
The Netherlands flag

Evaluation, proposal and comparison.

A study by Eliot Sela

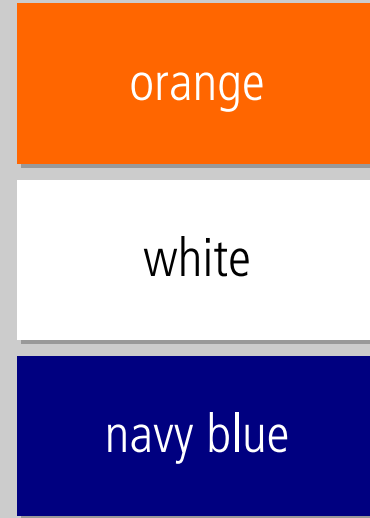
March 23, 2006

All flags are shown here at 3x2 ratio.

Historic Netherlands flag.



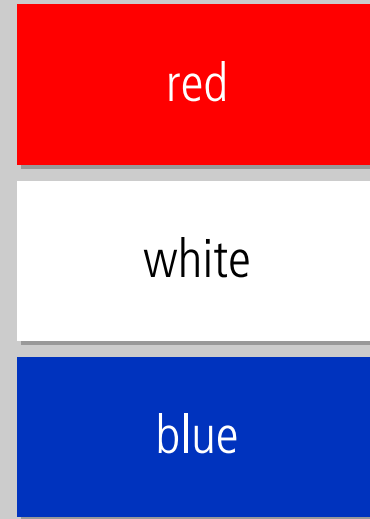
Prince William of Orange flag



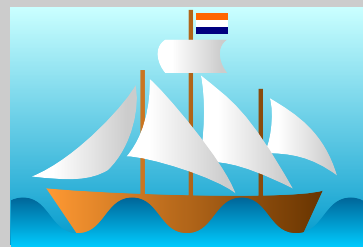
Current Netherlands flag.



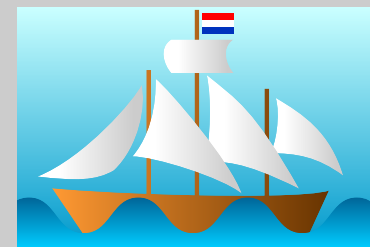
Netherlands flag



As a seafaring nation, the Netherlands was the first to fly its flag on its merchant marine fleet. The current flag colors were more visible at sea than the historic colors.



An old Dutch sailing ship with historic flag.



An old Dutch sailing ship with current flag.

Related flags.



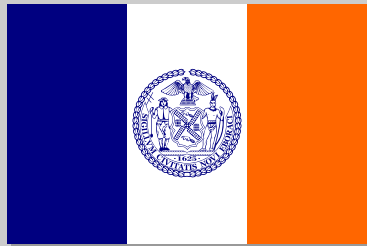
Netherlands, current flag



Netherlands, historic flag



Netherlands, popular flag
Used by fans in international sport competitions



New York City flag
Originally a Dutch colony; New Amsterdam



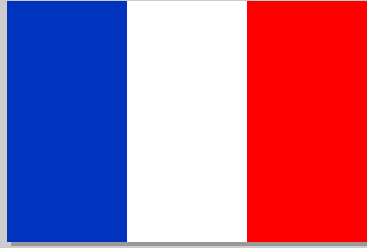
Old South African flag
Originally a Dutch colony

Problem: Current flag's visual impact is not powerful.

Vertical orientation in the French flag has greater impact.



Netherlands



France

Problem: Current flag too similar to Luxembourg flag.



Netherlands



Luxembourg

Problem: Current flag too similar to other flags.



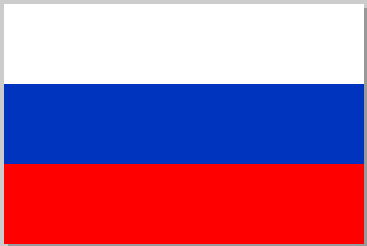
Netherlands



Paraguay



Croatia



Russia



Slovenia



Slovakia

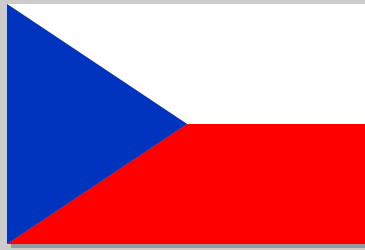


Serbia & Montenegro

Problem: Current flag colors overused in other flags.



