



NPO DETAILED ANALYSIS

2024-04-15_POW_05761171

Broadcast: NPO broadcast | 2024-04-15 | Analysed on: 2026-05-22 18:48

Version 3.0-detail | Universal 3.0-detail | Konverter 3.4 (2026-05-20) | Maatstaf: Mediawet 2008 Art. 2.1

TOTAL SCORE

3.7/10

Slight imbalance

0 = balanced, 10 = strongly one-sided/manipulative

POLITICAL SPECTRUM

Classification based on Chapel Hill Expert Survey (CHES) 2024

The Chapel Hill Expert Survey (CHES 2024) is an academic survey of 609 political scientists in 31 countries. Each party is rated on a scale from 0 (far left) to 10 (far right).

Party	SP	GL-PvdA	PvdD	D66	CDA	NSC	CU	VVD	BBB	SGP	PVV	FvD
CHES	1.10	2.40	2.50	4.80	5.50	5.80	6.00	7.00	7.50	7.80	9.20	9.50
Spectrum	Left	Left	Left	Left	Centre	Centre	Right	Right	Right	Right	Right	Right

The overall tendency is displayed on a 0–10 scale (0 = strongly left-favouring, 5 = balanced, 10 = strongly right-favouring). The calculation is based on the difference in average favouring of left vs. right parties (grouping according to CHES 2024).

TENDENCY (L – R)

4.7 / 10

Balanced

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

← Left

Right →

Source: Chapel Hill Expert Survey 2024 — chesdata.eu | [Jolly et al., Electoral Studies, 2022](#) | Threshold values: [Pew Research Center](#)

This section provides political context and does not count towards the total score.



POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

The Schoof cabinet took office in July 2024 as an extra-parliamentary cabinet, supported by PVV (37 seats), VVD (24 seats), NSC (20 seats) and BBB (7 seats). Prime Minister Schoof is non-partisan. The largest opposition party is GL-PvdA with 25 seats, followed by D66 (9 seats), CDA (5 seats), SP (5 seats), FvD (3 seats), PvdD (3 seats), CU (3 seats), SGP (3 seats), DENK and Volt.

Note: The broadcast dates from April 2024, at the time of the cabinet formation following the elections of November 2023. The Schoof cabinet had not yet taken office at that point. The analysis takes into account the political context of April 2024: ongoing formation talks between PVV, VVD, NSC and BBB.

Party	CHES L-R	Seats	Government/Opposition	Core position
SP	1,1	5	Opposition	Socioeconomically left, anti-market forces
GL-PvdA	2,4	25	Opposition (largest)	Climate, humane asylum policy, fair sharing
PvdD	2,5	3	Opposition	Animal rights, climate, left-progressive
D66	4,8	9	Opposition	Liberal-progressive, pro-EU, education
CDA	5,5	5	Opposition	Christian democratic, centre-right
NSC	5,8	20	Government	Economic security, manageable migration
CU	6,0	3	Opposition	Christian-social, centre-right
VVD	7,0	24	Government	Free market, strict migration policy
BBB	7,5	7	Government	Agrarian-populist, asylum stop
SGP	7,8	3	Opposition	Reformed, far right
PVV	9,2	37	Government (largest)	Asylum stop, de-Islamisation, anti-elite
FvD	9,5	3	Opposition	Far right, sovereignty, Baudet

The dominant political fault line in April 2024 is the difficult cabinet formation, in which asylum and migration form the central stumbling block between PVV on the one hand and NSC and VVD on the other. A second fault line concerns the legal sustainability of the PVV's intended asylum policy, which legal experts consider to be in conflict with European law. In addition, the closure of the Groningen gas fields features as a political-social dossier, with security of supply and compensation for residents at its centre. Finally, the international security situation — in particular the Iranian attack on Israel — constitutes a current geopolitical fault line.

The Dutch public broadcaster (NPO) operates under the Media Act 2008, of which Article 2.1 requires pluriform, balanced and independent reporting across the total output. The NPO is composed of separate broadcasting associations (including BNNVARA, AVRO-TROS, KRO-NCRV) with their own editorial responsibility, whereby pluralism is assessed across the total output and not per individual broadcast. PVV leader Wilders has repeatedly characterised the NPO as a "left-wing broadcaster", which increases the political sensitivity of reporting on the formation.



CHAPTER 1 — PARTY-POLITICAL BIAS

Assessment per party

Party	Score (-5..+5)	Broadcast representation vs. party programme position
PVV	-2	03:01 "Wilders is of course doing this partly for show, to demonstrate to his supporters that he is fighting for the issue on which he made the most promises during the elections." — Party programme position: asylum stop as core promise — distorted: the reporter qualifies Wilders' departure as theatrical behaviour ("for show"), which undermines the legitimacy of his substantive position without factual substantiation
VVD	0	Not substantively addressed in the broadcast — omitted
NSC	0	Not substantively addressed; only mentioned in passing as a formation party — omitted
GL-PvdA	0	Not addressed — omitted
D66	0	Not addressed — omitted
BBB	0	Not addressed — omitted
CDA	0	Not addressed — omitted
SP	0	Not addressed — omitted

Summary of party bias

- Most accurate representation: No party is represented substantively correctly and completely; most parties are not covered at all.
- Strongest distortion: PVV (score -2) — Wilders' departure is framed as theatrical behaviour without the PVV's substantive position on asylum being presented neutrally.
- Average deviation from 0: 0.25 (based on the only non-zero score)
- Conclusion: The broadcast addresses the formation exclusively from a procedural perspective, with the substantive position of the PVV being the only party to be qualified — and in a manner that calls into question the credibility of Wilders' actions. Other formation parties (VVD, NSC, BBB) are not discussed substantively, resulting in an asymmetric representation.

