

= Pim Fortuyn List =

The Pim Fortuyn List (Dutch : Lijst Pim Fortuyn , LPF) was a right @-@ wing populist political party in the Netherlands . The eponymous founder of the party was Pim Fortuyn , a charismatic former university professor and political columnist who initially had planned to contest the 2002 general election as leader of the Livable Netherlands (LN) party . He was however dismissed as party leader in February 2002 due to controversial remarks he made in a newspaper interview on immigration @-@ related issues , and instead founded LPF a few days later . After gaining support in opinion polls , Fortuyn was assassinated on 6 May 2002 , days before the election . The party held onto its support , and went on to become the second @-@ largest party in the election .

The LPF formed part of a coalition government with the Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA) and the People 's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) , but internal conflicts in the LPF led to the coalition 's break @-@ up and fresh elections after a few months . Following the 2003 election , the party was left in opposition . It became clear that the party was not viable without its original leader , and it went into decline until it was finally dissolved in 2008 .

= = History = =

= = = Background = = =

Fortuyn announced his intention to run for parliament in a television interview on 20 August 2001 . An unusual aspect of this was that it was not yet clear which political party he would be a candidate for . Although he was already in contact with the Livable Netherlands (LN) party , he initially also considered running for the CDA or creating his own list . On 25 November he was chosen as party leader for the LN . The LN functioned as the national extension of a movement that had contested municipal but never national elections . Fortuyn concluded his acceptance speech by saying the words that would become his slogan ; " At your service ! " Almost immediately after Fortuyn became leader , LN went from 2 % in opinion polls to about 17 % . In January 2002 , it was announced that Fortuyn also would head the Livable Rotterdam (LR) list for the March 2002 local elections . The official 2002 election study found that immigration and integration problems were the second most important issue for voters after issues concerning the health care system . Helped by the many speeches and interviews given by Fortuyn , immigration issues became the major topic of the national political agenda , thereby forcing other parties to react .

Until February , the LN had received disproportionate and generally sympathetic coverage in the media . The situation took a dramatic turn on 9 February , when Fortuyn was interviewed in de Volkskrant , one of the leading national newspapers . Against the strong advice of his campaign team , he made several controversial statements ; including one that said Islam was " a backward culture " , that no more asylum seekers would be allowed into the country , and , if necessary , the possible repeal of anti @-@ racism clauses in the Dutch Constitution to protect freedom of speech . Fortuyn was dismissed as party leader the next day , and in a television interview said that the split was irreparable , although he would have preferred to remain in the party . He founded Pim Fortuyn List (LPF) on 11 February . Opinion polls soon showed that he took most of LN 's supporters with him , leaving LN with its original 2 % , while Fortuyn soared to 17 % . The local LR ? which held on to Fortuyn as its leader ? was hugely successful in the March 2002 local elections , as it won more than one third of the vote and became Rotterdam 's strongest party .

= = = Fortuyn assassination = = =

It was reported in February 2002 that Fortuyn did not dare to appear in public owing to death threats . In March , he was attacked by pie @-@ throwing activists at the presentation of his new book *De puinhopen van acht jaar Paars* (which became the bestselling book by a Dutch author in the Netherlands in 2002) . Despite this , the authorities did not provide protection for Fortuyn , nor

did he request protection . On 6 May , Fortuyn was assassinated outside a radio studio . This was the first political murder in the Netherlands for centuries (excluding the Second World War) . Some claimed that by " demonising " Fortuyn , the political left and the media had created a climate of opinion that had made the assassination possible . Campaigning immediately stopped , and although some suggested postponing the elections , the campaign resumed (half @-@ heartedly) after his funeral four days later . His funeral was broadcast live on television and , according to Cas Mudde , lead " to scenes of mass hysteria not seen since the Dutch national football team won the European Championship in 1988 . " The murder of Fortuyn , together with that of Theo van Gogh two years later , would result in a polarisation in the political debate in the Netherlands , and subsequently radical changes in immigration @-@ related policies and public discourse .

= = = First Balkenende cabinet (2002 ? 2003) = = =

The LPF decided to maintain Fortuyn 's candidacy , and delayed naming a new leader until after the election . The 2002 general election proved a great success for the LPF , yielding 17 % of the votes and 26 seats in the House of Representatives ? by far a record number of seats in the Netherlands for a new party ? to become the second largest party . LN also made it into Parliament , with two seats . The Labour Party (PvdA) and People 's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD) saw their largest @-@ ever losses , while the Christian Democratic Appeal (CDA) won large gains . CDA leader Jan Peter Balkenende had earlier announced that his party would follow a tougher line towards asylum seekers , and he later agreed with much of Fortuyn 's criticism of the purple coalition and Holland 's multicultural society . As leader of the strongest party , Balkenende became the leading candidate for Prime Minister .

