



## NPO DETAILED ANALYSIS

2025-10-17\_VPWON\_1360597

Broadcast: NPO Broadcast | 2025-10-17 | Analysed on: 2026-05-23 03:10

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

### TOTAL SCORE

**4.6/10**

*Considerable 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)

**4.5 / 10**

*Balanced*

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

← Left

Right →

Source: Chapel Hill Expert Survey 2024 — [chesdata.eu](https://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 July 2024) is an extra-parliamentary cabinet consisting of PVV, VVD, NSC and BBB. Prime Minister Dick Schoof is non-partisan. The largest opposition party is GL-PvdA (25 seats), followed by D66 (9 seats), SP (5 seats), CDA (5 seats), PvdD (3 seats), CU (3 seats), SGP (3 seats), FvD (3 seats), DENK and Volt.

Party	CHES L-R	Seats	Government/Opposition	Core position
SP	1.1	5	Opposition	Radical left, anti-market, social housing, industrial policy
GL-PvdA	2.4	25	Opposition (largest)	Left, climate, humane asylum policy, fair sharing
PvdD	2.5	3	Opposition	Left, animal rights, climate
D66	4.8	9	Opposition	Centre, liberal-progressive, pro-EU, education
CDA	5.5	5	Opposition	Centre-right, Christian democratic, community thinking
NSC	5.8	20	Government	Centre-right, economic security, rule of law
CU	6.0	3	Opposition	Centre-right, Christian social
VVD	7.0	24	Government	Right, liberal, free market, entrepreneurship
BBB	7.5	7	Government	Right, agrarian-populist, farmer protection
SGP	7.8	3	Opposition	Far right, Reformed
PVV	9.2	37	Government (largest)	Far right, migration stop, anti-Islam, Wilders
FvD	9.5	3	Opposition	Far right, Baudet

The main political fault line is the opposition between the right-wing Schoof cabinet (in particular PVV) and the left-wing and progressive opposition over migration, climate and social security. A second line of tension concerns the NATO target and defence spending, with SP being the only major party to explicitly reject the 5% target. Third, the nitrogen issue plays a central role, with VVD and BBB pursuing relaxation while environmental organisations and judges contest this. Finally, there is the housing crisis, where parties fundamentally disagree on the balance between rental and owner-occupied housing and the role of government.

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 system is fragmented: broadcasting associations such as BNNVARA (which broadcasts Nieuwsuur) bear their own editorial responsibility, while the NPO as a whole must meet the pluralism obligation. PVV leader Wilders has repeatedly criticised the NPO as a "left-wing broadcaster", which increases the political sensitivity of balanced reporting.



## CHAPTER 1 — PARTY-POLITICAL BIAS

### Assessment per party

Party	Score (-5..+5)	Broadcast representation vs. Party programme position
SP	+3	00:45–49:09 — Programme positions on social housing, industrial policy, retirement age and personal healthcare contribution are presented extensively and largely correctly. Core position "radical left, anti-market" is confirmed by the house economist ("utterly left-wing"). Slight distortion: the programme is repeatedly problematised as "not costed by CPB" (10:55), which places a one-sided financial frame on a party that deliberately chooses an alternative economic model. Programme position: social housing, price regulation, industrial policy, anti-NATO target — largely correct, but financial feasibility disproportionately emphasised.
VVD	+1	28:03 "That is the VVD's way, remarkably enough" — VVD programme position (free market, entrepreneurship) is implicitly correctly represented as opponent of state control at Tata Steel. 46:34 VVD/BBB nitrogen relaxation correctly mentioned. Party itself not given the floor. Score limitedly positive: representation is fragmentary and instrumental (as contrast with SP).
PVV	0	Party not in broadcast. No direct mention of PVV positions. Schoof cabinet is not discussed in relation to SP's opposition role. Score 0: not present.
GL-PvdA	+1	39:43 "You at any rate are willing to cooperate with GroenLinks and PvdA" — Party is correctly positioned as potential coalition partner of SP. No substantive representation of GL-PvdA positions. Score limited: mentioned only as coalition option, no programme position represented.
NSC	0	Party not discussed substantively. Pieter Omtzigt is mentioned in passing (43:43) as someone with whom Dijk has had coffee. No representation of NSC positions. Score 0: not present.
D66	0	Party not mentioned in broadcast. Score 0: not present.
BBB	+1	46:34 "VVD and BBB say they want to relax the nitrogen rules next year" — BBB programme position (farmer protection, nitrogen relaxation) correctly represented in news segment. Party itself not given the floor. Score limitedly positive: representation factually correct but minimal.
CDA	+1	39:45 "And the CDA" mentioned as potential coalition partner. 41:22–31 Henri Bontenbal cited in passing as someone who "looks at the economy differently" than SP but does cooperate on profit sharing. CDA programme position (community thinking) is correctly cited by Dijk himself (15:56 "coalition of community thinkers"). Score limitedly positive: fragmentary but not incorrect.
SGP	0	Not mentioned. Score 0.
FvD	0	Not mentioned. Score 0.
CU	0	Mentioned in passing as former coalition partner in Groningen (08:30). No positions represented. Score 0.



## Summary Party Bias

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- Most accurate representation: SP (Score +3) — the only party treated extensively in terms of content
- Strongest distortion: SP itself, paradoxically: the party receives the most airtime but its financial choice (no CPB costing) is disproportionately framed as a weakness
- Average deviation from 0: 0.6 (based on parties that are present)
- Conclusion: The broadcast is structurally a portrait of one party (SP/Jimmy Dijk) and treats other parties merely as reference points or coalition options. This is inherent to the format (election series, one guest), but results in only SP positions being substantively tested while other party positions are neither checked nor challenged.

## Left-Right General Tendency

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TENDENCY SCORE: +1.8

CLASSIFICATION: Left-favouring

Reasoning: The broadcast gives an SP leader (CHES 1.1, far left) a full platform of approx. without a representative of a right-wing or centre-right party as counterweight. The house economist characterises the SP programme as "utterly left-wing" but adds "consistent and solid", which constitutes an implicit legitimisation. The defence debate is conducted from a frame in which the NATO target is accepted as a description under the label "Trump target" without critical contextualisation, and the nitrogen news segment ends with doubt about the legal feasibility of the cabinet's plans (right-wing policy), while SP plans are not subjected to comparable legal feasibility scrutiny.