Left-Right general tendency

TENDENCY SCORE: +1.2

QUALIFICATION: Slightly left-favouring

Reasoning: The only party whose behaviour is substantively qualified is the PVV, and that qualification is negative in tone ("for show", "legally perhaps not sustainable"). No left-wing or centrist party receives a comparable critical qualification. The framing of the asylum dossier as legally problematic aligns with a progressive-legal perspective, without the democratic mandate of the PVV being offered as context.



CHAPTER 2 — BROADCAST INFORMATION AND THEMATIC FRAMEWORK

Broadcast details

- Title: NOS Late News
- Date: 15.04.2024
- Presenter/reporter: Not named in transcript; multiple reporters speaking
- Persons interviewed:

Person	Function	Party/Affiliation	Political spectrum
Informateur (not named)	Informateur cabinet formation	Neutral/independent	Neutral
Public Prosecutor (OM)	Prosecutor in the Middel X case	Public Prosecution Service	Neutral/state institution
Geerte (surname not mentioned)	Public urination activist	None	Left-progressive
Jurrian van Dongen	Songwriter	None	Not political
Athletics expert Smit	Sports commentator	None	Not political
Weather presenter	Meteorologist	None	Not political

Main theme

The broadcast is a regular late news programme with multiple news topics, in which the difficult cabinet formation, the Trump trial, the Middel X case and international security form the politically and socially relevant items.



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CHAPTER 3 — 15 CRITERIA: DETAILED ANALYSIS



Hard facts — 9 techniques that are countable and scientifically verifiable

1. EXPERT SELECTION

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Definition: Who speaks as an expert?

Expert 1: Informateur (not named)

Timestamp: 03:26

Statement

"Here we are again. They differ on it and at a certain point you reach a stage where you think: Can you still make progress? So then one of the parties requested a recess and we will continue tomorrow, at 9:30."

Framing

The informateur speaks as a procedural authority on the progress of the formation. He does not pass substantive judgement on the positions of the parties.

Missing countervoice: A political scientist or formation expert could have interpreted the dynamics; as it stands, the interpretation is left to the reporter.

Source depth check:

(a) FUNDING: Informateurs are appointed by the House of Representatives and receive remuneration from the state. No direct institutional interest in a particular outcome, but an interest in the continuation of the formation process.

(b) MANDATE: Compatible with procedural statements; not compatible with substantive assessment of party positions.

D1 Conflict of interest: +1 — Limited conflict; informateur has an interest in a successful formation but no party-political interest

D2 Personal risk: +1 — Reputational risk if formation fails

D3 Competence: +2 — Direct participant in the process

D4 Consistency of opinion: +1 — No contradictory statements known

D5 Emotionalisation vs. data: +2 — Factual, procedural statement

D6 Source level: +1 — Primary source for procedural information

• TOTAL: +8 → SOURCE LIGHT: GREEN

(c) COMPETENCE: The informateur is framed as a neutral procedural authority, which is justified for his statements about the course of the talks.

Expert 2: Public Prosecutor (OM) — Middel X case

Timestamp: 04:20

Statement

"Endangering human lives in this irresponsible and reckless manner, as has happened here, is certainly not the right way to realise ideals."

Framing

The public prosecutor speaks as the prosecutor; his statement is by definition partisan in the sense that he represents the prosecuting party.

Missing countervoice: The defence or the defendants themselves are not given a voice.

Source depth check:

Voorzitter: Schläpfer, David - **Contact:** kontakt@SVFAB.ch - **Adres:** SVFAB, Postfach, CH-8021 Zürich 1



(a) FUNDING: The Public Prosecution Service is a state institution, funded by the Ministry of Justice and Security.

(b) MANDATE: The mandate of the OM is prosecution, not neutral interpretation. The statements are inherently partisan.

- D1 Conflict of interest: -2 — Structural conflict: OM is the prosecuting party
- D2 Personal risk: 0 — No personal risk
- D3 Competence: +2 — Legal expertise present
- D4 Consistency of opinion: +1 — Consistent with OM policy
- D5 Emotionalisation vs. data: -1 — Morally charged language ("runaway idealism", "become blind")
- D6 Source level: +1 — Primary source for the prosecution

• TOTAL: +1 → SOURCE LIGHT: YELLOW

(c) COMPETENCE: The public prosecutor is presented as a factual authority without his partisan role as prosecutor being explicitly named. This is problematic because the defence provides no countervoice.

Expert 3: Reporter as analyst (formation)

Timestamp: 03:01

Statement	"Wilders is of course doing this partly for show, to demonstrate to his supporters that he is fighting for the issue on which he made the most promises during the elections."
Framing	The reporter acts here as a political analyst, not as a neutral reporter. The qualification "for show" is an interpretation, not a fact.

Missing countervoice: A political scientist or PVV spokesperson could have confirmed or refuted this interpretation.

Source depth check:

(a) FUNDING: NPO reporter, funded by the public broadcaster.

