledge and experience are optimally spread.

However, in practice it turns out that suitable available candidates for the fulfilment of board, political and other positions are often scarce. This is a significant factor which often encourages members to hold a combination of positions. Those involved are often not looking to combine positions. They are asked to do so because there were no other suitable candidates available.

In some cases it is clear that two positions cannot be held by the same person. In other cases it is in fact desirable to combine positions out of a context of functionality. It is essential to avoid undesired combinations of positions but at the same time we should not create the impression that the combination of two or more positions held by one person should always be complicated. Thus clear guidelines are useful and essential.

## Division into categories

In this regulation we have divided possible combinations of positions according to five categories:

* 1. Not permitted combinations (N)
	2. Undesired combinations (U)
	3. Possible combinations (P)
	4. Desired combinations (D)
	5. Not applicable (-)

### Not permitted

A number of combinations of positions are prohibited by law, and a number of positions are incompatible according to the Charter or Party regulations. Those combinations of positions are not permitted. No exceptions can be made to this.

Legal regulations stipulate that the following combinations are not permitted:

* + - A member of the State’s General may only be a member of one of two Houses (article 57 of the Constitution);
		- A member of the Water Authority board may not be a member of the Provincial Council at the same time (article 31 of the Water Authorities Act).

Our Charter and regulations stipulate that:

* + - Membership of the party executive committee is not compatible with membership of the sectional

board, or of the appeals committee (article 7 of the Charter);

* + - Members of the party executive committee may not be members of the advisory board (article 12 of the Charter);
		- Membership of the appeals committee is incompatible with a paid position within the Party (article 7.2 of the Regulations).

### Undesired

There may be various reasons why certain combinations of positions are undesirable.

The first reason is that a combination of two positions might be an excessive strain. Consideration must also be given to whether both of the positions can be fulfilled appropriately, without it leading to excessive strain on the person involved. An example of this is the combination of Member of Parliament and member of the Provincial Council.

A second reason is that there is a reasonable chance of a conflict of interests when someone is involved in the same subject from two different bodies, but with a different responsibility. For example, this could happen when a member of the party bureau would also become a member of the sectional board.

A third reason is a combination of positions that creates a hierarchical sandwich structure, where someone supervises a certain body or person from one responsibility but is subordinate to the same body or person when in the other position. For example, the combination of sectional board member and party assistant of a local political group.

There should be as few as possible combinations of positions that are considered to be undesired, however, exceptions are possible if there is a good reason. A decision to allow a combination of positions that is considered to be undesired must, however, be made or approved of by the party executive committee.

Leniency can be shown if it is clear in advance that such 'undesired' combination of positions will only be for a limited time, such at the discretion of the party executive committee.
This may occur, for example, when the term of office of one of the combined positions will end within a few months.

### Possible

Considered as possible are the combinations of positions to which the above objections only apply to a limited extent, or for which we cannot decide in advance whether the concerning objections will apply.

An example for the first case (limited extent) is the combination of sectional board member and member of the Provincial Council. As the sectional board has a role in assessing the policy pursued by the group of the Provincial Council, there is a small difference in responsibilities. However, if the person involved is sufficiently aware of this difference, it would be simple to avoid a true conflict of interests. An advantage of this combination is that a member of the Provincial Council can ensure appropriate direct alignment between provincial politics and the political actions organized by the section.

An example of the second case (cannot be decided in advance) is the combination of member of the Provincial Council and member of the candidates committee. It is fine if a member of the Provincial Council is also a member of the candidates committee for different elections, but not if he is a member of the candidate committee for the Provincial Council elections in his own province. If the concerned member of the Provincial Council does not aspire to a next term of office, there will not be any conflict of interests and he can become a member of the candidates committee for the Provincial Council of his own province.

A combination of positions that is considered to be possible, is only permitted if the given situation does not give rise to the opposite. When considering combinations in this category, account should also be taken of the fact that it is preferable to have as many members actively involved with the Party for the Animals as possible to share the duties and responsibilities.

### Desired

Combinations of positions which result in clear added value when held by one person are considered to be desired.

Especially for the fulfilment of positions in the advisory board, appeals committee and various candidates committees, an appeal is made to the members who are already active in the party.

## Combinations of positions

Below is an outlined overview of the desired, possible and undesired combinations. The full overview can be found in the table in Chapter 4.

The desirability of family links could not be included in the overview. Some guidelines for family links within the Party can be found in paragraph 3.9.

### Combination of political and board positions at the same level

Boards have a responsibility in the procedure for nomination of candidates and they supervise the operations of groups in between elections. That is why there is a some difference between political and board positions at the same level. On the other hand, there are also great benefits to combining these positions because it allows relevant political experience to be brought into the concerning board as a result. These combinations of positions are possible.

Considering the weight of the position of a Member of Parliament and a Member of the European Parliament, a combination of both can turn out to be an excessive strain. That is the reason why restraint should be exercised in these cases.

### Combination of local political position and membership of the party executive committee

It may be useful to bring in experience with local politics into the party executive committee. That is why this is a desired combination. However, it is at the same time important that the party executive committee operates separately from political power, so that it can take its own responsibility. It is therefore discouraged to have the board consist of a substantial number of political officials.

### Combination of national political position and membership of the sectional board

Considering the weight of the position of a Member of Parliament and a Member of the European Parliament, a combination with a membership of a sectional board would be an excessive strain. Restraint should be exercised in these cases.

Considering the time that the positions of Senate member and sectional board member would take up, this combination is possible.