## CHAPTER 2 — BROADCAST INFORMATION AND THEMATIC FRAMEWORK

### Broadcast details

- Title: Nieuwsuur Special Election Broadcast — Jimmy Dijk (SP)
- Date: 17.10.2025
- Length (estimated from transcript): (00:00–49:09), of which news segment (43:13–47:54)
- Presenter/Reporter: Mariëlle (presenter, name mentioned 48:02); Arjan (journalist/analyst, present in studio); Mathijs (journalist/analyst, present in studio)

Person	Function	Party/Affiliation	Political Spectrum
Jimmy Dijk	SP party leader, parliamentary group leader	SP	Far left (CHES 1.1)
Mariëlle	Nieuwsuur presenter	NPO/BNNVARA	Neutral (journalistic)
Arjan	Journalist/political analyst	NPO/BNNVARA	Neutral (journalistic)
Mathijs	Journalist/economic analyst	NPO/BNNVARA	Neutral (journalistic)
Hans Bouman	Nieuwsuur house economist	NPO/BNNVARA	Neutral (journalistic)

### Main theme

An extensive election portrait of SP party leader Jimmy Dijk, focusing on his personality, party programme (economy, industrial policy, defence) and coalition ambitions.



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## CHAPTER 3 — 15 CRITERIA: DETAILED ANALYSIS



## Hard facts — 9 techniques that are countable and scientifically verifiable

### 1. CHOICE OF EXPERTS

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*Definition: Who speaks as an expert?*

**Expert 1:** Hans Bouman — Nieuwsuur house economist

Timestamp: 09:07–09:35

#### Statement

"It is utterly left-wing. But it is very consistent. It is a different view of people and society. But it is not a mess. I don't need to give a grade, but it is a solid and consistent story."

#### Framing

Bouman is the regular house economist of Nieuwsuur, employed by the editorial team. He assesses the SP programme as "utterly left-wing" but simultaneously as "solid and consistent" — a dual message that both radicalises and legitimises the programme.

Missing countervoice: An independent economist from e.g. the CPB, ESB or a university could have provided a more structured assessment, including financial risks.

Source depth check:

**(a) FUNDING:** Bouman is employed by BNNVARA/NPO. Funding: public (NPO budget). Interest: editorial loyalty to the broadcast; no external independent mandate.

**(b) MANDATE:** His mandate is to explain economic plans to a broad audience, not to conduct scientific research. Limited compatibility with neutral assessment of radical-left plans.

D1 Conflict of interest: 0 — Employed by the broadcaster making the broadcast; no external interest but also no independence

D2 Personal risk: 0 — No personal risk in his assessment

D3 Professional competence: +1 — Economist, but no specialised knowledge of industrial policy or price regulation

D4 Consistency of opinion: 0 — No previous statements available in transcript

D5 Emotionalisation vs. data: +1 — Predominantly factual, but "utterly left-wing" is a value judgement

D6 Source level: 0 — Secondary source (interpretation of programme, no primary research)

• TOTAL: +2 → SOURCE LIGHT: YELLOW

**(c) PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE:** The qualification "solid and consistent" is presented as a neutral professional assessment, but is a social legitimisation of a political programme by an editorial employee. This is structurally partisan in the sense that it gives the SP plans a seal of approval without external scrutiny.

**Expert 2:** Mathijs — Nieuwsuur journalist/analyst

Timestamp: 19:22–27:04

#### Statement

"Then it does indeed say that we want to preserve it on the one hand. The heavy industry must be preserved. But it must become green. It must remain and become clean. That is a bit of trying to have it both ways."

#### Framing

Mathijs functions as an economic-industrial analyst but is a journalist, not an economist or industry specialist. His qualification "trying to have it both ways" is a journalistic judgement, not a scientific analysis.



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Missing countervoice: An industry specialist or energy transition expert could have assessed the technical feasibility of green industrial policy.

Source depth check:

**(a) FUNDING:** Employed by BNNVARA/NPO. Publicly funded.

**(b) MANDATE:** Journalistic interpretation, not scientific analysis. Limited compatibility with neutral technical assessment.

D1 Conflict of interest: 0 — No external interest

D2 Personal risk: 0 — None

D3 Professional competence: 0 — Journalist, not an industry specialist

D4 Consistency of opinion: 0 — Not verifiable

D5 Emotionalisation vs. data: +1 — Predominantly factual

D6 Source level: -1 — Tertiary source (journalistic interpretation of interpretation)

• TOTAL: 0 → SOURCE LIGHT: YELLOW

**(c) PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE:** Mathijs is presented as an "analyst" but is a journalist. The boundary between journalistic questioning and expert analysis blurs, creating the impression of external validation that does not exist.

*Missing expert groups:*

- Independent economist (CPB, university) for assessment of SP programme
- Defence expert (Clingendael) for NATO debate
- Energy transition specialist for industrial policy

### Source traffic light for participants:

Source	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	Total	Signal
Hans Bouman — Nieuwsuur house economist	0	0	+1	0	+1	0	+2	YELLOW
Mathijs — Nieuwsuur journalist/analyst	0	0	0	0	+1	-1	0	YELLOW

*Summary (Matrix result):*

- Hans Bouman: YELLOW (+2) — Editorial employee, no independent mandate, legitimises SP programme as "solid"
- Mathijs: YELLOW (0) — Journalist as analyst, limited professional competence for industrial-technical assessment
- Both experts are internal NPO employees; not a single external, independent expert speaks in the SP portrait section



## 2. CHOICE OF SOURCES

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Claims without primary source = penalty points (rumour check)

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

### Source 1: Polling figures (not further specified)

Timestamp: 00:32 "In the polls it is still going against them."

- (a) **Funding and carrier:** Not stated which polling institute (Ipsos, I&O Research, Peil.nl). No source citation.
- (b) **Structural conflict of interest:** Polls are presented as objective fact without methodological context.
- (c) **Missing counter-source:** Historical election results vs. polls would provide context.

### Source 2: Voter research (not further specified)

Timestamp: 24:01–24:15 "23 percent of voters agree with it. But nine percent of voters are in favour of it."