(b) MANDATE: Reporters have a reporting function; political analysis requires explicit qualification as commentary.

- D1 Conflict of interest: -1 — Possible institutional bias (NPO as public broadcaster)
- D2 Personal risk: 0 — No personal risk
- D3 Competence: +1 — Political reporter with experience
- D4 Consistency of opinion: 0 — Unknown
- D5 Emotionalisation vs. data: -1 — Interpretive statement without source reference
- D6 Source level: -1 — Tertiary source (interpretation of behaviour)

• TOTAL: -2 → SOURCE LIGHT: YELLOW

(c) COMPETENCE: The reporter presents his interpretation as self-evident fact ("of course"), which blurs the boundary between reporting and commentary.

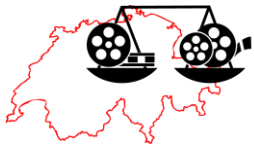
Missing expert groups:

- Asylum law expert to assess the legal sustainability of PVV proposals
- Defence lawyer in the Middel X case
- Independent political scientist for formation analysis

Summary: The expert selection is limited and one-sided: the OM is given extensive coverage without a countervoice from the defence, and the reporter takes on the role of political analyst without this being qualified as commentary.

Source traffic light for participants:

Source	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	Total	Signal
Informateur (not named)	+1	+1	+2	+1	+2	+1	+8	GREEN
Public Prosecutor (OM) — Middel X case	-2	0	+2	+1	-1	+1	+1	YELLOW
Reporter as analyst (formation)	-1	0	+1	0	-1	-1	-2	YELLOW



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2. SOURCE SELECTION

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Claims without a primary source = penalty points (rumour check)

Definition: Which sources are cited? Are they diverse and independent?

Source 1: Reporter as analyst (formation)

Timestamp: 03:01 — Statement: "Wilders is of course doing this partly for show"

(a) Funding and carrier: NPO, publicly funded

(b) Structural conflict of interest: The NPO is under political pressure from the PVV; the qualification of Wilders' behaviour as theatrical can be seen as an editorial interpretation without source reference

(c) Missing counter-source: A PVV spokesperson or political scientist could have nuanced this interpretation

Source 2: Reporter on legal sustainability

Timestamp: 03:21 — Statement: "Precisely because the PVV wants to make agreements that may perhaps not be legally sustainable."

(a) Funding: NPO

(b) Structural conflict of interest: The claim about legal unsustainability is presented as fact without source reference

(c) Missing counter-source: An asylum law expert or PVV legal adviser could have substantiated or refuted this claim

Rumour check (penalty points):

Rumour 1:

Timestamp: 03:01

Claim: "Wilders is of course doing this partly for show"

Word marker: "of course" (implies self-evidence without evidence)

Primary source present: No — penalty point (+1)

Rumour 2:

Timestamp: 03:21

Claim: "the PVV wants to make agreements that may perhaps not be legally sustainable"

Word marker: "perhaps" (uncertainty marker without source reference)

Primary source present: No — penalty point (+1)

Summary: The source selection is limited: the reporter acts as the primary analyst for the formation item without citing external sources, and two claims are presented as interpretation or undocumented assertion without source reference.



3. TIME ALLOCATION

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Definition: Distribution of airtime between different positions.

Estimated airtime:

- Trump trial (reporter): approx. 2.5 min. (12.5%)
- Cabinet formation (reporter + informateur): approx. 1.5 min. (7.5%)
- Middel X case (reporter + OM): approx. 1 min. (5%)
- Israel-Iran (reporter): approx. 1 min. (5%)
- Australian stabbing: approx. 1 min. (5%)
- Asylum reception (reporter): approx. 0.5 min. (2.5%)
- Sport (Nadal, discus, Barcelona, Almere, KNVB, moto): approx. 5 min. (25%)
- Children's song/Willem Wilmink Prize: approx. 1.5 min. (7.5%)
- Amsterdam toilets: approx. 1.5 min. (7.5%)
- Weather: approx. 1 min. (5%)
- Other (Tesla, traffic accident, tomorrow): approx. 1 min. (5%)
- Presenter: approx. 2 min. (10%)

Summary: The time allocation is characteristic of a late news programme with a broad range of news. Politically substantive items receive relatively little time, with the formation accounting for only 7.5% of the broadcast. The time allocation in itself is not strongly asymmetric, but the quality of the analysis within the available time is uneven.



4. OMISSION (Selective Omission)

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Definition: What is not shown, even though it is relevant?

Omission 1:

Context

The perspective of the defence in the Middel X case is entirely absent.

Relevant at: 03:59–04:56

Effect: The viewer hears only the OM's position, including morally charged qualifications ("runaway idealism", "become blind"). The societal debate on self-determination and completed life — which is directly relevant to this case — is not touched upon.

Omission 2:

Context

The substantive positions of VVD, NSC and BBB on asylum are not presented.

Relevant at: 02:25–03:51

Effect: The viewer gets the impression that the formation problems are caused solely by the PVV, while the other parties also have substantive objections.

Omission 3:

Context

The democratic mandate of the PVV as the largest party (37 seats, 23.5% of the votes) is not provided as context in the discussion of the formation conflict.

Relevant at: 02:50–03:25

Effect: The viewer is given no context for the question of why the PVV is pushing so hard on asylum; the behaviour is framed as theatrical without the electoral legitimation being named.