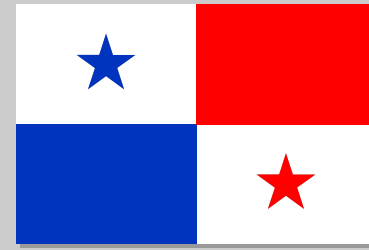
Netherlands



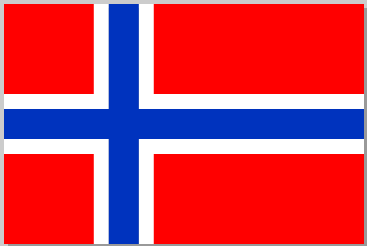
Czech Republic



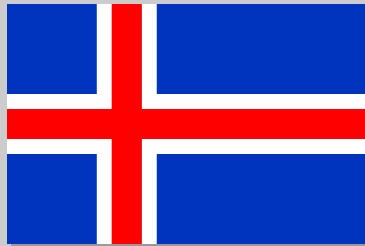
Dominican Republic



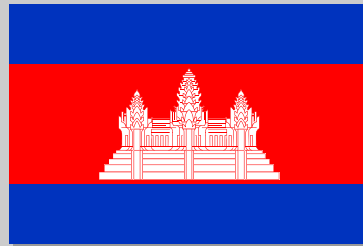
Panama



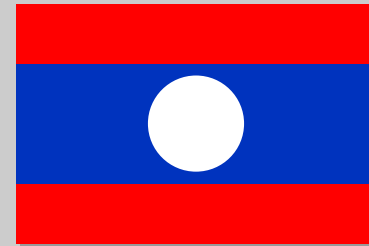
Norway



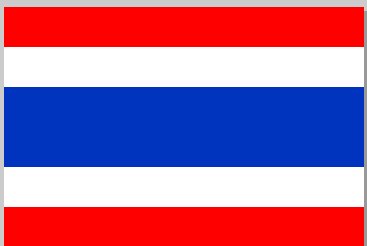
Iceland



Cambodia



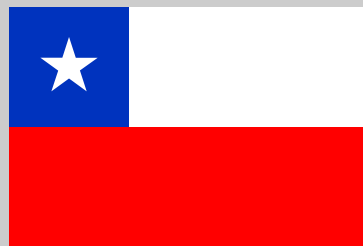
Laos



Thailand



Costa Rica



Chile



Puerto Rico

Problem: Current flag colors are also used in politically charged countries._____



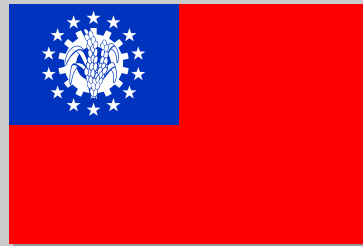
Netherlands



Cuba



North Korea



Myanmar



Serbia
(Part of Serbia & Montenegro)



Republic of Srpska
(Serbian part of Bosnia & Herzegovina)

Problem: Current design is too common.

Horizontal, triple-stripe flag with white center is overused.



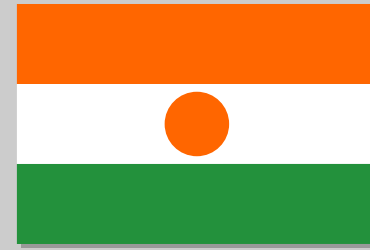
Netherlands



Hungary



India



Niger



Yemen



Egypt



Syria



Iraq



Argentina



El Salvador



Honduras



Nicaragua

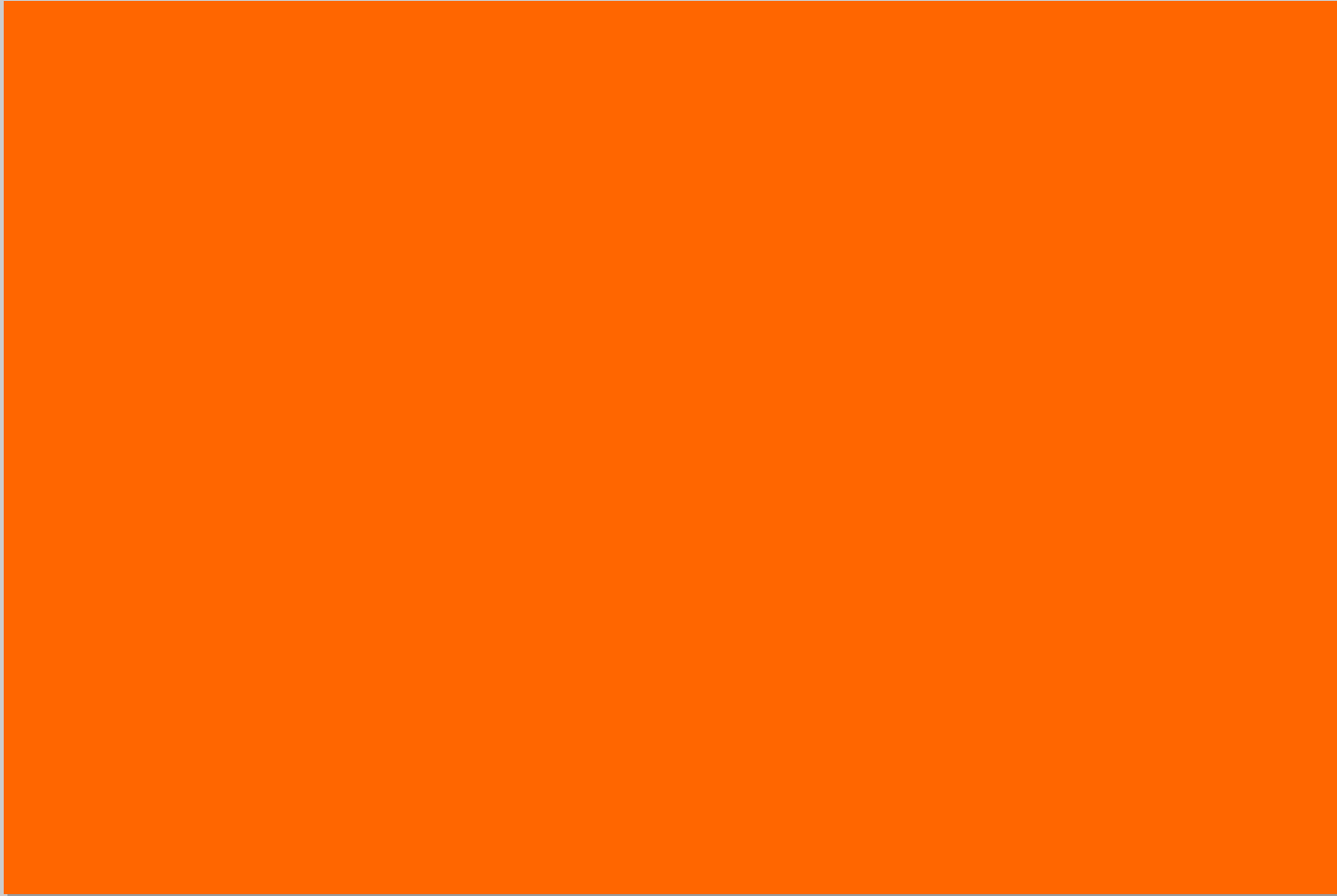
Proposal: Why not come up with a new flag?