- (a) **Funding:** Not stated. No source citation for the research.
- (b) **Structural conflict of interest:** The figures are presented as a refutation of Dijk's position on Tata Steel, but the research question is unknown.
- (c) **Missing counter-source:** Research into support for preserving industry in the IJmond region or among Tata Steel employees.

### Source 3: SP voting record in the House of Representatives (motions)

Timestamp: 34:00–38:09 "There was a motion to isolate Russia. You voted against it."

- (a) **Funding:** Public source (House of Representatives voting register). Reliable.
- (b) **Structural conflict of interest:** The selection of which motions are shown is editorial. Dijk himself points to motions he did vote in favour of (38:05).
- (c) **Missing counter-source:** The complete voting history of the SP on Ukraine-related motions is absent, creating a selective picture.

Rumour verification (penalty points):

Rumour 1:

Timestamp: 32:02 "This leads to the SP also wanting to leave NATO."

Claim: "They are looking for allies."

Word marker: No explicit marker, but the claim is presented as fact without direct source citation or quote from the SP programme.

Primary source present: No — the SP programme is not cited on this point. Dijk does not explicitly deny this either but nuances it. +1 penalty point

Rumour 2:

Timestamp: 32:21–33:02 "These parties were on Red Square as guests of Putin at the red parade."

Claim: Implicit association of SP with parties that were at Putin's Red Square.

Word marker: "were on Red Square" — presented as fact about other parties, but the link to SP is suggested without a primary source.



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Primary source present: Partially — the presence of other parties on Red Square is verifiable, but the implication that SP is associated with this is not substantiated. +1 penalty point

Summary: The choice of sources is limited and predominantly internal (editorial analyses, unspecified polls, selective voting records). Two penalty points for insufficiently substantiated claims. Not a single external, independent source is cited in the SP portrait section.



### 3. TIME ALLOCATION

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*Definition: Distribution of speaking time between different positions.*

Estimated speaking time:

- Jimmy Dijk (SP): approx. 22 min. (51%)
- Presenter Mariëlle: approx. 8 min. (19%)
- Arjan (journalist): approx. 5 min. (12%)
- Mathijs (journalist): approx. 5 min. (12%)
- Hans Bouman (house economist, via pre-recorded segment): approx. 1 min. (2%)
- News segment (other news): approx. 5 min. (12%) — outside the portrait

Summary: The time allocation is inherent to the portrait format: one guest receives the vast majority of speaking time. Within the portrait there is no representative of another political position present, meaning all substantive counter-pressure must come from the journalists. This is a structural limitation of the format that restricts the balanced representation of political debate, but is not necessarily an editorial choice that can be characterised as bias.



#### 4. OMISSION (Selective Omission)

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

Omission 1: CPB costing and financial feasibility of SP programme

Context: The SP programme has not been costed by the CPB. This is mentioned (10:51–11:05) but not substantively analysed. What does the programme cost? What tax increases are needed?

Relevant at: 10:39 "It all costs money. Is it affordable?"

Effect: The voter receives no quantitative insight whatsoever into the financial consequences of the SP programme, whereas for other parties CPB costing is a standard part of election coverage.

Omission 2: Historical failure of SP coalition attempts — concrete causes

Context: The broadcast shows three clips of SP leaders saying they want to govern (06:36–07:11) but does not analyse why it repeatedly failed. What red lines were there? Which parties pulled out?

Relevant at: 07:20 "They say so, but it doesn't work out."

Effect: The voter gains no insight into the structural obstacles to SP participation in a cabinet, making it impossible to critically assess Dijk's optimism.

Omission 3: Complete SP voting history on Ukraine

Context: The presenter shows a selection of motions on which the SP voted against (34:00–38:09). Dijk refers to motions he did vote in favour of (38:05) but these are not shown.

Relevant at: 34:00–38:09

Effect: A selective picture of the SP's position on Ukraine support, with the emphasis on votes against without showing the complete picture.

Summary: Three significant omissions limit the informative value of the broadcast: the financial feasibility of the SP programme is not quantified, the historical coalition failure is not analysed, and the voting record on Ukraine is presented selectively.

#### Missing voices

- Independent defence expert (e.g. Clingendael Institute): Could have tested the SP's claim about European military capacity against actual NATO data
- CPB economist or independent economist: Could have contextualised the choice not to participate in costing and quantified the financial risks of SP plans
- FNV representative: Could have substantiated the trade union perspective on Tata Steel and industrial policy from direct involvement
- Housing market expert or housing corporation director: Could have assessed the feasibility of exclusively social rental housing
- Representative of an Eastern European NATO country (e.g. Polish or Baltic politician): Could have represented the security perspective of countries on the Russian border
- Former SP coalition negotiator or political scientist: Could have explained why earlier SP coalition attempts failed and what is structurally different now
- Tata Steel employee or IJmond resident: Could have represented the human dimension of the industrial debate
- Environmental organisation (e.g. Milieudefensie): Could have articulated the tension between preserving industry and climate targets



5. USE OF FIGURES									5/10
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

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

*Definition: Selective or misleading use of statistics.*

### Finding 1: European military capacity vs. Russia

Timestamp: 29:45–30:01

Figure: "Already three and a half times more in euros. Already five times more in air force, army and navy."

Dimensions:

- (a) Absolute value: Not stated (no absolute amounts)
- (b) Share: Ratio presented (3.5x and 5x) — but relative to what? Russia alone? Including nuclear capacity?
- (c) Trend: Not stated — how has this developed since 2022?

<b>Missing context</b>	The comparison excludes the US but also China, nuclear capacity and hybrid warfare. The figures are not verified by a defence expert.
<b>Effect</b>	The viewer gets the impression that Europe already has more than sufficient military capacity, without this being checked.

### Finding 2: Voter support for Tata Steel nationalisation

Timestamp: 24:01–24:15

Figure: "23 percent of voters agree with it. But nine percent of voters are in favour of it."

Dimensions:

- (a) Absolute value: Not stated (sample size unknown)
- (b) Share: Percentage presented, but unclear what the research question was
- (c) Trend: Not stated

<b>Missing context</b>	Which institute? What research question? When conducted? The difference between 23% and 9% is not explained.
<b>Effect</b>	The figures are used to undermine Dijk's position without methodological accountability.