Summary: The selective omission is most problematic in the Middel X case (no defence perspective) and the formation talks (no substantive representation of other parties, no democratic mandate as context).

Missing voices

- Defence in the Middel X case: Could have clarified the perspective of the defendants and their motivation, and represented the societal debate on self-determination.
- Legal expert in asylum law: Could have substantiated or nuanced the claim about the legal unsustainability of PVV proposals with source references.
- VVD/NSC spokesperson on formation: Could have clarified the substantive position of the other formation parties on asylum.
- Israeli opposition spokesperson or Iranian government: Could have provided a broader geopolitical perspective on the escalation in the Middle East.
- Municipal enforcement perspective Amsterdam: Could have nuanced the context of the public urination fine and toilet policy.
- Asylum seeker or COA employee: Could have illustrated the human dimension of the reception crisis (12,000 extra beds).



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- Euthanasia expert or ethicist: Could have interpreted the societal debate on Middel X and completed life.



5. USE OF FIGURES

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Complete figures include: absolute number, share (%) and trend

Definition: Selective or misleading use of statistics.

Finding 1:

Timestamp: 07:31

Figure: "12,000 extra beds needed"

Dimensions: (a) Absolute value shown ✓ — (b) Share not shown ✗ — (c) Trend not shown ✗

Missing context

How many beds are there currently? What is the total capacity? How does this compare to previous years?

Effect: The figure 12,000 sounds large but without context gives no picture of the severity or the trend.

Finding 2:

Timestamp: 17:40

Figure: "In the city of Amsterdam there are 35 public men's toilets. And only two for women."

Dimensions: (a) Absolute value shown ✓ — (b) Share shown ✓ — (c) Trend not shown ✗

Missing context

How does Amsterdam compare to other cities? Has the number changed in recent years?

Effect: The ratio 35:2 is illustrative of the inequality, but the historical context is absent.

Summary: The use of figures is limited and the numbers used generally lack the trend component. The findings are not seriously misleading but incomplete.



6. GUILT BY ASSOCIATION

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Definition: Discrediting through association with negative groups or ideas.

Association 1:

Timestamp: 03:01

Quote

"Wilders is of course doing this partly for show, to demonstrate to his supporters that he is fighting for the issue on which he made the most promises during the elections."

Technique: Wilders' behaviour is associated with theatricality and populist play to the gallery, which implicitly suggests that his actions are not sincere or substantively motivated.

Effect: The viewer is steered towards the interpretation that Wilders' departure is a political spectacle, not a substantive position.

Summary: There is no classic guilt by association (association with extremist groups), but there is a milder form of characterisation in which Wilders' behaviour is framed as theatrical and calculating without this being qualified as an interpretation.



7. TIMING

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Definition: Strategic placement of information (beginning/middle/end).

Finding 1:

Position: 01:41–02:09 (beginning of the Trump item)

Content: "This trial may not be about the most serious crimes Trump is suspected of, but of all the cases against him, this is the most personal and potentially the most embarrassing for him, because it concerns a possible affair with a porn actress."

Timing effect

The reporter places emphasis on the "embarrassing" and "personal" aspects of the case early in the item, causing the viewer to experience the trial primarily as a scandal story rather than as a legal-political precedent.

Finding 2:

Position: 02:50–03:01 (beginning of the formation item)

Content: "But at 3:30 PM, PVV leader Wilders stands up and leaves angrily."

Timing effect

The item opens with the negative action of Wilders (departure, angry), after which the analysis follows. This immediately places Wilders in a negative light before context is provided.

Summary: The timing of negative qualifications — early in the item, before contextual information — reinforces the negative framing of both Trump and Wilders.



8. SELECTIVE INDIGNATION

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Indignation = bias. Selective indignation reinforces the finding. Score = degree of indignation (0–5) + selectivity (0–5)

Definition: Indignation at certain positions, but not at comparable others.

Methodological principle (v2.2): Before each assessment, the triggering event is documented. A reaction can only be assessed as selective if comparable triggering events at other positions did not produce an analogous reaction.

Finding 1:

Timestamp: 03:01

Triggering event: Wilders leaves the formation talks due to insufficient progress on asylum.

Reaction: "Wilders is of course doing this partly for show" — the reporter qualifies the behaviour as theatrical.

Comparison

There is no comparable moment in the broadcast where the behaviour of other formation parties (VVD, NSC, BBB) is qualified in a comparable manner. The other parties are not discussed substantively.

Asymmetry: Limitedly demonstrable — only Wilders' behaviour is qualified; other parties are not covered, making direct comparison impossible.

Degree of indignation: 1/5

Selectivity: 2/5

Summary: There is no pronounced indignation, but the qualification of Wilders' behaviour as theatrical — without comparable qualifications for other parties — points to a mild asymmetry in tone.



9. COMPLETENESS (Selective Omission — Overall Picture)

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Definition: How completely does the broadcast portray the subject?

Finding 1:

Timestamp: 03:59–04:56

Missing perspective: Defence perspective in the Middel X case

Relevance: The defendants are all over 70 and acted from an ideological conviction about self-determination; their perspective is legally and socially relevant.

Effect

The viewer receives only the OM's position, including morally charged qualifications, without any nuance.

Finding 2:

Timestamp: 02:25–03:51

Missing perspective: Substantive positions of VVD, NSC and BBB on asylum

Relevance: The formation involves four parties; the representation of only one party (PVV) as the cause of the problem is structurally incomplete.

