

DUTCH-TURKISH IDENTITY: A VERY DUTCH AFFAIR

Dutch Turks attracted international attention in March 2017 when hundreds protested the expulsion of a Turkish cabinet minister from the Netherlands – epitomizing the scale to which Turkey and European Union countries could play off tensions within diaspora communities. The dominant discourse in the Netherlands surrounding discussions of identities and political preferences of Dutch Turks has focused on the “long arm of Ankara” and Dutch Turks acting under its influence. However, this nearsighted discourse fails to take into account decades of multicultural integration policies and the grievances that have pushed Dutch Turks to seek belonging in their Turkish identity. Even in light of these events, there is little creative thinking in terms of developing a new approach to integration that is more consistent with Dutch and Turkish experiences.

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One of the largest Turkish diaspora groups in Europe and the largest ethnic minority group in the Netherlands, Dutch Turks and their identity have been increasingly problematized against a rightward shift in the Dutch integration debate over the last two decades. The AKP government in Turkey has sought an unprecedented, active policy towards engaging with the Turkish diaspora in Europe in recent years. While providing an outlet for young Dutch Turks who feel increasingly alienated from Dutch society, this has added to the tensions by providing grounds for reductionist analyses of Dutch-Turkish identity by critics of the community that ignore how the community was formed in light of Dutch integration policies.

Origins of a Community

Dutch Turks form the largest minority in the Netherlands, accounting for around two percent of the total population, or just over 400,000.¹ Migration to the Netherlands from Turkey took off as a result of the country's post-war economic boom. Much like other Western European states, the Netherlands started to bring in so-called "guest workers" from Southern European and North African states. Turkish and Kurdish workers, mainly from Eastern Turkey and the Black Sea region, started to arrive from the mid-1960s until the Netherlands brought its guest worker programs to an end in 1974, with the onset of the global oil crisis. After the suspension of the programs, migration continued through family unification. Guest workers and their families were joined by Turkish and Kurdish asylum seekers following Turkey's coup d'état in 1980. After the 1980s, family unification was replaced by family formation, with Dutch Turks finding partners in Turkey and bringing them to the Netherlands.² Today, there is roughly an even split between first-generation migrants and the second-generation born in the Netherlands.³

Identity Formation

There is a consensus in the literature that the identity of first-generation Dutch Turks differs substantively from their second-generation counterparts. First-generation Dutch Turks are seen as segregated, meaning that they maintain tight-knit connections within their group of origin and identify little with the Netherlands and the native Dutch. The second generation's identity is more "hybrid," with strong connections to their Turkish roots as well as Dutch society.⁴

¹ "Bevolking; kerncijfers," [Population: core figures] *Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek*, 1 November 2017, [http://statline.cbs.nl/Statweb/publication/?VW=T&DM=SLNL&PA=37296ned&D1=a&D2=0,10,20,30,40,50,60,\(1-1\),l&HD=171228-1934&HDR=G1&STB=T](http://statline.cbs.nl/Statweb/publication/?VW=T&DM=SLNL&PA=37296ned&D1=a&D2=0,10,20,30,40,50,60,(1-1),l&HD=171228-1934&HDR=G1&STB=T)

² Masja van Meeteren, Sanne van de Pol, Rianne Dekker, Godfried Engbersen and Erik Snel, "Destination Netherlands: History of Immigration and Immigration Policy in the Netherlands," in *Immigrants*, edited by Judy Ho (New York: Nova Science Publishers, 2013), pp. 113-170.

³ *Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek* (2017).

⁴ Karine Simone Prins, "Van 'gastarbeider' tot 'Nederlander': adaptatie van Marokkanen en Turken in Nederland," [From 'guest workers' to 'Dutch': adaptation of Moroccans and Turks in the Netherlands] Proefschrift (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, 1996).

Dutch Turks' organizational strength and social cohesion is often cited as the underlying reason for their strong identification with their ancestral homeland compared to other ethnic minorities in the Netherlands. Initially Dutch integration policy emphasized self-organization and education in minorities' own languages in line with the "pillarization" of Dutch society itself, which was compartmentalized along socio-political lines. While these so-called pillars lost their impact by the late 1960s with the secularization of Dutch society, the model continued to be applied to ethnic minorities. The Dutch government aimed to facilitate equal opportunities for minorities and the Dutch people in a multicultural society; however, this was with the understanding that minorities were "guests" that would eventually return to their countries⁵ or that immigrant pillars would eventually collapse into the Dutch liberal order as earlier, native Dutch pillars had done.⁶