Netherlands

Start with an orange field to represent the vitality of the Dutch nation.

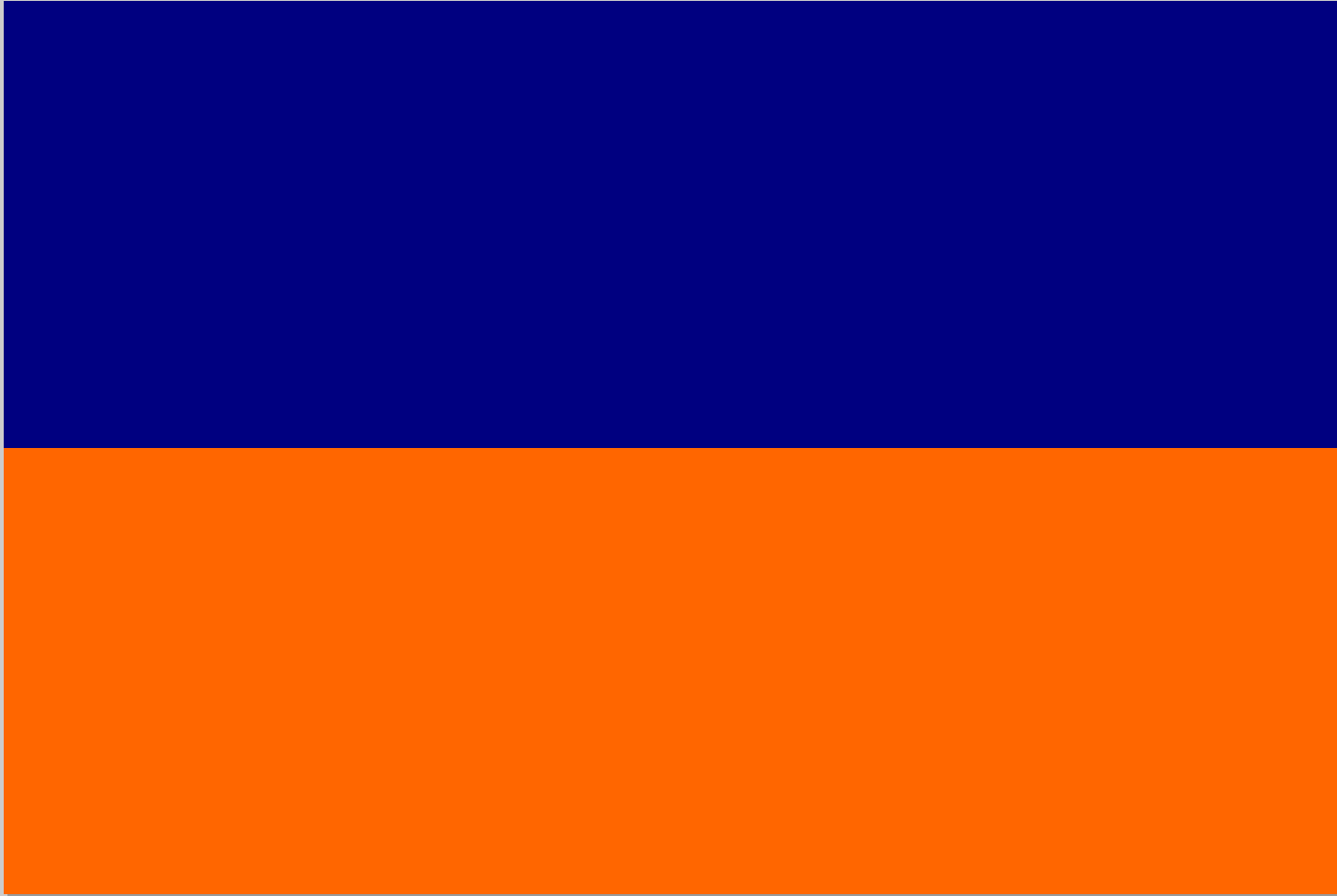
Color based on the Dutch historic flag and the Dutch popular orange flag.



Netherlands popular flag is used by fans in international sports competitions.

