



Ministry of the Interior and
Kingdom Relations

European cooperation network on elections

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Content

- Conventional safeguards in online context
- The election process in the Netherlands
- Dutch approach on disinformation
- Rules on campaigning?
- Ongoing debate



Conventional safeguards

- Freedom of expression
- Freedom of press
- Freedom of association
- Transparency



Election process in the Netherlands

- Paper ballots
- Manual count in polling stations
- No voting machines
- Paper reports of results
- Counting in public

Transparency and checkability





Election process in the Netherlands

Since 2007 no electronic voting.

Digital tools:

- a. Voter registration (BRP)
- b. Turnout application (StembureauApp)
- c. Tabulation software (OSV)

Transparency and checkability



Disinformation – and a resilient society

Freedom of expression and press / Transparency

- NL welcomes EU Action Plan on disinformation
- Battling disinformation not an easy task
- Government, independent media, online platforms and scientific community: striking the right balance.
- Resilient society is the best defense



Dutch approach on disinformation

- So far, limited impact of disinformation in Dutch society, due to pluralist media landscape
- Awareness raising campaign starting in February 2019
- Main message: we should be aware that disinformation exists
- Media literacy while people remain responsible in which way to use information
- Campaign in full respect of freedom of speech and press
- No judgements by government given on truthfulness of content



Rules on campaigning?

Freedom of association / Transparency

- No campaign or silence period, no ban on electoral polls
- Only restriction: campaigning in vicinity polling station prohibited
- Some practical restrictions in local regulations
- Use of public broadcasting
- Disclosure contributions political parties



Ongoing debate

- Several commissions
 - Ban on foreign funding
 - Political advertising
 - Digital campaigning
 - Political Parties Act
- Upholding a resilient and open information society; rule of law and transparency as a common thread