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Within this framework, Dutch Turks were able to build strong organizations along the lines of Turkish political cleavages but the strength of these organizations was unique to the Turkish community. Explanations provided for this divergence in the literature point to the highly politicized nature of Turkish society in Turkey, as well as Turks' high degree of national pride due to historical legacy, which creates stronger bonds between members of the community.⁷ Thus, organized along Turkish lines, Dutch Turks have related to Dutch society through their Turkish identities. Perhaps the most influential of these organizations, the Dutch operation of the *Diyanet* – the Turkish Directorate of Religious Affairs – was established in the late 1970s. While the *Diyanet* has become a crucial part of the recent Dutch integration debate, it was established to meet the needs of the growing Turkish population in the Netherlands, with the Turkish state providing staff and funding.⁸

Changing Backdrop

The Dutch understanding of integration shifted in the 1980s and early 1990s. Disproportionate levels of unemployment and dependency on the welfare state among minorities led to a new view that the multicultural approach that had been the

⁵ Meeteren et al. (2013), p.118.

⁶ Nermin Abadan-Unat, *Turks in Europe: From Guest Worker to Transnational Citizen* (Oxford and New York: Berghahn Books, 2011), p. 163.

⁷ Prins (1996), p. 14.

⁸ Thijl Sunier, Nico Landman, Heleen van der Linden, Nazlı Bilgili, Alper Bilgili, "Diyanet: The Turkish Directorate for Religious Affairs in a Changing Environment" (VU University Amsterdam/Utrecht University, 2011), p. 55.

core of Dutch integration policy was the cause of these issues. Consequently, Dutch integration policy began to focus on participation in society through the job market and education. In this phase, Turks were still regarded as a relatively successful minority, with their dense social network contributing to success in the Dutch job market.⁹

The political climate in the aftermath of 9/11 and the murders of anti-Islamic populist leader Pim Fortuyn and film director Theo van Gogh led to a dramatic turn in the Dutch understanding of integration. Particularly, the murder of van Gogh – who was killed by a Dutch Moroccan born in Amsterdam – intensified the debate on identity and raised questions around the tensions caused by dual nationality, multiculturalism, and integration. Integration demands turned to active citizenship, requiring minorities to relate to Dutch society on more individual levels. Integration came to mean accepting shared Dutch norms and values and knowledge of Dutch language and culture. Policymakers, who felt they could no longer rely on the self-internalization of Dutch values, stiffened the integration regulations that had been in place since the 1990s. Long-term immigrants were required to pass a civic integration test proving basic knowledge of Dutch society and culture.¹⁰ However, these regulations have not been applicable to Turks since 2011 when a court ruled they were against the European Union’s association agreement with Turkey.¹¹

The change in the Dutch approach to integration has seen minorities labelled as “parallel communities” withdrawn from Dutch society, applying their own group norms, values, and laws that are at odds with those of Dutch society.¹² Perhaps the vulnerability of Dutch Turks comes precisely from the factor that deemed them better integrated in earlier phases of the integration debate: their organizational strength. Recent data shows that 54 percent of Dutch Turks primarily identify as Turkish rather than Dutch, though 49 percent of Dutch Turks still said they feel a strong connection with the Netherlands.¹³ Reflecting on the shift in the Dutch approach to integration, the Turkish diaspora has felt increasingly alienated from Dutch society, disengaged from traditional parties – citing deteriorating morale about their chances and life in the Netherlands – and encountering increased levels of discrimination.

⁹ Meeteren et al. (2013), p.118.

¹⁰ Meeteren et al. (2013), p.122.

¹¹ “Turken niet meer verplicht inburgeren in buitenland,” [Turks no longer obligated to integrate abroad], *de Volkskrant*, 23 September 2011, <https://www.volkskrant.nl/buitenland/turken-niet-meer-verplicht-inburgeren-in-buitenland~a2925530/>

¹² Willem Hujink, Jaco Dagevos, Merove Gijberts and Iris Andriessen, “Werelden van Verschil. Over de sociaal-culturele afstand en positie van migrantengroepen in Nederland” [Worlds of Difference. On the sociocultural distance and position of migrant groups in the Netherlands], *Den Haag: Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau*, 2015, p. 31.

¹³ Willem Hujink and Iris Andriessen, “Integratie in Zicht? De integratie van migranten in Nederland op acht terreinen nader bekeken,” [Integration in Sight? The integration of migrants in the Netherlands looked at in eight areas] *Den Haag: Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau*, 2016, p. 216.