Effect

The viewer receives a one-sided picture of the formation dynamics.

Finding 3:

Timestamp: 05:08–06:14

Missing perspective: Iranian perspective and regional context of the attack on Israel

Relevance: Balanced reporting on an armed conflict requires at minimum a representation of the motivation of both parties.

Effect

The viewer receives only the Israeli and Western perspective.

Summary: The broadcast is structurally incomplete on multiple points: in the Middel X case, the formation talks and the Israel-Iran situation, essential perspectives are missing that would nuance the overall picture.



Soft facts — 6 qualitative techniques

10. FRAMING (Setting the frame)

6/10

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Definition: How is the subject fundamentally framed?

Finding 1:

Timestamp: 01:41–02:09

Quote	<i>"of all the cases against him, this is the most personal and potentially the most embarrassing for him, because it concerns a possible affair with a porn actress"</i>
Manipulation	The Trump trial is primarily framed as a personal scandal ("embarrassing", "porn actress") rather than as a legal-political precedent.
Why problematic	The viewer is steered towards a moral assessment of Trump as a person, while the legal and democratic significance of the case (first criminal prosecution of a former president) recedes into the background.

Finding 2:

Timestamp: 02:50–03:25

Quote	<i>"But at 3:30 PM, PVV leader Wilders stands up and leaves angrily. Because he is not getting enough done on asylum, he says himself."</i>
Manipulation	The formation conflict is framed as a problem caused by Wilders. The addition "he says himself" implies doubt about his stated motivation.
Why problematic	The viewer is steered towards the interpretation that Wilders is obstructing the formation, without the substantive objections of other parties being offered as an equivalent frame.

Finding 3:

Timestamp: 04:17

Quote	<i>"The OM calls it runaway idealism."</i>
Manipulation	The qualification "runaway idealism" from the OM is adopted without comment as a factual description of the defendants.
Why problematic	The term "runaway" is a moral judgement, not a legal qualification. By adopting this without nuance, the editorial team implicitly takes over the position of the prosecutor.

Summary: The framing is most problematic in the formation item (Wilders as the cause of the problem) and the Middel X case (OM qualifications as factual description). In the Trump case, the scandal frame dominates over the legal-democratic frame.



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11. WORD CHOICE AND TERMINOLOGY

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Definition: What language is used? What connotations are created?

Finding 1:

Timestamp: 03:01

Quote	<i>"Wilders is of course doing this partly for show"</i>
Manipulation	"For show" has a strongly negative connotation of insincerity and theatricality. "Of course" presents this as self-evident fact.
Why problematic	A neutral alternative would be: "Wilders thereby emphasises his priority on asylum to his supporters" — without the implication of insincerity.

Finding 2:

Timestamp: 04:17

Quote	<i>"The OM calls it runaway idealism."</i>
Manipulation	"Runaway" has a negative connotation of excessiveness and lack of a sense of reality. The term is adopted without quotation marks or distancing.
Why problematic	Neutral alternative: "The OM qualifies the actions as idealism that exceeded the boundaries of the law."

Finding 3:

Timestamp: 01:52–01:55

Quote	<i>"potentially the most embarrassing for him, because it concerns a possible affair with a porn actress"</i>
Manipulation	"Embarrassing" and "porn actress" are morally charged terms that frame the case as a personal scandal.
Why problematic	Neutral alternative: "the most personally burdensome case, due to the involvement of a woman with whom Trump allegedly had a relationship."

Summary: The word choice is not neutral on multiple points: in the formation ("for show"), the Middel X case ("runaway") and the Trump case ("embarrassing", "porn actress"), connotations are created that colour the reporting.



12. MODERATION BEHAVIOUR

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Definition: Asymmetries in follow-up questions, interruptions, expressions of sympathy.

Methodological principle (v2.2): Before each assessment, the triggering event is documented. An intervention can only be assessed as asymmetric if comparable triggering events with other guests did not produce an analogous intervention.

Finding 1:

Timestamp: 03:46

Triggering event: The informateur gives a procedural explanation of the breakdown of the talks.

Quote (presenter)

"Is it bad news or good news, in your view?"

Comparison

There are no other interviewees in the broadcast to whom comparable follow-up questions are put.

Asymmetry: Not demonstrable — the question is neutral and procedural in nature.

Summary: Moderation behaviour in this broadcast is of limited testability because there are few live interviews. The question put to the informateur is neutral. The main bias lies not in the moderation behaviour but in the reporter's texts.



13. QUESTION ASYMMETRY

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Definition: Different degrees of hardness/softness of questions put to different persons.

Asymmetry 1:

To informateur, 03:46: "Is it bad news or good news, in your view?" — neutral/soft

To no other interviewee: No critical questions are put to the OM about the Middel X case or to other parties involved.

Comparison

The only question asked is procedural and not critical. No asymmetry is demonstrable between different guests, but there is a structural lack of critical follow-up questions in the OM item.

Summary: Question asymmetry is of limited demonstrability due to the small number of live interviews. The absence of critical questions to the OM is a finding, but cannot be qualified as asymmetry due to a lack of comparative material.



14. FALSE BALANCE

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Definition: Artificial balance despite factual imbalance.

Finding 1:

Timestamp: 03:26–03:51

Construction: The informateur states that there is "not much wrong" and that talks will continue tomorrow. This is presented as a reassuring balance after the dramatic departure of Wilders.