### Finding 3: Energy requirement of Tata Steel

Timestamp: 25:08–25:17

Figure: "Tata Steel at full capacity needs all offshore wind."

Dimensions:

- (a) Absolute value: Not stated (how many MW?)
- (b) Share: Not stated (what percentage of total Dutch offshore wind capacity?)
- (c) Trend: Not stated

<b>Missing context</b>	What is the current offshore wind capacity? What are the expansion plans? The claim is presented as fact without source citation.
<b>Effect</b>	The viewer gets the impression that greening Tata Steel would require the entire offshore wind capacity, which has a dramatising effect.



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Summary: Three significant cases of incomplete presentation of figures: military capacity figures without source citation and without nuclear/hybrid dimension, voter research without methodological accountability, and energy figures without absolute values or source citation.



## 6. GUILT BY ASSOCIATION

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*Definition: Discrediting through association with negative groups/ideas.*

### Association 1: SP and pro-Russian European parties

Timestamp: 32:02–33:13

#### Quote

*"These politicians were present there. The Five Star Movement wants to turn the gas tap to Russia back on. In the middle is the Belgian PvdA. That is more left-wing and more conservative than the one in the Netherlands. It wants to lift the sanctions against Russia. BSW in Germany wants to stop weapons deliveries. These parties were on Red Square as guests of Putin at the red parade."*

Technique: The SP is associated with parties that hold explicitly pro-Russian positions (lifting sanctions, turning on the gas tap, stopping weapons deliveries) and that were present at a Russian military parade. The association is visually reinforced by showing images.

#### Effect

The viewer gets the impression that the SP is in the same camp as parties that actively serve Russian interests, while the SP recognises Russia as the aggressor and supports Ukraine.

Source check for associated parties:

- Do these parties work with demonstrable primary sources? Partially (BSW, Five Stars have parliamentary positions)
- Are their core statements falsifiable? Yes — they are political positions
- What has the SP lost through its position? Electoral support, coalition opportunities
- What does the SP gain? Consistency with its historically pacifist profile
- Net: Risk > Gain — increased credibility for SP position

RESULT CATEGORY for SP: A — System-critical party with its own methodology (Ukraine support + NATO criticism are not the same as pro-Russian)

Association chain: SP alternative NATO summit → Five Stars/Belgian PvdA/BSW → Red Square Moscow → Putin

### Association 2: Jimmy Dijk and champagne/VVD

Timestamp: 01:15–01:22

#### Quote

*"You are the leader of the SP but you have an enormous fondness for champagne. Yes, that's right. Before Jimmy Dijk makes a transfer to the VVD..."*

Technique: Dijk is associated with elite consumption (champagne) and implicitly with the VVD — the party that stands diametrically opposed to the SP. This is a humorous remark in the introductory video, but plants an association.

#### Effect

Undermines the authenticity of Dijk's working-class image.

Summary: The most significant guilt by association concerns the linking of the SP to pro-Russian European parties via the alternative NATO summit. The SP is assessed as category A (system-critical with its own methodology), but the visual and narrative association with parties that stood on Red Square is misleading because the SP recognises Russia as the aggressor and supports Ukraine.



## 7. TIMING

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

### Finding 1: Opening clips — temperament and controversial statements

Position: 00:45–01:38 (beginning)

Content: The introductory video shows Dijk speaking about "NSB flags" (01:09), "37 applauding people who pocket 144,000 euros a year" (00:55), and the champagne remark (01:15).

#### Timing effect

The viewer is immediately confronted with Dijk's most controversial and emotionally charged statements, which sets a frame of a temperamental, confrontational politician before substantive positions are discussed. This can evoke both sympathy and antipathy, depending on the viewer.

### Finding 2: Guilt-by-association segment — just before the coalition debate

Position: 32:02–33:13 (mid-late, directly before the coalition debate at 39:36)

Content: The segment about the alternative NATO summit and the pro-Russian parties is placed just before the conversation about coalition formation.

#### Timing effect

The association with pro-Russian parties is activated in the viewer's memory at the moment Dijk's coalition ambitions are discussed, undermining his credibility as a potential governing partner.

### Finding 3: Nitrogen news segment — doubt about cabinet policy as closing item

Position: 46:34–47:54 (end of news segment, just before return to Dijk)

Content: "But the fear is that the court will find that relaxation unlawful." (47:08)

#### Timing effect

The news segment ends with doubt about the legal feasibility of the right-wing cabinet's policy (nitrogen), which forms an implicit contrast with the SP portrait that was broadcast before it.

Summary: The timing of the guilt-by-association segment (just before the coalition debate) and the opening clips (most controversial statements first) are the most significant timing findings. The nitrogen news segment implicitly reinforces the SP narrative about failing cabinet policy.



## 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: Critical follow-up questioning on Ukraine voting record

Timestamp: 34:00–38:09

Triggering event: SP voted against a motion to isolate Russia.

Reaction: "There was a motion to isolate Russia. You voted against it. Why?" (34:04–34:09) — followed by several critical follow-up questions about solidarity with Ukrainian soldiers (38:22).

#### Comparison

In the discussion of VVD policy (Tata Steel, 28:03) or BBB nitrogen policy (news segment), no comparable critical follow-up questions are put to representatives of those parties — but they are also not present.

Asymmetry: Not fully demonstrable as selective, because no other politicians are present to compare with. The critical follow-up questioning is journalistically legitimate.

Degree of indignation: 2/5

Selectivity: 1/5

### Finding 2: Reaction to "utterly left-wing" qualification

Timestamp: 09:17–09:35

Triggering event: House economist qualifies SP programme as "utterly left-wing".

Reaction: Dijk responds positively ("I think it's fantastic that you picked this one out", 11:11). No indignation from the presenter or journalists.

#### Comparison

No comparable moment in the broadcast where a right-wing programme is qualified as "utterly right-wing".

Asymmetry: Present but limited — it is a quote from the house economist, not from the presenter herself.

Degree of indignation: 1/5

Selectivity: 2/5

Summary: The broadcast shows limited selective indignation. The critical follow-up questioning on the Ukraine voting record is journalistically legitimate but has no equivalent at other political positions — which is however inherent to the portrait format with one guest. The qualification "utterly left-wing" without a comparable label for right-wing programmes is a slight asymmetry.