Ultimately, prior to the Dutch general election in 2017, 40 percent of Dutch Turks, alongside Dutch Moroccans, said they did not feel welcome in the Netherlands.¹⁴

Turkey's Influence

It is within the context of this changing conception of integration in the Netherlands that Turkey's Justice and Development Party (AKP) rose to power. While past Turkish governments had generally refrained from interfering with European Turks' relationships with their local societies, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, then prime minister, made repeated calls for European Turks to preserve their Turkish identities and refrain from assimilating into European societies, emphasizing the maintenance of Turkish culture and belief. In one major incident in 2013, Erdoğan attempted to prevent the adoption of a Dutch-Turkish baby by a lesbian couple as part of a broader campaign to prevent children of Turkish descent from forgetting their roots after adoption.¹⁵

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Beyond these more discursive interventions, the AKP has also taken an unprecedented, active approach to influencing the diaspora. It established the Presidency of Foreign Turks and Relative Communities under the prime ministry in 2010 to support projects seeking to combat discrimination and preserve Turkish family values and culture within the diaspora. The AKP actively lobbies through the Dutch arm of its European organization: the Union of European Turkish Democrats (UETD). The right of Turkish citizens abroad to vote in elections, which has been in place since the presidential elections in 2014, has provided the AKP with an additional avenue to build and maintain its connection to the community. The party sent letters to Dutch-Turkish voters in several of the last elections, urging them to support the AKP.¹⁶

Polls taken in the lead-up to the recent Dutch election show that young Dutch Turks in particular are orienting themselves more and more towards Turkey as they feel unwelcome in the Netherlands. Young Dutch Turks see Erdoğan standing up for

¹⁴ “Kwesties voor het Kiezen. Analyses van enkele maatschappelijke thema's voor de Tweede Kamerverkiezingen 2017” [Issues for Choosing. Analyses of several social themes before the parliamentary elections 2017], *Den Haag: Sociaal en Cultureel Planbureau*, 2017, p. 21.

¹⁵ “Turkey's Erdogan in Netherlands as lesbian adoption row looms,” *ahramonline*, 21 March 2013, <http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/2/8/67390/World/Region/Turkeys-Erdogan-in-Netherlands-as-lesbian-adoption.aspx>

¹⁶ “Turkse AKP stuurt weer brief aan Turkse Nederlanders,” *Trouw*, 7 April 2017, <https://www.trouw.nl/home/turkse-akp-stuurt-weer-brief-aan-turkse-nederlanders~a2de7056/>

their Turkish national and Islamic identity at a time when they are feel less and less accepted in Dutch society,¹⁷ which makes them feel less Dutch.¹⁸ However, the AKP's active approach and claims over the diaspora – although providing an outlet for some alienated members of the community – has only made the experience of Dutch Turks more difficult, especially against a narrow conception of integration. This arguably provides critics of Dutch-Turkish integration with reductionist analyses to explain the community's perceived shortcomings.

“Dutch media and public debate routinely emphasize the large share of Dutch Turks supporting the AKP.”

The right to vote in Turkish elections provides mixed clues about the role Turkish politics plays in the identities of Dutch Turks. Dutch media and public debate routinely emphasize the large share of Dutch Turks supporting the AKP. In the recent Turkish constitutional referendum, for instance, 70 percent of Dutch Turks who participated supported the changes to the executive system proposed by the AKP, compared to 51 percent in Turkey. However, the fact that turnout among Dutch Turks was only 47 percent¹⁹ is rarely mentioned. The results could equally be interpreted to say that only 33 percent of Dutch Turks actively support Erdoğan and the AKP, and less than half are dedicated enough to Turkish politics to cast a vote in the first place. Yet, this angle is seldom presented.

DENK: An Authentic Voice?

One of the best examples of the Turkish diaspora's impact on Dutch politics is the formation of a political party by two Dutch Turks and its participation for the first time in Dutch elections. The party's two founders, Tunahan Kuzu and Selçuk Öztürk, were expelled from the Labour Party in 2014 when they opposed a government proposal to monitor several Turkish religious organizations for obstructing the integration of Dutch Turks in Dutch society. DENK has intrinsically been connected to the Turkish government as one of the organizations the Dutch government proposed monitoring was the Diyanet. However, when we recall the roots of the Diyanet in

¹⁷ Janny Groen, Rik Kuiper, and Dion Mebius, “Meeste Turkse Nederlanders steunen Erdogan – en veroordelen Nederland in rel” [Most Dutch Turks support Erdogan – and blame the Netherlands in riot], *de Volkskrant*, 15 April 2017, <https://www.volkskrant.nl/binnenland/meeste-turkse-nederlanders-steunen-erdogan-en-veroordelen-nederland-in-rel-a4487202/>

¹⁸ Evelyn Ersenilli, “Identificatie van Turkse migrantenjongeren in Nederland, Frankrijk en Duitstland” [Identification of Turkish migrant youth in the Netherlands, France and Germany], *Migrantenstudies*, Vol. 1 (2009), p. 52.