Following the election , Mat Herben was chosen as LPF party leader as Fortuyn 's successor . Together with the CDA and the VVD , the party formed part of the governing coalition , and supplied several members for the Balkenende cabinet . The party was granted four of fourteen cabinet seats , for immigration , economics , health and sports . But without its original leader and lack of a clearly defined organisational structure , the LPF soon succumbed to highly public internal squabbles . By October 2002 , the break @-@ up of the government coalition was triggered by the bickering of LPF Ministers Eduard Bomhoff and Herman Heinsbroek .

= = = Opposition and disintegration (2003 ? 2006) = = =

In the January 2003 general election , the LPF shrank to 5 @.@ 7 % support and eight seats . Following the election the LPF was exchanged for the Democrats 66 in the government coalition , and would find it hard to maintain support in opposition . Besides Joost Eerdmans , most of its Members of Parliament were not very visible , while party leader Herben had enough work just keeping the party from further infighting . The party also went into financial straits , and as the new coalition continued most of the former coalition 's policies , it was hard for the LPF to oppose the government .

The LPF won just 2 @.@ 6 % of the vote in the 2004 European Parliament election , and did not win a seat . In this election , Paul van Buitenen surprisingly won two seats with his anti @-@ corruption Europe Transparent (although it was not successful in the long term) . By 2004 , the LPF had fallen to a less than 1 % support and disintegrated . The party had lost most of its members , and the parliamentary faction had declared itself independent from the party .

= = = List Five Fortuyn (2006 ? 2008) = = =

The LPF participated in the 2006 general election under its new name List Five Fortuyn (Lijst Vijf Fortuyn) . On 25 September 2006 , the party released its campaign commercial , which featured new leader Olaf Stuger coming down from " heaven " with a parachute and presenting himself as a " reincarnation " of Pim Fortuyn . Marten Fortuyn , brother of Pim Fortuyn , declared it " outrageous and tasteless . " In the election , LVF did not receive enough votes to secure a seat with support of

only 0.2 %. In July 2007 , the party voted to dissolve itself on 1 January 2008 .

Fortuyn 's political heritage scattered among various politicians , many of which were not successful . These include Marco Pastors , leader of the One NL , and Hilbrand Nawijn , leader of the Party for the Netherlands ? none of which managed to win a seat in the 2006 election . More importantly however , the party had been squeezed out by the tougher line on immigration issues by mainstream politicians such as Minister for Integration and Immigration Rita Verdonk , who largely adopted Fortuyn 's policies . By the end of the decade , former LPF supporters had mostly moved to support Geert Wilders and his Party for Freedom (PVV) .

= = Ideology = =

= = = Fortuynism = = =

The ideology or political style that is derived from Pim Fortuyn , and in turn the LPF , is often called Fortuynism . Observers variously saw him as a political protest targeting the alleged elitism and bureaucratic style of the Dutch purple coalitions or as offering an appealing political style . The style was characterized variously as one " of openness , directness and clearness " , populism or simply as charisma . Another school holds Fortuynism as a distinct ideology , with an alternative vision of society . Some argued that Fortuynism was not just one ideology , but contained liberalism , populism and nationalism .

During the 2002 campaign , Fortuyn was accused of being on the " extreme right " , although others saw only certain similarities . While he employed anti -immigration rhetoric , he was neither a radical nationalist nor a defender of traditional authoritarian values . On the contrary , Fortuyn wanted to protect the socio -culturally liberal values of the Netherlands , women 's rights and sexual minorities (he was openly homosexual himself) , from the " backward " Islamic culture . The LPF also won support from some ethnic minorities ; one of Fortuyn 's closest associates was of Cape Verdean origin , and one of the party 's MPs was a young woman of Turkish descent .

= = = Foreign policy = = =

Although the LPF was established post 9 / 11 , Fortuyn had already developed a worldview based on the " clash between civilizations " , namely between " modernity " and Islam , or Western society and Islamic culture . The LPF supported NATO , but was eurosceptic and saw the European Union as a " bureaucracy which barely interests its citizens , let alone inspires them . " The party did however not oppose the project of European integration in general , but rather its present organization , lack of democracy and threat to national sovereignty . Opposing the full membership of Turkey , Albania , Ukraine , Belarus and Russia , the LPF maintained that the European Union " shouldn 't cross the Bosphorus and the Ural " .

= = Election results = =

= = = Parliament = = =

= = = European Parliament = = =

= = Organisation = =

= = = Leadership = = =