## 9. COMPLETENESS (Selective Omission — Overall Picture)

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*Definition: How completely does the broadcast portray the topic?*

### Finding 1: No financial quantification of SP programme

Timestamp: 10:39–11:05

Missing perspective/fact: What does the SP programme cost? What tax increases are needed? What are the macroeconomic risks of price regulation?

Relevance: Voters cannot assess a programme without financial substantiation. For other parties, CPB costing is a standard part of election coverage.

#### Effect

The SP programme is presented substantively without quantifying the financial consequences, giving an incomplete picture.

### Finding 2: No external verification of defence figures

Timestamp: 29:45–30:01

Missing perspective/fact: The SP's claim that Europe already has three and a half times more military capacity than Russia without the US is not verified by a defence expert.

Relevance: This is a crucial empirical claim that forms the basis for the SP's position on the NATO target.

#### Effect

The voter cannot assess whether the SP's claim is factually correct.

### Finding 3: No representation of the perspective of Ukraine or Eastern European NATO countries

Timestamp: 30:27–38:09

Missing perspective/fact: Countries such as Poland, the Baltic states and Ukraine itself have a fundamentally different security perspective than the SP.

Relevance: The defence debate is conducted exclusively from a Dutch/Western perspective.

#### Effect

The voter gains no insight into the concrete security needs of countries on the Russian border.

Summary: The broadcast is incomplete on three crucial points: financial feasibility of the SP programme, empirical verification of defence claims, and the perspective of directly involved countries in the Ukraine debate. This considerably limits the informative value for the voter.



## Soft facts — 6 qualitative techniques

### 10. FRAMING (Setting the frame)

5/10

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*Definition: How is the topic fundamentally framed?*

#### Finding 1: SP as "radical but honest" — legitimisation of the alternative

Timestamp: 09:17–09:35

<b>Quote</b>	<i>"It is utterly left-wing. But it is very consistent. It is a different view of people and society. But it is not a mess. It is a solid and consistent story."</i>
<b>Manipulation</b>	The frame "radical but solid" legitimises the SP programme as a serious alternative, while the radicalism is neutralised by the qualification "consistent".
<b>Why problematic</b>	The viewer gets the impression that the SP programme, while far from the centre, is substantively sound — without this being confirmed by an independent economist.

#### Finding 2: NATO target as "Trump target" — framing of the defence debate

Timestamp: 01:23 "It is not a NATO target, it is a Trump target."

<b>Quote</b>	<i>The presenter repeats this frame in the questioning: "You call it the Trump target and you do not want to meet it." (29:33–29:34)</i>
<b>Manipulation</b>	By labelling the NATO target as a "Trump target" — and adopting this frame in the questioning — the target is associated with a controversial foreign leader rather than with the collective security need of NATO member states.
<b>Why problematic</b>	The 5% target was established collectively by NATO, not by Trump alone. Adopting Dijk's terminology in the questioning is an editorial choice that legitimises the SP frame.

#### Finding 3: Housing crisis as "affordability problem" — SP frame as starting point

Timestamp: 16:45–17:41

<b>Quote</b>	<i>"The housing crisis is an affordability crisis." (16:45) — This frame is not challenged.</i>
<b>Manipulation</b>	The SP frame (housing crisis = affordability = more social rental housing) is taken as the starting point, while other frames (supply shortage, building regulation, land policy) are not introduced.
<b>Why problematic</b>	The viewer gets the impression that the housing crisis is primarily an affordability problem that can be solved through social rental housing, without alternative analyses being presented.

Summary: The broadcast adopts the SP frame as its starting point on three points: the programme as a "solid alternative", the NATO target as a "Trump target", and the housing crisis as an affordability problem. This reinforces the SP message without critical distance.



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## 11. WORD CHOICE AND CONCEPTS

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*Definition: What language is used? What connotations are set?*

### Finding 1: "Utterly left-wing" as a qualification

Timestamp: 09:17

<b>Quote</b>	<i>"It is utterly left-wing."</i>
<b>Manipulation</b>	"Utterly" is an informal, intensifying adverb with a slightly pejorative connotation (compare: "utterly mad"). It places the SP programme outside the political centre in a way that both radicalises and ridicules it.
<b>Why problematic</b>	A neutral alternative would be: "far left" or "radical left". "Utterly left-wing" is a value judgement that crosses the boundary between journalistic analysis and political commentary.

### Finding 2: "Trump target" as a description of the NATO target

Timestamp: 29:33

<b>Quote</b>	<i>"You call it the Trump target and you do not want to meet it."</i>
<b>Manipulation</b>	The presenter adopts Dijk's terminology without distancing herself ("you call it" is a correct attribution, but the repetition in the questioning normalises the frame).
<b>Why problematic</b>	Neutral alternative: "the new NATO target of 5%, which you call the Trump target". The current formulation suggests that the qualification "Trump target" is an accepted description.

### Finding 3: "Ritual dance" as a description of SP coalition ambitions

Timestamp: 07:26

<b>Quote</b>	<i>"Is it not a kind of ritual dance that the SP says every time: We want to participate, but that ultimately does not happen?"</i>
<b>Manipulation</b>	"Ritual dance" is a metaphor that qualifies SP coalition ambitions as an empty ritual — performative and without substance.
<b>Why problematic</b>	Neutral alternative: "Is it not a pattern that the SP says it wants to govern but that this does not work out?" The metaphor "ritual dance" adds a judgement that undermines the credibility of Dijk's ambitions.

Summary: Three cases of word choice that add a judgement to what is presented as neutral journalistic description: "utterly left-wing", "Trump target" (adopted without distancing), and "ritual dance". All three work in different directions (radicalising, legitimising the SP frame, undermining SP credibility).



## 12. MODERATION BEHAVIOUR

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*Definition: Asymmetries in follow-up questioning, 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: Personal opening — marriage and temperament

Timestamp: 01:48–02:41

Triggering event: Dijk's first elections, recently married.

#### Quote (presenter)

*"You have just got married, you are still in the honeymoon period. Are you able to cope a little for your wife in the hectic of the campaign?"*

#### Comparison

Not verifiable (no other guests present), but the personal opening creates a sympathetic atmosphere that softens the critical tone of later questions.

Asymmetry: Not demonstrable as selective without comparative material, but the warm personal opening is an editorial choice that places the guest in a positive light.