Analysis

There is no classic false balance (placing two equivalent positions against each other). The broadcast offers too little balance rather than too much.

Summary: False balance is not a dominant technique in this broadcast. The main problem is rather the absence of balance than the artificial creation of it.



15. AGENDA-SETTING

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Definition: What is treated as normal/self-evident? What does not make it onto the agenda?

Finding 1:

Established agenda element: The PVV's asylum policy is legally problematic.

Timestamp: 03:21 — Evidence: "Precisely because the PVV wants to make agreements that may perhaps not be legally sustainable."

Alternative agenda: The question of whether the existing asylum policy is sufficiently effective, or the question of the democratic mandate for a stricter policy, does not make it onto the agenda.

Finding 2:

Established agenda element: The Trump trial is primarily a personal scandal.

Timestamp: 01:41–02:09 — Evidence: "potentially the most embarrassing for him"

Alternative agenda: The constitutional and democratic significance of the prosecution of a former president as an agenda element.

Finding 3:

Established agenda element: The public urination action by women is a legitimate protest that has led to policy change.

Timestamp: 17:04–18:11 — Evidence: The item is told entirely from the perspective of the activists.

Alternative agenda: The municipal enforcement perspective or the question of prioritisation of municipal expenditure (4 million euros) does not make it onto the agenda.

Summary: The agenda-setting is most notable in the formation item (legal unsustainability as self-evident given) and the Trump item (scandal frame as dominant framework). The toilet item is framed one-sidedly from an activist perspective.



CHAPTER 4 — OVERALL ASSESSMENT

Overview of individual scores

No.	Criterion	Type	Score	Main finding (1 sentence)
1	Expert selection	H	5	The OM is given extensive coverage without a defence perspective; the reporter acts as an unqualified political analyst.
2	Source selection	H	5	Two claims are presented as fact without source reference or primary source.
3	Time allocation	H	3	The time allocation is characteristic of a late news programme; no serious asymmetry in airtime.
4	Omission	H	6	Defence perspective in Middel X and substantive positions of formation parties are structurally absent.
5	Use of figures	H	2	Figures are used but generally lack the trend component; no serious misleading.
6	Guilt by association	H	2	Wilders' behaviour is framed as theatrical; no classic guilt by association.
7	Timing	H	3	Negative qualifications are placed early in items, before contextual information.
8	Selective indignation	H	2	Mild asymmetry in tone regarding Wilders; no pronounced indignation.
9	Completeness	H	6	Multiple essential perspectives are missing in the formation, Middel X and Israel-Iran.
10	Framing	S	6	Formation conflict as a Wilders problem, Trump as scandal, OM qualifications as fact.
11	Word choice	S	5	"For show", "runaway", "embarrassing" are non-neutral qualifications.
12	Moderation behaviour	S	2	Of limited testability; no demonstrable asymmetry in the scarce live interviews.
13	Question asymmetry	S	2	Of limited testability; no critical questions to the OM.
14	False balance	S	1	No dominant false balance technique found.
15	Agenda-setting	S	5	Legal unsustainability of PVV policy and scandal frame of Trump as self-evident frameworks.

Results

- HARD FACTS SCORE (average criteria 1–9): 3.8 / 10
- SOFT FACTS SCORE (average criteria 10–15): 3.5 / 10
- TOTAL SCORE (average all 15 criteria): 3.7 / 10

Dominant techniques



- 1. Framing (Score 6):** The formation conflict is consistently framed as a problem caused by Wilders, with his departure qualified as theatrical behaviour without the substantive positions of other parties being offered as an equivalent frame. The Trump case is primarily framed as a personal scandal rather than as a legal-democratic precedent.
- 2. Omission (Score 6):** In the Middel X case, the defence perspective is entirely absent, meaning the OM's position including morally charged qualifications is the only voice heard. In the formation talks, the substantive positions of VVD, NSC and BBB are absent, creating a one-sided picture of the formation dynamics.
- 3. Completeness (Score 6):** The broadcast omits essential perspectives on multiple dossiers: the Iranian perspective in the Israel-Iran situation, the democratic mandate of the PVV as context for the formation conflict, and the societal debate on self-determination in the Middel X case.

Core messages of the broadcast

MESSAGE 1 (SUBSTANTIVE): "The PVV is obstructing the cabinet formation by making unrealistic and legally unsustainable demands on asylum."

Technique: Framing + Omission — Evidence: 02:50, 03:01, 03:21

MESSAGE 2 (PERSONAL): "Donald Trump is a politician whose trial is primarily embarrassing and personally burdensome due to his sexual behaviour."

Technique: Word choice + Framing — Evidence: 01:41, 01:52, 02:04

MESSAGE 3 (SOCIAL): "The OM is right to act against people who operate outside established frameworks, even if they do so out of idealism."

Technique: Expert selection + Omission — Evidence: 04:17, 04:31, 04:40

Reasoning: The broadcast displays a slight but consistent tendency that manifests itself in the framing of the formation conflict (Wilders as the cause of the problem), the word choice across multiple items ("for show", "runaway", "embarrassing") and the structural omission of countervoices in the Middel X case. The findings are not so serious that they can be qualified as systematic bias, but they are consistent enough to establish a slight tendency. In the light of Media Act Art. 2.1, the broadcast in itself is not in conflict with the pluralism obligation, but the combination of framing, word choice and omission points to an editorial tendency that could become problematic if repeated across multiple broadcasts.