### Combination of national political position and local political position

Considering the weight of the position of a Member of Parliament and a Member of the European Parliament, a combination with a membership of WA, MC, PC or S would be undesirable.

Considering the time that the position of Senate member in combination with the position of WA, MC, or PC would take up, it would be possible. A conflict of interest is not likely in this combination.

### Combination of several local political positions

Restraint should be exercised when considering the combination of positions of different board levels given the possibility of a conflict of interests. That is the reason why the combination of membership of the Provincial Council and Water Authority board is prohibited by law. Also, account should be taken of the fact that these political positions are not meant to be 'full-time' positions and an unintended financial dependence may arise as a result of cumulation.

On the other hand we find that there are sometimes not enough available suitable candidates in the region. Therefore, we would like to keep open the option to cumulate political positions. The combination of local political positions is thus possible, with the exception of combinations that are prohibited by law.

### Combination of several board positions

The combination of membership of the party executive committee and membership of the sectional board is not permitted under the Charter.

Restraint should be exercised for the combination of membership of the party executive committee and a board position on the NGPF or PINK! because the party executive committee decides on the appellation of these organizations as its political-scientific institute or its political youth organization, and thus indirectly decides on the subsidy of NGPF and PINK!.
These combinations of positions are considered to be undesired.

### Employees

The combination of being an employee of the party bureau or the HoR/S/EP group and a member of the party executive committee is undesired, because the employee might then be 'above' his/her superior in a certain way, with resulting complications.

Nor should an employee of the party bureau be a member of the sectional board as this could easily result in a conflict of interest. Employees of the party bureau fall under the party executive committee, which pursues the general policy. As a sectional board member they should not be in a different relation to the party executive committee.

A combination of an employee of the party bureau with membership of the PC, MC or WA is possible because employees will then be able to maintain feeling with practice.

Paid party assistants are not permitted to be a member of a board and to hold an elected political position at the same level in the same field of activity. These combinations are considered to be possible because the overview does not show that they are at the same level or in the same field of activity (for example: a municipality council member cannot be a member of his own parliamentary group but he can be a party assistant in a different municipality).

### Candidates committees

Candidates committees for lists of candidates give advice to the party executive committee. People who wish to be on the relevant list of candidates themselves may not be a member of the candidates committee. An exception to this can be made for the lead candidate himself/herself if his/her candidacy was already decided by the party executive committee prior to the further selection procedure.

In order to have people with relevant political experience on the candidates committee, politicians from other bodies, for example a member of the Provincial Council, who is a member of a candidates committee of another province or a Municipality Council, may be asked. Also current politicians who do not aspire to be re-elected may become a member of the candidates committee.

Party assistants may not be a member of the candidates committee for the candidates of their group for a following term because they might then elect their own employer.

### Relatives

We consider relatives of the first and second degreed and married and unmarried partners as relatives. It is good to be reticent about relatives holding positions in the same board or in the same parliamentary group. This should be avoided as much as possible. It should also be avoided that relatives enter into an employer / employee relationship.

An exception to this would be two relatives as party assistants or employees of the party bureau. It is the employer's responsibility to decide if this combination is desirable.

In those cases where it concerns other positions, but where a conflict of interests may arise, the board concerned and the membership meeting will decide.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| N = Not permitted combination U = Undesired combinationP = Possible combination D = Desired combination- = N.A. | Water Authority board member | Municipal Council member | MC party assistant | Provincial Council member |  'Parliamentary follower'/PC member | PC party assistant  | Member of House of Representatives  | Member of Senate | Member of European Parliament | Party assistant HoR/S/EP | Party executive committee member | Sectional board member | Director of party bureau | Employee of party bureau | Advisory board member | Appeals committee member | Candidates committee member | NGPF board member | NGPF Director | NGPF assistant | PINK! board member |
| 1 | Water Authority board member |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 Municipal Council member | P |  |
| 3 MC party assistant | P | P |  |
| 4 Provincial Council member | N | P | P |  |
| 5 'Parliamentary follower'/PC board member | P | P | P | - |  |
| 6 PC party assistant | P | P | P | P | P |  |
| 7 HoR Member | U | U | U | U | U | U |  |
| 8 | Member of Senate | P | P | P | P | P | P | N |  |
| 9 | MEP | U | U | U | U | U | U | U | U |  |
| 10 | Party assistant HoR/S/EP  | P | P | P | P | P | P | U | P | U |  |
| 11 | Party executive committee member | D | D | P | D | P | P | P | P | P | U |  |
| 12 | Sectional board member | P | P | U | P | P | U | P | P | P | P | N |  |
| 13 | Director of party bureau | P | P | U | P | P | U | U | P | U | U | U | U |  |
| 14 | Employee of party bureau | P | P | P | P | P | P | U | P | U | P | U | U | - |  |
| 15 | Advisory board member | D | D | D | D | D | D | P | D | P | P | N | D | U | U |  |
| 16 | Appeals committee member | D | D | U | D | D | U | P | P | P | U | N | D | N | N | D |  |
| 17 | Candidates committee member | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | D | D | D | D | D | P |  |
| 18 | NGPF board member | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | U | P | P | P | D | U | D |  |
| 19 | NGPF Director | P | P | P | P | P | P | U | P | U | P | U | P | U | P | P | U | D | U |  |
| 20 | NGPF assistant | P | P | P | P | P | P | U | P | U | P | U | P | U | P | D | U | D | U | - |  |
| 21 | PINK! board member | P | P | P | P | P | P | U | P | U | P | U | P | P | P | P | D | D | P | P | P |  |

## Compatibility of positions Party for the Animals

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21