¹⁹ “Seçmiş Seçim Sonuçları Paylaşım Sitesi” [Seçmiş Election Results Sharing Site], *Yüksek Seçim Kurumu*, <https://sonuc.ysk.gov.tr/module/sspsHalkoylamasiYeni.jsf>

the Netherlands as a remnant of the Dutch multicultural approach towards minorities, Kuzu and Öztürk's reaction can equally be read as a stance against changes to Dutch integration policy.

The reaction to DENK from Dutch political parties and the media has been fairly negative, demonstrating an inability to accept that the roots of the party are from the Netherlands. It is often seen as a migrants' party, with its lawmakers labelled as "the long arm of Ankara" due to the way Kuzu and Öztürk left the Labour Party and the party's reactions to Turkish affairs, particularly after the failed coup attempt in July 2016. DENK's leaders attended an anti-coup rally in Rotterdam, where most Dutch Turks live, and have not spoken out against the way the Turkish state has dealt with dissidents following the coup attempt, often responding to criticisms of Turkey's policies by citing its security concerns. Other Dutch political parties have interpreted this as support of President Erdoğan and the AKP.²⁰ However, DENK's lawmakers have not only faced these accusations in debates on Turkey; their views on Dutch policy affairs are also questioned in accordance to their views on Turkish politics, something that other politicians do not face.²¹ Throughout the lead-up to the Dutch general election in March 2017, DENK's leaders were often questioned on their views on Turkish politics rather than what the party proposed to do in the Netherlands, a potentially reductionist approach that fails to see the party's roots in the purely Dutch experience of the diaspora.²²

There is little evidence of the party having active connections to Ankara other than reports that a DENK parliamentary candidate offered his restaurant to Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu when the original venue for his referendum campaign was no longer available during the Dutch-Turkish diplomatic crisis in March 2017 (see below).²³ Ultimately, DENK is thought to have gained most of its support from Dutch Turks²⁴ despite a message designed to appeal to all minorities in the Netherlands. Although polls showed that most of DENK's supporters endorsed the AKP as well,²⁵ the causal mechanism linking the two remains unclear.

²⁰ Maarten van Ast and Deborah Jongejan, "Denkleider Kuzu mikpunt bij debat nasleep Turkse coup," [DENK leader Kuzu target at Turkish coup debate], *Algemeen Dagblad*, 13 September 2016, <https://www.ad.nl/nieuws/denkleider-kuzu-mikpunt-bij-debat-nasleep-turkse-coup-aa0b902f>

²¹ "Ruzie in de Tweede Kamer: ga lekker naar Turkije" [Quarrel in Parliament: go back to Turkey], *RTL Nieuws*, 16 November 2016, <https://www.rtlnieuws.nl/nieuws/laatste-videos-nieuws/ruzie-in-tweede-kamer-ga-lekker-naar-turkije>

²² "Kuzu meed media om vragen over Erdogan" [Kuzu targets media on questions about Erdogan], *Algemeen Dagblad*, 24 March 2017, <https://www.ad.nl/politiek/kuzu-meed-media-om-vragen-over-erdogan-ae676cd3/>

²³ "Turkse Minister welkom in restaurant" [Turkish minister welcome in restaurant], *RTV Rijnmond*, 10 March 2017, <https://www.rijnmond.nl/nieuws/152699/Turkse-minister-welkom-in-restaurant>

²⁴ Robert Giebels, "Vooral Turkse Nederlanders gaan op Denk stemmen" [Primarily Dutch Turkse to vote for DENK], *- de Volkskrant*, 24 December 2016, <https://www.volkskrant.nl/binnenland/-vooral-turkse-nederlanders-gaan-op-denk-stemmen-a4439308/>

²⁵ Janny Groen et al. (2017).