CONCLUSION

The NOS Late News broadcast of April 2024 displays a slight but consistent editorial tendency that manifests itself most strongly in the reporting on the cabinet formation: Wilders' departure is qualified as theatrical behaviour ("for show"), the legal unsustainability of PVV proposals is presented as fact without source reference, and the substantive positions of the other formation parties are not represented. In the Middel X case, the defence perspective is entirely absent, meaning the OM's position including morally charged qualifications is the only voice heard. The Trump reporting is primarily framed as a personal scandal, which pushes the legal-democratic significance of the case into the background. On the basis of Media Act Art. 2.1, a single broadcast is in itself insufficient to establish a violation of the pluralism obligation — that obligation applies to the total output — but the patterns identified merit attention as part of a broader assessment framework.



OVERALL EVALUATION OF THE 15 CRITERIA

Individual scores — All 15 criteria

No.	Criterion	Score	Classification
1	EXPERT SELECTION	5	●●●
2	SOURCE SELECTION	5	●●●
3	TIME ALLOCATION	3	●●
4	OMISSION (Selective Omission)	6	●●●
5	USE OF FIGURES	2	●
6	GUILT BY ASSOCIATION	2	●
7	TIMING	3	●●
8	SELECTIVE INDIGNATION	2	●
9	COMPLETENESS (Selective Omission — Overall Picture)	6	●●●
10	FRAMING (Setting the frame)	6	●●●
11	WORD CHOICE AND TERMINOLOGY	5	●●●
12	MODERATION BEHAVIOUR	2	●
13	QUESTION ASYMMETRY	2	●
14	FALSE BALANCE	1	●
15	AGENDA-SETTING	5	●●●

HARD FACTS SCORE (1-8)

3.8/10

Slight imbalance

SOFT FACTS SCORE (9-14)

3.5/10

Slight imbalance

TOTAL SCORE

3.7/10

Slight imbalance

Average of Hard Facts and Soft Facts



KEY — Meaning of the scores

Individual scores per criterion (0–10)

0	No finding	No relevant deviation identified.
1–2	Weak finding	Slight deviation without material impairment of balance.
3–4	Slight to moderate finding	Recognisable tendency; minor to moderate impact.
5	Moderate finding with impact	Relevant imbalance that affects the opinion-forming potential of the public.
6	Considerable finding (threshold)	Scores from 6 onwards are designated as 'considerable findings'.
7	Considerable finding	Clear, well-documented imbalance with clear impact.
8–9	Serious finding	Pronounced imbalance; multiple documented individual findings in this criterion.
10	Maximum severity	Systematic, ongoing imbalance in this criterion.

Aggregated deviation index — Interpretation ranges

0.0 – 2.5	Unremarkable	No material patterns discernible; broadcast meets the balance requirement.
2.6 – 4.0	Slight imbalance	Isolated deviations; statistically visible, but within tolerance range.
4.1 – 6.0	Considerable imbalance	Multiple considerable findings; relevant impairment of diversity of perspectives.
6.1 – 8.0	Serious deviation from the balance requirement. High degree of deviation	Pronounced patterns across broadcasts; high impact.
8.1 – 10	Fundamental systemic one-sidedness. Very high degree of bias	Maximum severity across almost all criteria; systematically one-sided reporting.

Party-political bias (-5 to +5)

-5 to -3	Strongly disadvantaged	Party is clearly disadvantaged in framing, airtime or presentation.
-2 to -1	Slightly disadvantaged	Recognisable but minor disadvantage.
0	Neutral	No discernible favouring or disadvantaging.
+1 to +2	Slightly favoured	Recognisable but minor favouring.
+3 to +5	Strongly favoured	Party is clearly favoured in framing, airtime or presentation.



CHAPTER 5 — LEGAL QUALIFICATION (Media Act Art. 2.1)

Assessment on the basis of Media Act Art. 2.1

The Media Act 2008 requires the public broadcaster to provide a pluriform, balanced and independent output. Article 2.1 paragraph 1 stipulates that the public media service is aimed at informing, educating and entertaining the entire population, with special attention to pluriformity and independence. The pluriformity obligation is assessed across the total output of the public broadcaster, not per individual broadcast.

Violation 1:

Norm: Media Act Art. 2.1 — pluriformity and balance

Factual circumstance: The reporting on the cabinet formation gives exclusively a negatively qualified picture of the PVV, without the substantive positions of the other formation parties being represented or the democratic mandate of the PVV being offered as context.

Evidence: Timestamp 03:01 — Quote: "Wilders is of course doing this partly for show, to demonstrate to his supporters that he is fighting for the issue on which he made the most promises during the elections."

Assessment: The qualification of Wilders' behaviour as theatrical, combined with the claim about legal unsustainability (03:21) without source reference, constitutes a one-sided representation of the formation conflict that does not meet the balance requirement of Art. 2.1. In the light of the political sensitivity of NPO reporting on the PVV, this is a relevant finding.

Violation 2:

Norm: Media Act Art. 2.1 — balance and independence

Factual circumstance: In the Middel X case, only the position of the OM is represented, including morally charged qualifications ("runaway idealism", "become blind"), without the defence or an independent ethical or legal expert being given a voice.