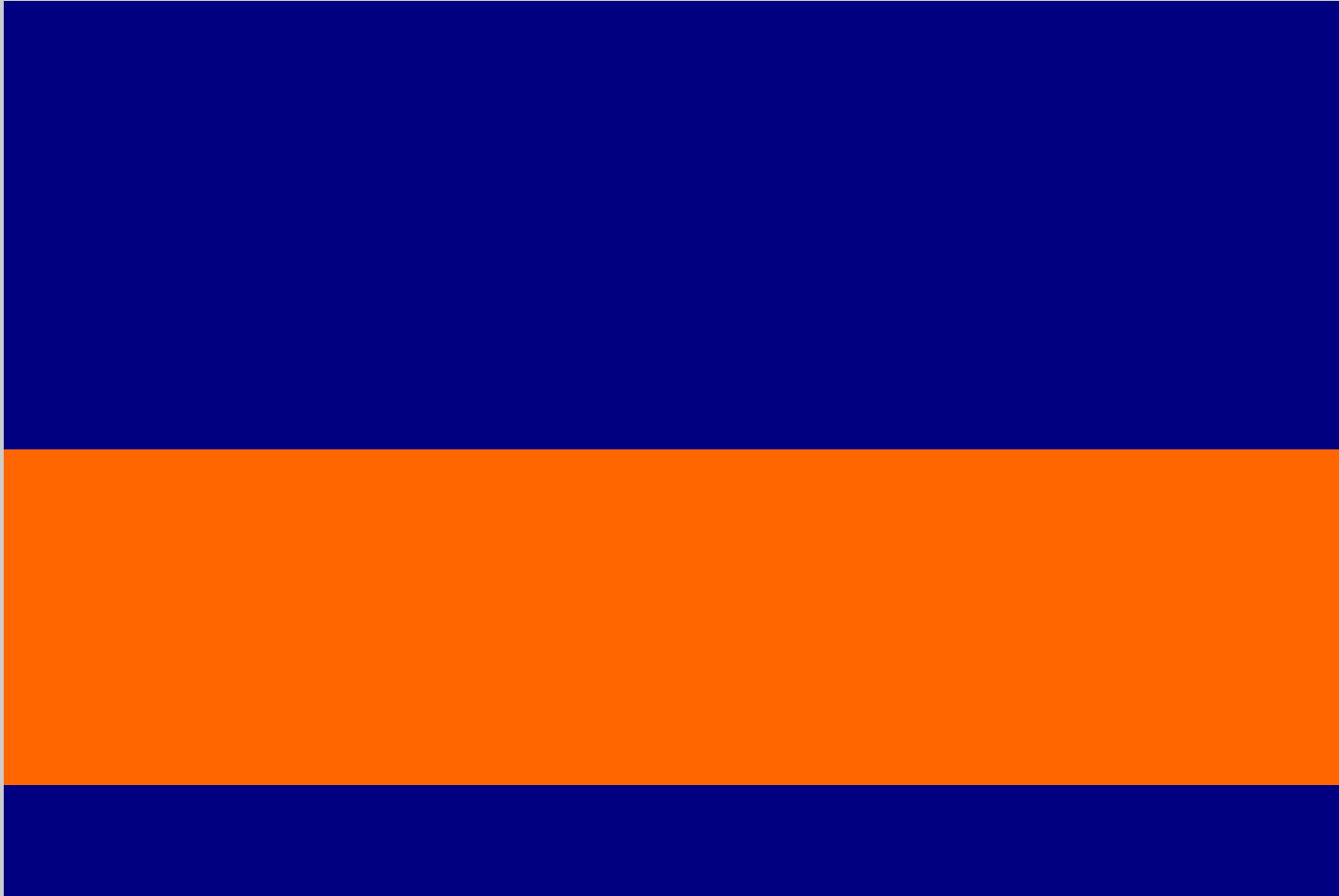
Add a navy blue field on top to represent the sea above the land.

Color based on the Dutch historic flag.



The majority of the Netherlands is below sea level.

Add a navy blue field at the bottom for the rivers and canals flowing below.
Color based on the Dutch historic flag.



The Netherlands is dotted with rivers, canals and swamplands.

Add two white stripes to represent harmony and defense.

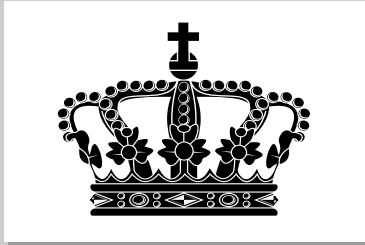
The Dutch nation is living in harmony with its environment while defending itself against flooding.



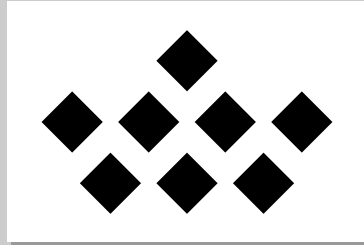
Through the centuries the Dutch people managed to block the rising seas without destroying nature. Instead of fighting their neighbors for additional land they turned to the sea to claim dried land from it.

Design a unique symbol to represent the Dutch heritage.

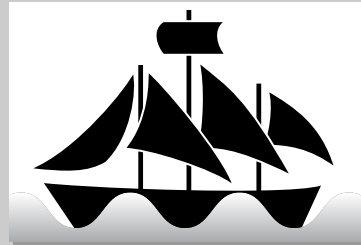
Dual graphic interpretation: A Dutch crown or an old Dutch sailing ship.