### Finding 2: Follow-up questioning on Ukraine voting record — multiple follow-up questions

Timestamp: 34:00–38:09

Triggering event: SP voted against motion to isolate Russia.

#### Quote (presenter)

*"There was a motion to isolate Russia. You voted against it. Why?" — followed by: "Do you not see Putin as the aggressor?" (34:32), "You believe that the people should have power. The people of Ukraine want to belong to NATO and the EU. You believe that is not allowed." (38:51), "You don't care about that?" (39:20).*

#### Comparison

In the discussion of economic plans (price regulation, Tata Steel), comparable critical follow-up questions are asked, but less emotionally charged.

Asymmetry: The Ukraine segment contains the most persistent and emotionally charged follow-up questioning of the broadcast. This is journalistically legitimate given the weight of the subject, but the emotional charge ("You don't care about that?") crosses the boundary of neutral questioning.

### Finding 3: No follow-up question on "utterly left-wing" qualification

Timestamp: 09:17–11:16

Triggering event: House economist qualifies SP programme as "utterly left-wing" but also as "solid and consistent".

Presenter's reaction: No follow-up question on the contradiction between "utterly left-wing" and "solid". The positive qualification is not challenged.

#### Comparison

Follow-up questions are asked on Dijk's own statements.

Asymmetry: The positive qualification of the SP programme by the house economist is not critically questioned, while Dijk's own positive statements about his programme are challenged.



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Summary: The moderation behaviour is predominantly professional but shows two asymmetries: the emotionally charged follow-up question on Ukraine ("You don't care about that?") crosses the boundary of neutral questioning, and the positive qualification of the SP programme by the house economist is not critically questioned.



### 13. QUESTION ASYMMETRY

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

#### Asymmetry 1: Personal questions vs. substantive questions

To Jimmy Dijk, 01:48–02:41: "Are you able to cope a little for your wife in the hectic of the campaign?" — soft/personal

To Jimmy Dijk, 34:04–34:09: "There was a motion to isolate Russia. You voted against it. Why?" — hard/critical

#### Comparison

The broadcast alternates between soft personal questions (marriage, temperament, champagne) and hard substantive questions (Ukraine, coalition, financing). This is a deliberate editorial choice that places the guest alternately in a sympathetic and critical light. The soft questions at the beginning create a positive atmosphere that softens the critical questions later.

#### Asymmetry 2: Financing of SP plans vs. financing of cabinet policy

To Jimmy Dijk, 10:39: "It all costs money. Is it affordable?" — hard/critical

On cabinet policy (nitrogen, news segment): No comparable question about financing of nitrogen relaxation or legal costs. — not asked (no guest present)

#### Comparison

The financial feasibility of SP plans is critically questioned, but the financial consequences of cabinet policy are not problematised in a comparable way in the news segment. This is partly inherent to the format (no cabinet representative present), but creates an asymmetry in the overall broadcast.

Summary: The question asymmetry is limited but present: soft personal questions at the beginning create a sympathetic atmosphere, and the financial feasibility of SP plans is questioned more critically than that of cabinet policy in the news segment.



## 14. FALSE BALANCE

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*Definition: Artificial balance despite factual imbalance.*

### Finding 1: Presentation of SP as a serious governing party

Timestamp: 06:36–07:29

Construction: The broadcast presents the SP as a party that "wants to govern" and shows three clips of SP leaders saying this (Marijnissen 2008, Roemer, Lilian Marijnissen 2021). At the same time, the historical failure is mentioned ("They say so, but it doesn't work out").

### Analysis

This is not a classic false balance (presenting two equivalent positions as equally strong), but rather a balance between aspiration and reality that does not fully challenge the SP's position. The historical failure is mentioned but not analysed.

Summary: No significant false balance identified. The broadcast presents the SP's position critically enough to avoid false balance, but the historical failure of SP coalition attempts is insufficiently analysed to give a fully balanced picture.



## 15. AGENDA-SETTING

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

### Finding 1: Preserving industry as a self-evident policy goal

Agenda element set: The question is not whether heavy industry should be preserved, but how. Both the presenter and Mathijs accept preserving industry as the starting point.

Timestamp: 20:51 "What is your most important argument for preserving heavy industry for the Netherlands?"

Evidence: "What is your most important argument for preserving heavy industry for the Netherlands?" — the question presupposes that preservation is desirable.

Alternative agenda: A question such as "Is it actually wise to invest billions in a sector that is structurally loss-making?" would open a fundamentally different debate.

### Finding 2: Coalition from SP to CDA as a realistic scenario

Agenda element set: The possibility of a coalition from SP to CDA is taken seriously and worked out visually (coalition board, 39:36).

Timestamp: 39:36–40:25

Evidence: "Arjen walks to the coalition board." — The coalition option is visually concretised.

Alternative agenda: Given the polls (SP approx. 5 seats) and the historical failure of SP coalition attempts, the question "Is this scenario realistic?" could have been more central.

### Finding 3: Price regulation as a legitimate policy instrument

Agenda element set: The discussion about price regulation is not about whether it is a legitimate instrument, but about how it works.

Timestamp: 11:06–14:17

Evidence: "How does that work then?" (11:38) — the question presupposes that price regulation is an option.

Alternative agenda: A more fundamental question about the constitutional and European legal limits of price regulation in a free market economy is absent.

Summary: The agenda-setting favours the SP narrative on three points: preserving industry as a self-evident goal, the SP coalition as a realistic scenario, and price regulation as a legitimate instrument. Fundamental questions about the feasibility and desirability of these choices do not make it onto the agenda.