Evidence: Timestamp 04:17–04:43 — Quote: "The OM calls it runaway idealism. The defendants had apparently become blind to the reprehensibility and the dangers of their methods."

Assessment: The adoption of OM qualifications as factual description, without a countervoice from the defence or an independent expert, is in conflict with the balance requirement. The principle of audi alteram partem — which is primarily a journalistic-ethical norm but also has effect in the pluriformity requirement of Art. 2.1 — is not observed here.

No violation demonstrable:

The remaining items (sport, weather, children's song, Amsterdam toilets) fulfil the informative and entertainment function of the public broadcaster and provide no indications of a violation of Art. 2.1.

Overall assessment Media Act Art. 2.1

On the basis of the analysis of this individual broadcast, two findings have been established that are relevant in the context of Media Act Art. 2.1: the one-sided framing of the formation conflict and the absence of a countervoice in the Middel X case. Both findings are in themselves insufficient for a formal establishment of a violation of Art. 2.1, because the pluriformity obligation is assessed across the total output. If comparable patterns — one-sided qualification of PVV behaviour, absence of a defence perspective in criminal law items — recur structurally in the NOS output, this can in combination constitute a violation of the pluriformity and balance requirement. A supervisory authority (Commissariaat voor de Media) would, in the event of a complaint on the basis of Art. 2.1, need to assess the entire programming over a longer period in order to reach a definitive judgement.



CHAPTER 6 — SOURCE DEPTH CHECK

Organisation 1: Public Prosecution Service (OM) — Middel X case

- FUNDING:** The OM is a state institution, funded by the Ministry of Justice and Security. Fully publicly funded.
- MANDATE:** The mandate of the OM is criminal prosecution. This mandate is by definition not compatible with a neutral or balanced interpretation of a criminal case; the OM represents the prosecuting party.
- CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** The OM has an institutional interest in obtaining a conviction and in upholding the norm that assistance with suicide outside the legal frameworks is punishable. This interest is structural and unavoidable.
- CREDIBILITY MATRIX:**
 - D1 Conflict of interest: -2 — Structural conflict as prosecuting party
 - D2 Personal risk: 0 — No personal risk for the public prosecutor
 - D3 Competence: +2 — Legal expertise present
 - D4 Consistency of opinion: +1 — Consistent with OM policy on assistance with suicide
 - D5 Emotionalisation vs. data: -1 — Morally charged language ("runaway idealism", "become blind")
 - D6 Source level: +1 — Primary source for the prosecution
- TOTAL:** +1 → SOURCE LIGHT: YELLOW
- COUNTERVOICE:** The defence of the defendants is not given a voice. An independent ethicist or euthanasia expert is not cited. The NVVE (Dutch Association for a Voluntary End of Life) or comparable organisations are not consulted.

Conclusion source depth check: The OM is a legitimate primary source for the prosecution and the sentences demanded, but is not a neutral or balanced source for the interpretation of the case. The adoption of OM qualifications ("runaway idealism") as factual description without distancing or countervoice is journalistically-methodologically careless and potentially in conflict with the balance requirement of Media Act Art. 2.1.

Source traffic light for participants:

Source	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	Total	Signal
Public Prosecution Service (OM) — Middel X case	-2	0	+2	+1	-1	+1	+1	YELLOW

Legal and methodological explanation

No factual determination	The results presented do not constitute factual determinations about individual persons, editorial teams or broadcasts. They are the product of a standardised operationalisation, not a determination of individual responsibility.
No legal judgement	The aggregated deviation index does not replace a legal assessment on the basis of Media Act 2008 Art. 2.1. The assessment of whether a specific broadcast violates statutory requirements is exclusively the responsibility of the competent authorities (in particular the Commissariaat voor de Media).
No proof of causality	Statistical correlations must not be interpreted as proof of causal relationships or editorial intentions. Deviation values can be influenced by subject choice, news environment, political controversiality or format logic.



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**No judgement on
intention**

The analysis measures observable structural characteristics of broadcasts. A score of 7 means that a considerable imbalance has been established — not that the editorial team intended this. The methodology makes no statements about motives or strategic objectives.

**Heuristic
comparison
instrument**

The index serves for comparative pattern recognition across thousands of broadcasts, not for precise metric measurement of individual contributions. Threshold values serve as heuristic orientation, not as sharp legal qualification.



APPENDIX 1: NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Legal basis Netherlands — NPO

Act

Media Act 2008

Relevant articles

- Art. 2.1 (Public media remit): The public media service provides independent, pluriform, balanced information of high journalistic quality. The public media service contributes to the democratic, social and cultural needs of Dutch society.
- Art. 2.1 paragraph 2: The public media service reflects the social diversity of the Netherlands.
- Art. 2.88: Editorial independence and journalistic standards are guaranteed. The programmes are made under the editorial responsibility of the broadcasting associations.

Core obligations

1. **Independence:** Independent provision of information
2. **Pluriformity:** Pluriform reporting
3. **Balance:** Balanced information of high journalistic quality
4. **Social diversity:** Reflection of Dutch society

Supervisory authority

- Commissariaat voor de Media (CvdM): Media supervision, compliance with Media Act
- NPO Ombudsman: Internal complaints body

Complaints procedure

1. NPO Ombudsman
2. Commissariaat voor de Media
3. Court (administrative law judge)



APPENDIX 2: SCIENTIFIC SOURCES

Literature

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