A Dutch crown



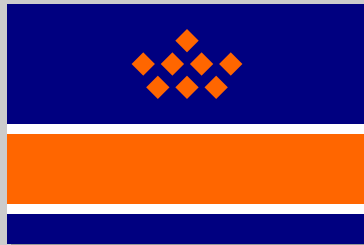
Dual graphic interpretation:
A Dutch crown or an old
Dutch sailing ship



An old Dutch sailing ship



Dutch crown as the
flag's symbol

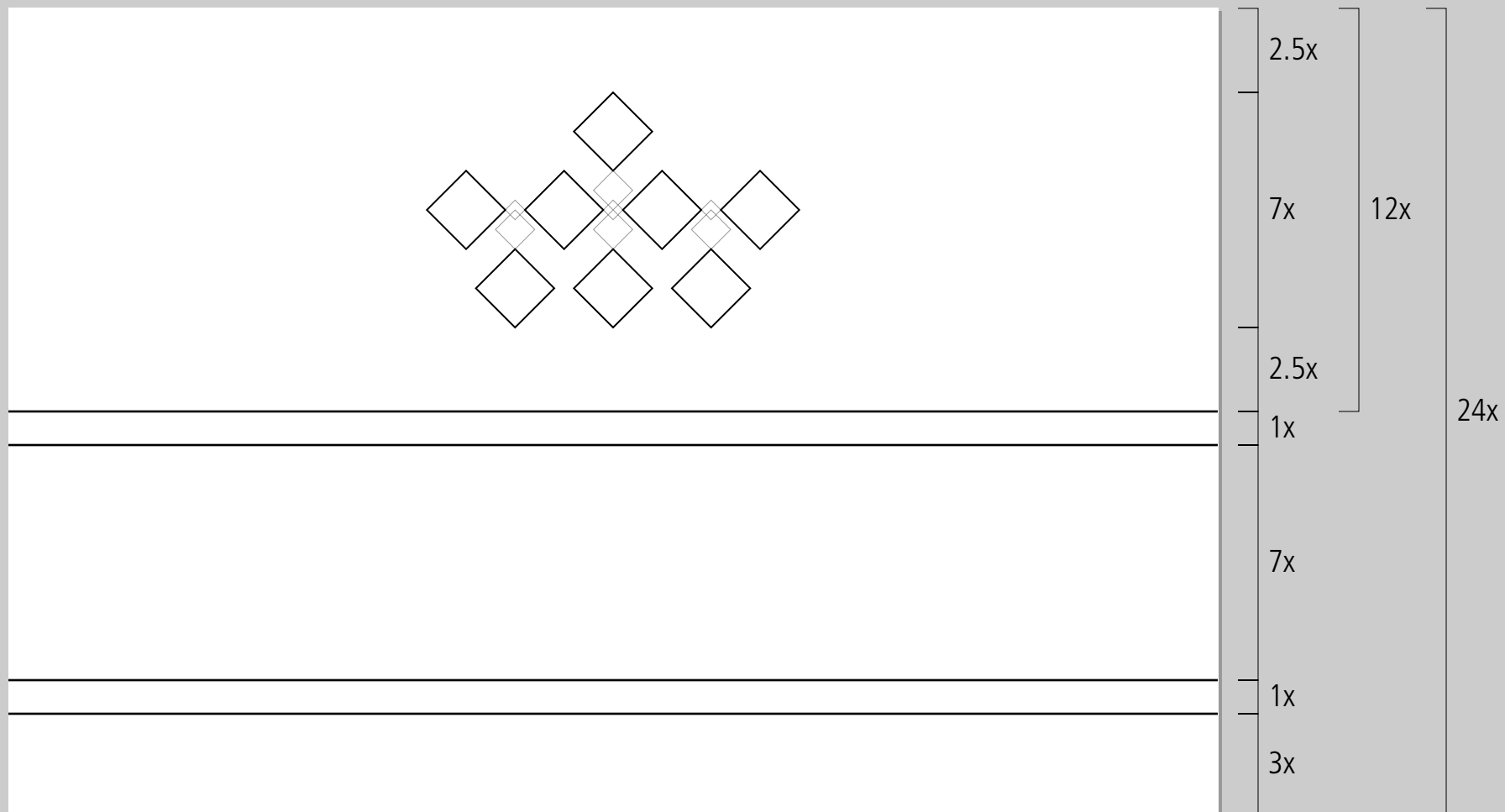


Dual graphic interpretation as
the flag's symbol



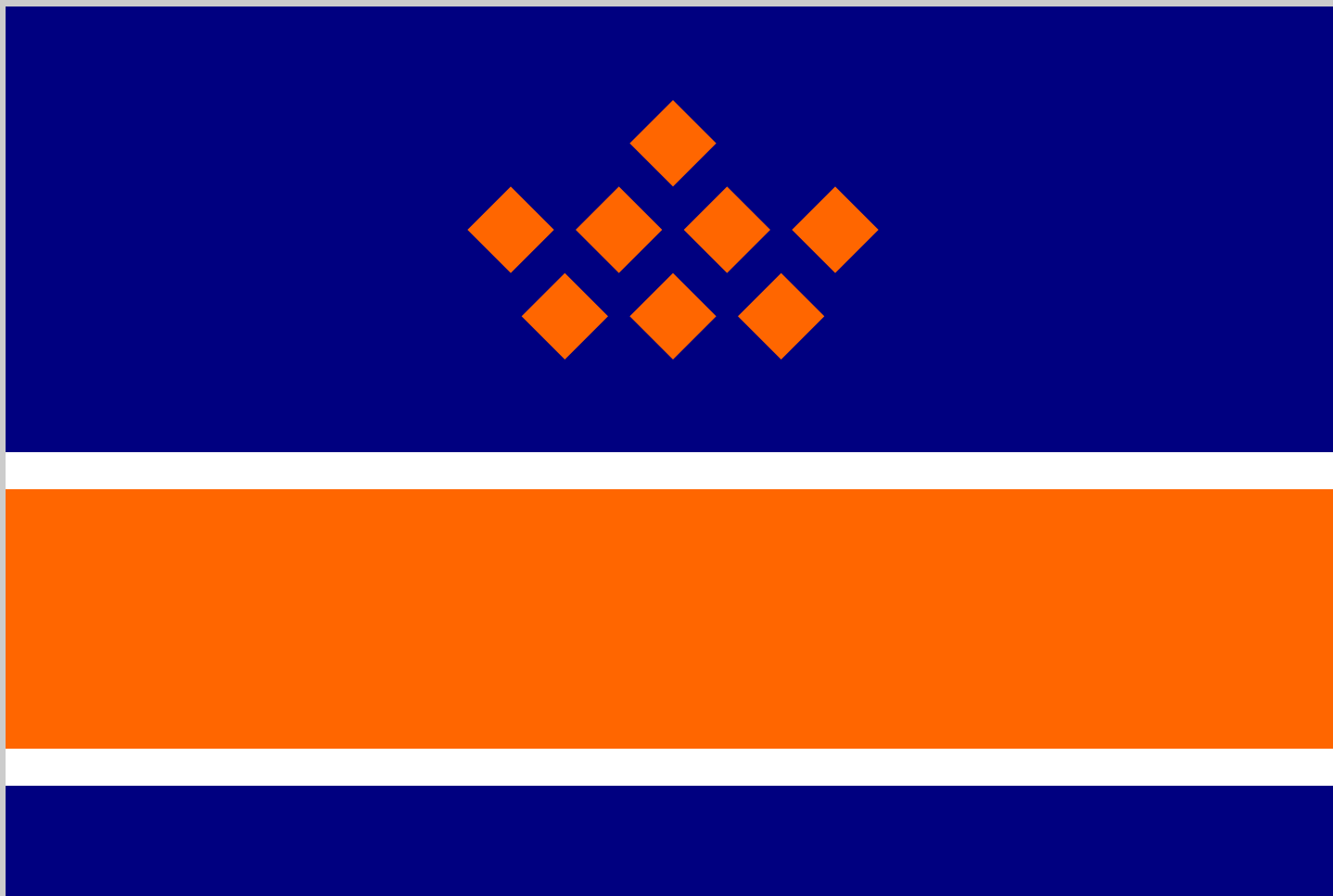
Old Dutch sailing ship as the
flag's symbol

Proposed flag configuration.



Proposed new flag
Configuration

Proposed flag.



Proposed new flag

The 12 Dutch province's flags next to the current Netherlands flag.



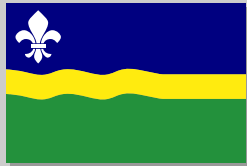
Drenthe



Groningen



Overijssel



Flevoland



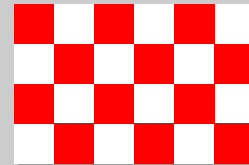
Limburg



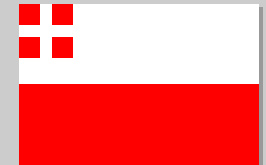
South Holland



Friesland



North Brabant



Utrecht



Gelderland



North Holland

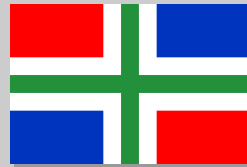


Zeeland

The 12 Dutch province's flags next to the proposed Netherlands flag.



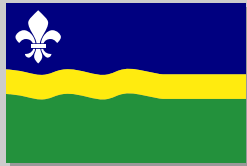
Drenthe



Groningen



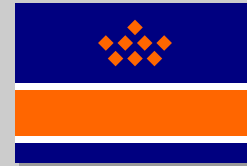
Overijssel



Flevoland



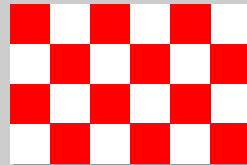
Limburg



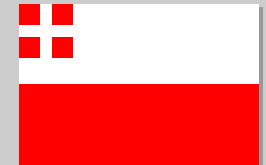
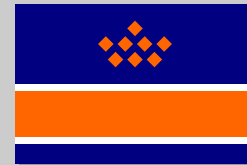
South Holland



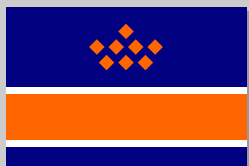
Friesland