## CHAPTER 4 — OVERALL ASSESSMENT

### Overview of Individual Scores

No.	Criterion	Type	Score	Main finding (1 sentence)
1	Choice of experts	H	6	Exclusively internal NPO employees as experts; no independent economist, defence expert or industry specialist
2	Choice of sources	H	5	Unspecified polls and voter research without methodological accountability; two penalty points for insufficiently substantiated claims
3	Time allocation	H	4	Inherent to portrait format; no representative of another political position present as counterweight
4	Omission	H	6	Financial feasibility of SP programme not quantified; historical coalition failure not analysed; Ukraine voting record presented selectively
5	Use of figures	H	5	Three cases of incomplete presentation of figures: military capacity, voter research and energy requirement without source citation or methodological context
7	Timing	H	4	Guilt-by-association segment strategically placed just before coalition debate; opening clips show most controversial statements first
8	Selective indignation	H	3	Limited asymmetry; critical follow-up questioning on Ukraine is journalistically legitimate but emotionally charged
9	Completeness	H	6	Three crucial perspectives absent: financial feasibility, defence claims unverified, Eastern European security perspective absent
10	Framing	S	5	SP frame adopted on three points: "solid alternative", "Trump target", housing crisis as affordability problem
11	Word choice	S	4	"Utterly left-wing", "Trump target" (adopted), "ritual dance" add judgements to neutral descriptions
12	Moderation behaviour	S	4	Emotionally charged follow-up questioning on Ukraine; positive qualification of SP programme not critically questioned
13	Question asymmetry	S	4	Soft personal opening followed by hard substantive questions; financing of SP plans questioned more critically than cabinet policy
14	False balance	S	2	No significant false balance; historical coalition failure insufficiently analysed
15	Agenda-setting	S	5	SP narrative favoured on three points: preserving industry, coalition realism and price regulation as self-evident starting points

### Results

- HARD FACTS SCORE (average criteria 1-9): 5.1 / 10
- SOFT FACTS SCORE (average criteria 10-15): 4.0 / 10
- TOTAL SCORE (average all 15 criteria): 4.7 / 10



## Dominant Techniques

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- 1. Guilt by Association (Score 7):** The linking of the SP to pro-Russian European parties via the alternative NATO summit is the most significant manipulation technique in the broadcast. The visual presentation of parties that stood on Red Square, combined with the suggestion that the SP is "looking for allies" among these parties, creates a misleading association that ignores the SP's position (Russia as aggressor, support for Ukraine).
- 2. Omission/Selective Omission (Score 6):** The absence of financial quantification of the SP programme, the unanalysed historical coalition failure and the selectively presented Ukraine voting record structurally limit the informative value of the broadcast. The voter cannot fully assess the SP programme without this information.
- 3. Choice of Experts (Score 6):** The exclusive use of internal NPO employees as experts — without independent economists, defence experts or industry specialists — undermines the external validation of the analyses presented. The qualification "solid and consistent" by the house economist legitimises the SP programme without independent scrutiny.

## Core Messages of the Broadcast

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**MESSAGE 1 (SUBSTANTIVE):** "The SP programme is radical but serious — a consistent alternative to the dominant market thinking."

**Technique:** Framing by house economist ("utterly left-wing but solid"), agenda-setting (preserving industry and price regulation as legitimate options) — Evidence: 09:17, 11:06, 20:51

**MESSAGE 2 (PERSONAL):** "Jimmy Dijk is an authentic, temperamental leader with working-class roots who can make compromises."

**Technique:** Personal opening (marriage, mother, cardboard factory), positive approval ratings, coalition willingness — Evidence: 01:48, 02:41, 08:02

**MESSAGE 3 (SOCIETAL):** "The SP stands for a different world, but its defence position and associations with pro-Russian parties raise serious questions."

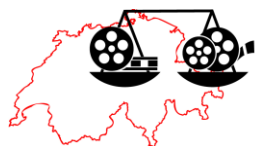
**Technique:** Guilt by association (NATO summit), critical follow-up questioning Ukraine, timing of the association segment — Evidence: 32:02, 34:00, 38:22

**Reasoning:** The broadcast scores 4.7/10, which is on the boundary between "slight tendency" and "clear one-sidedness". The structural choice for a portrait format with one guest (SP) without external counter-voices, combined with the adoption of SP frames (Trump target, housing crisis as affordability problem), the absence of financial quantification and the misleading guilt-by-association with pro-Russian parties, justifies the qualification "clear one-sidedness". The broadcast is not systematically manipulative, but shows a pattern of editorial choices that favour the SP's position while critical scrutiny remains limited. In the context of Media Act Art. 2.1, the broadcast is in itself insufficiently pluriform, but this can be compensated by other broadcasts in the election series.

## CONCLUSION

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The Nieuwsuur election broadcast with Jimmy Dijk (SP) shows a pattern of editorial choices that favour the SP's position without sufficient external scrutiny, which is at odds with the pluralism obligation of Media Act Art. 2.1. The most significant findings are: (1) the misleading guilt-by-association of the SP with pro-Russian European parties via the alternative NATO summit, while the SP recognises Russia as the aggressor and supports Ukraine; (2) the absence of financial quantification of the SP programme, while the choice not to participate in CPB costing is merely mentioned without substantive analysis; (3) the adoption of SP frames ("Trump target", housing crisis as affordability problem) as the starting point for the questioning; and (4) the exclusive use of internal NPO employees as experts without independent external validation. The portrait format explains some of the structural limitations, but does not relieve the editorial team of the obligation to subject SP positions to external, independent scrutiny. The broadcast is in itself insufficiently pluriform within the meaning of Media Act Art. 2.1, but can be assessed as part of a broader election series in which other parties receive comparable attention. On the basis of this broadcast alone, however, there is a pattern of editorial choices that favours the SP's position and that, if structurally present in the series, could constitute a violation of Art. 2.1 that is open to review by the Media Authority.



## OVERALL EVALUATION OF THE 15 CRITERIA

### Individual scores — All 15 criteria

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

#### HARD FACTS SCORE (1-8)

**5.1/10**

*Considerable imbalance*

#### SOFT FACTS SCORE (9-14)

**4.0/10**

*Slight imbalance*

#### TOTAL SCORE

**4.6/10**

*Considerable imbalance*

*Average of Hard Facts and Soft Facts*



## KEY — Meaning of the scores

### Individual scores per criterion (0–10)

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

### Aggregated deviation index — Interpretation ranges

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

### Party-political bias (-5 to +5)

<b>-5 to -3</b>	<b>Strongly disadvantaged</b>	Party is clearly disadvantaged in framing, airtime or presentation.
<b>-2 to -1</b>	<b>Slightly disadvantaged</b>	Recognisable but minor disadvantage.
<b>0</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	No discernible favouring or disadvantaging.
<b>+1 to +2</b>	<b>Slightly favoured</b>	Recognisable but minor favouring.
<b>+3 to +5</b>	<b>Strongly favoured</b>	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 requires pluriform, balanced and independent reporting by the public broadcaster.