North Brabant



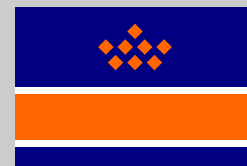
Utrecht



Gelderland



North Holland



Zeeland

The two Dutch territories and their islands' flags next to the current flag.



Aruba
(Netherlands Territory. Single Island.)



Netherlands Antilles
(Netherlands Territory. Its five islands flags are shown below.)



Curacao
(An island of Netherlands Antilles)



Saba
(An island of Netherlands Antilles)



Bonaire
(An island of Netherlands Antilles)



St. Eustatius
(An island of Netherlands Antilles)



St. Maarten
(Half of the island is part of Netherlands Antilles)

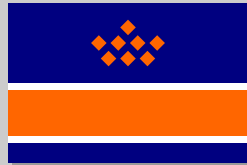
The two Dutch territories and their islands' flags next to the proposed flag.



Aruba
(Netherlands Territory. Single Island.)



Netherlands Antilles
(Netherlands Territory. Its five islands flags are shown below.)



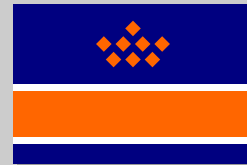
Curacao
(An island of Netherlands Antilles)



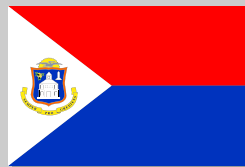
Saba
(An island of Netherlands Antilles)



Bonaire
(An island of Netherlands Antilles)



St. Eustatius
(An island of Netherlands Antilles)



St. Maarten
(Half of the island is part of Netherlands Antilles)

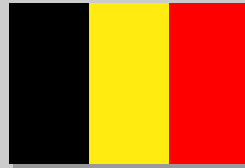
European Union flags with the current Netherlands flag.



European Union



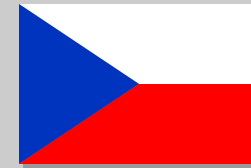
Austria



Belgium



Cyprus



Czech Republic



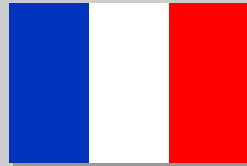
Denmark



Estonia



Finland



France



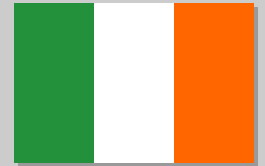
Germany



Greece



Hungary



Ireland



Italy



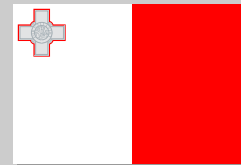
Latvia



Lithuania



Luxembourg



Malta



Netherlands



Poland



Portugal



Slovakia



Slovenia



Spain



Sweden



United Kingdom

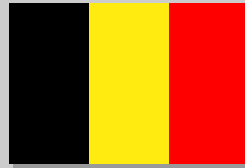
European Union flags with the proposed Netherlands flag.



European Union



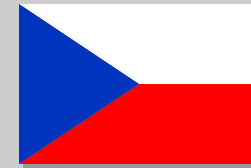
Austria



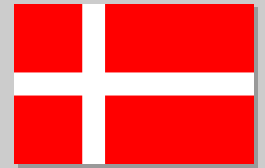
Belgium



Cyprus



Czech Republic



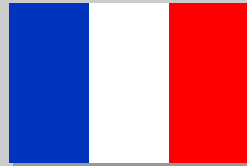
Denmark



Estonia



Finland



France



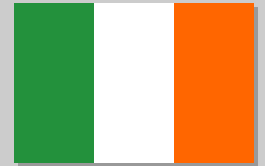
Germany



Greece



Hungary



Ireland



Italy



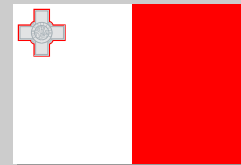
Latvia



Lithuania



Luxembourg



Malta



Netherlands



Poland



Portugal



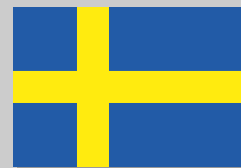
Slovakia



Slovenia



Spain



Sweden



United Kingdom

NATO members flags with the current Netherlands flag.



NATO



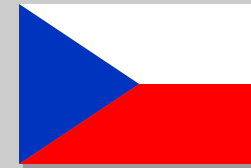
Belgium



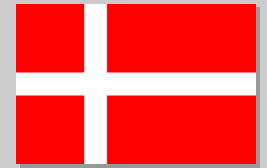
Bulgaria



Canada



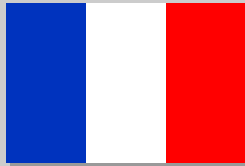
Czech Republic



Denmark



Estonia



France



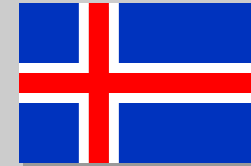
Germany



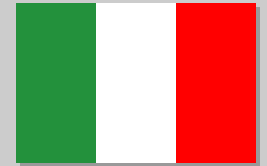
Greece



Hungary



Iceland



Italy



Latvia



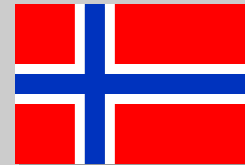
Lithuania



Luxembourg



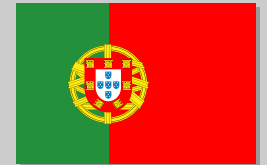
Netherlands



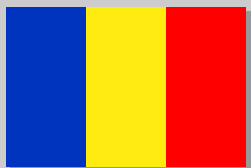
Norway



Poland



Portugal



Romania



Slovakia



Slovenia



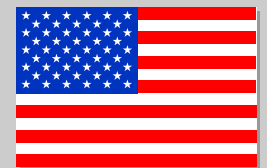
Spain



Turkey



United Kingdom



USA

NATO members flags with the proposed Netherlands flag.



NATO



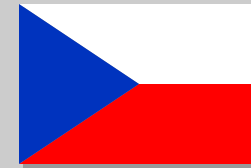
Belgium



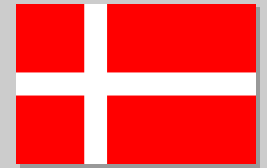
Bulgaria



Canada



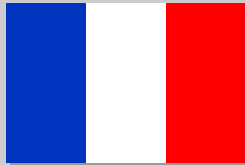
Czech Republic



Denmark



Estonia



France



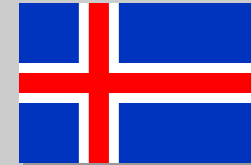
Germany



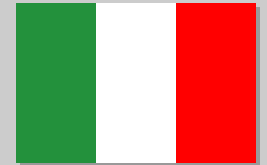
Greece



Hungary



Iceland



Italy



Latvia



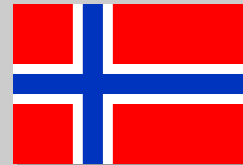
Lithuania



Luxembourg



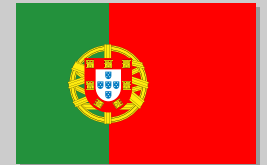
Netherlands



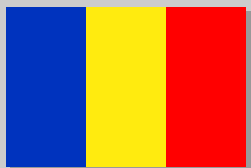
Norway



Poland



Portugal



Romania



Slovakia



Slovenia



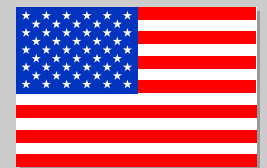
Spain



Turkey



United Kingdom



USA

Comparison of the proposed flag with six similar flags.