#### Violation 1:

Standard: Media Act Art. 2.1 — pluriformity

Factual description: The broadcast presents exclusively the position of one party (SP, CHES 1.1, far left) for approx. without a representative of another political position as counterweight. Not a single external, independent expert is deployed to scrutinise SP positions.

Evidence: Timestamp 00:00–43:13 — the complete portrait broadcast contains exclusively Jimmy Dijk (SP) as political guest, with internal NPO employees as the only interlocutors.

Assessment: This is a structural limitation of pluriformity. Although the portrait format inherently places one guest at the centre, Art. 2.1 requires that even within a portrait broadcast, external, independent perspectives are introduced. The absence of independent experts for financial, defence and industrial analysis limits the pluriformity of the information provision.

#### Violation 2:

Standard: Media Act Art. 2.1 — balance

Factual description: The guilt-by-association of the SP with pro-Russian European parties (32:02–33:13) is misleading and not balanced, because the SP recognises Russia as the aggressor and supports Ukraine. The association is visually reinforced without the fundamental differences between the SP's position and that of the associated parties being explained.

Evidence: Timestamp 32:02–33:13 — "These parties were on Red Square as guests of Putin at the red parade." — followed by: "If these are your allies, how do you achieve peace with them?" (33:20)

Assessment: The suggestion that the SP is "looking for allies" among parties that stood on Red Square, while the SP recognises Russia as the aggressor (34:38–34:45), is an inaccurate and potentially misleading representation that violates the balance requirement of Art. 2.1.

#### Violation 3:

Standard: Media Act Art. 2.1 — independence

Factual description: The adoption of SP frames in the questioning ("the Trump target", 29:33; housing crisis as affordability problem, 16:45) without critical distance undermines the editorial independence required by Art. 2.1.

Evidence: Timestamp 29:33 — "You call it the Trump target and you do not want to meet it." — The presenter adopts the SP's terminology as a description of the NATO target.

Assessment: The adoption of a political party's terminology in the questioning without distancing is a violation of the editorial independence required by Art. 2.1.

### Overall assessment Media Act Art. 2.1

The broadcast does not fully meet the requirements of Media Act Art. 2.1 on three points: pluriformity is limited by the absence of external, independent experts; balance is violated by the misleading guilt-by-association of the SP with pro-Russian parties; and editorial independence is undermined by the adoption of SP frames in the questioning. These findings must be assessed in the context of the broader election series: Art. 2.1 requires pluriformity across the total output, not per broadcast. If the other broadcasts in the series give comparable attention to parties across the entire political spectrum with comparable editorial quality, the series as a whole can meet Art. 2.1. On the basis of this broadcast alone, however, there is a pattern of editorial choices that favours the SP's position and that, if structurally present in the series, could constitute a violation of Art. 2.1 that is open to review by the Media Authority.



## SOURCE DEPTH CHECK (Mandatory for all cited specialist bodies / NGOs / advisory bodies)

### 1. Hans Bouman — Nieuwsuur house economist

**1. FUNDING:** Employed by BNNVARA/NPO. Publicly funded via broadcasting contribution and government contribution. No external mandate.

**2. MANDATE:** Journalistic interpretation of economic plans for a broad audience. Not compatible with independent scientific assessment.

**3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** Institutional interest in providing accessible, comprehensible interpretation that aligns with the editorial line of the broadcast. No external interest, but also no independence from the broadcaster.

**4. CREDIBILITY MATRIX:**

D1 Conflict of interest: 0 — Employed by broadcaster, no external interest

D2 Personal risk: 0 — None

D3 Professional competence: +1 — Economist, but no specialised knowledge of industrial policy

D4 Consistency of opinion: 0 — Not verifiable

D5 Emotionalisation vs. data: +1 — Predominantly factual, but "utterly left-wing" is a value judgement

D6 Source level: 0 — Secondary source

• TOTAL: +2 → SOURCE LIGHT: YELLOW

**5. COUNTERVOICE:** An independent economist from the CPB, ESB or a university could have provided a more structured and externally validated assessment. Not cited.

IMPORTANT: The qualification "solid and consistent" by Bouman is a social legitimisation, not a scientific qualification. It is an editorial judgement by an employee of the broadcaster making the broadcast, presented as external validation.

### 2. Mathijs — Nieuwsuur journalist/analyst (industrial policy)

**1. FUNDING:** Employed by BNNVARA/NPO. Publicly funded.

**2. MANDATE:** Journalistic interpretation of industrial policy plans. Not compatible with technical or scientific assessment of energy transition or industrial policy.

**3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** No external interest, but also no independence from the broadcaster.

**4. CREDIBILITY MATRIX:**

D1 Conflict of interest: 0

D2 Personal risk: 0

D3 Professional competence: 0 — Journalist, not an industry specialist or energy transition expert

D4 Consistency of opinion: 0

D5 Emotionalisation vs. data: +1

D6 Source level: -1 — Tertiary source

• TOTAL: 0 → SOURCE LIGHT: YELLOW

**5. COUNTERVOICE:** An energy transition expert (e.g. TNO, ECN/Petten) or industry specialist could have assessed the technical feasibility of green industrial policy. Not cited.

IMPORTANT: "Analyst" is an editorial job title, not an academic or professional qualification. The boundary between journalistic questioning and expert analysis blurs in the broadcast, creating the impression of external validation that does not exist.

### Source traffic light for participants:

Source	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	Total	Signal
Hans Bouman — Nieuwsuur house economist	0	0	+1	0	+1	0	+2	YELLOW
Mathijs — Nieuwsuur journalist/analyst (industrial policy)	0	0	0	0	+1	-1	0	YELLOW

### Legal and methodological notes



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**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 Media Authority).

**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.

**No judgement on intention**

The analysis measures observable structural characteristics of broadcasts. A score of 7 means that a considerable imbalance has been identified — 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

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#### Act

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Media Act 2008

#### Relevant articles

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- 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

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

#### Supervisory authority

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

#### Complaints procedure

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1. NPO Ombudsman
2. Media Authority
3. Court (administrative court)



## APPENDIX 2: SCIENTIFIC SOURCES

### Literature

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