Cape Verde



Armenia



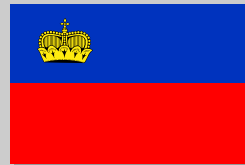
Botswana



Nauru



Gambia



Liechtenstein

Recent flag changes worldwide.



Netherlands



Possible future change



Angola



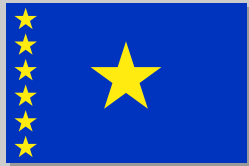
2003 change
(Not ratified yet)



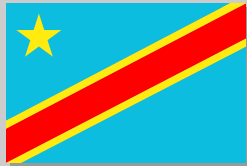
Bosnia & Herzegovina



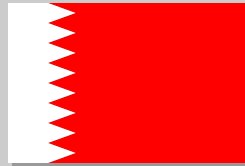
1998 change



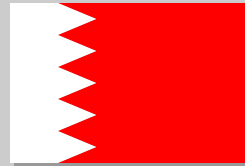
Congo (DR)



2006 change
(return to a modified 1963 flag)



Bahrain



2002 change



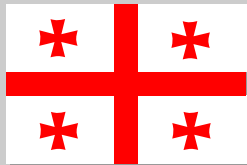
Seychelles



1996 change



Georgia



2004 change
(return to a 13th century flag)



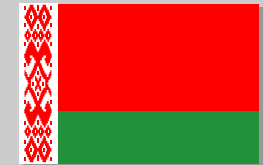
Comoros



2001 change



Belarus



1995 change
(return to a modified 1951 flag)



Afghanistan



2004 change



Rwanda



2001 change



South Africa

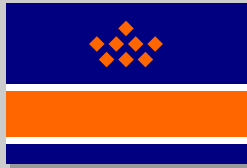


1994 change

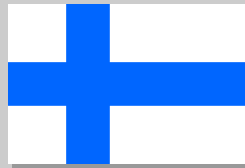
Recent flag changes in Western Europe.



Netherlands



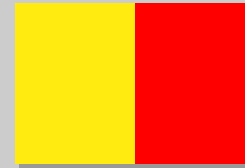
Possible future change



Finland



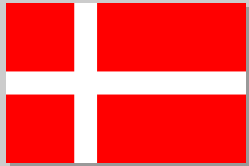
1920 change



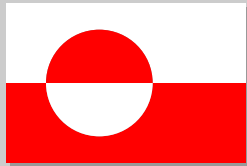
Andorra



1866 change



Greenland
(Denmark Self-governing)



1985 change



Germany



1919 change
(return to the 1848 flag)



Belgium



1831 change



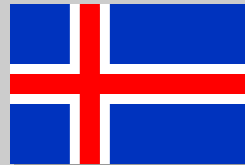
Aaland Islands
(Finland Self-governing)



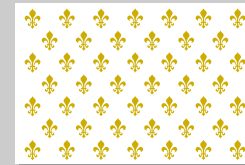
1954 change



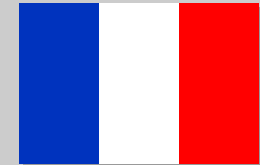
Iceland



1915 change



France



1830 change
(return to the 1794 flag)



Greece



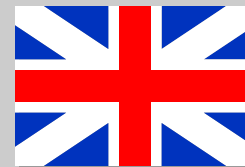
1935 change



Portugal



Portugal

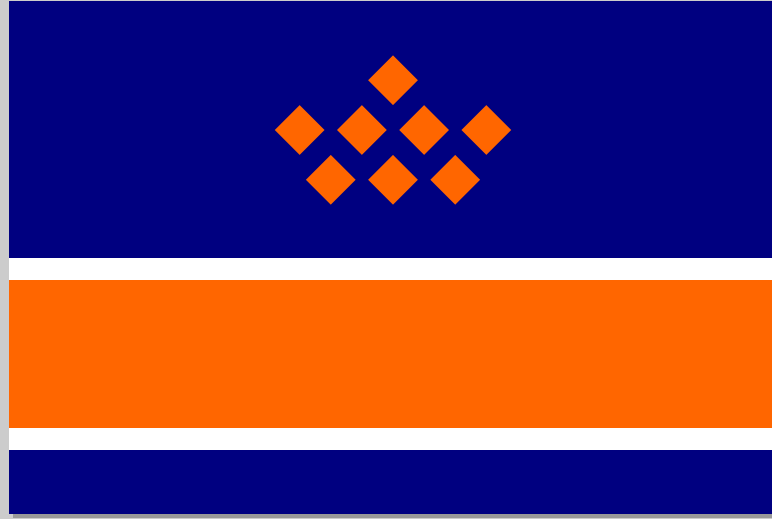


United Kingdom



1801 change

Final comparison.



Thanks,
Eliot Sela

elioticsela@gmail.com
www.elioticsela.com
1-917-359-1366