Leaving DENK aside, there is also little evidence of Ankara influencing Dutch Turks systematically through financial support,²⁶ as implied in the term the “long arm of Ankara.”²⁷ However, in 2016, the Turkish consulate in the Netherlands urged Dutch Turks to report any statements made against Erdoğan through a hotline, and there have been claims that Diyanet imams gather information about Gülen supporters and critics of Erdoğan in the Netherlands.²⁸ Research shows, however, that Turkish television and social media are more influential on Dutch Turks than financial support, with over 80 percent watching Turkish television daily. Among this pool of frequent television watchers, around 90 percent of viewing time is spent watching Turkish television exclusively.²⁹ This does not mean that Ankara lacks the means to interfere with Turkish organizations systematically, but until more systematic effects are proven, “the long arm of Ankara” seems to refer more to individualistic, cognitive means of garnering support for the AKP rather than systematic ones.

Following the coup attempt in July 2016, members of the Gülen movement – followers of self-exiled imam Fethullah Gülen who have been accused of fomenting the coup attempt and are collectively labeled as a terrorist organization, the so-called “FETÖ” in Turkey – faced threats from other Dutch Turks, including arson attacks and calls to boycott businesses deemed part of the movement, which were blamed on Erdoğan supporters in the country.³⁰ Such businesses and organizations were also listed in articles by the Turkish state news agency and pro-government media.³¹ The tensions raised questions as to how and why a conflict from Turkey was exported to the Netherlands. In October 2016, the Dutch parliament decided to hold a hearing with Dutch-Turkish organizations regarding the repercussions of the failed coup attempt in the Netherlands as a means of gathering information about the consequences of the coup attempt for Dutch Turks and Dutch-Turkish organizations the financial connections of these organizations to the Turkish state. Shortly after the hearing, a majority in parliament voted to stop talks with Dutch-Turkish organizations, arguing that they only represent a small share of Dutch Turks, and recommended

²⁶ Deborah Jongejan, “Geen bewijs voor lange arm van Ankara” [No evidence for long arm of Ankara], *Algemeen Dagblad*, 5 July 2017, <https://www.ad.nl/politiek/geen-bewijs-voor-lange-arm-van-ankara~a8c666f8b/>

²⁷ “Rutte: geen aanwijzingen voor Turkse inmenging” [Rutte: no indications for Turkish interference], *NOS*, 2 September 2016, <https://nos.nl/artikel/2129591-rutte-geen-aanwijzingen-voor-turkse-inmenging.html>

²⁸ “Nederland wil opheldering spionage Turkse imams” [Netherlands wants clarification on espionage by Turkish imams], *Algemeen Dagblad*, 9 December 2016, <https://www.ad.nl/buitenland/nederland-wil-opheldering-spionage-turkse-imams~a1ef1615/>

²⁹ “Gebruik internationale media groeit onder nieuwe Nederlanders” [Use of international media grows under new Dutch], *Stimuleringsfonds voor de Journalistiek*, 27 November 2012, <https://www.svdj.nl/nieuws/gebruik-internationale-media-groeit-onder-nieuwe/>

³⁰ “Brandstichting Deventer mogelijk gevolg van conflict tussen AKP en Gülen” [Arson in Deventer possibly result of conflict between AKP and Gülen], *Joop*, 23 July 2016, <https://joop.bnnvara.nl/nieuws/brandstichting-deventer-mogelijk-gevolg-conflict-akp-en-gulen>

³¹ “FETÖ’nün Hollanda yapılanması,” [FETÖ’s Netherlands organization], *Anadolu Ajansı*, 29 August 2016, <http://aa.com.tr/tr/dunya/fe-tonun-hollanda-yapilanmasi/637333>

that the state continue its dialogue with Dutch Turks through schools, districts, and neighborhoods instead³² Beyond whether or not the organizations represent a sizeable group within the Dutch Turkish community, it remains unclear why government policy and media reports address Dutch Turks collectively while they are expected to integrate into Dutch society on an individual basis. It is further unclear why organizations whose extent of connection to the community appears limited are identified as the main avenue of dialogue.

“AKP Minister Kaya’s treatment led to a mass protest by hundreds of Dutch Turks in Rotterdam, ending with 12 arrests.”

The Diplomatic Crisis

When Turkish Foreign Minister Çavuşoğlu planned a trip to Rotterdam to campaign in favor of the “yes” vote in the referendum to implement a presidential executive system in Turkey, the Dutch government and the Mayor of Rotterdam cancelled his landing permit, citing threats to public order. Another cabinet minister, Fatma Betül Sayan Kaya of Family Affairs, attempted to campaign in Rotterdam instead but was detained by Dutch authorities when she arrived at the Turkish consulate. Kaya’s treatment led to a mass protest by hundreds of Dutch Turks in Rotterdam, ending with 12 arrests.³³

While the protests were seen as a clear example of the AKP mobilization of Dutch Turks, one must look at the local questions of identity that drove the protesters, with many Dutch Turks citing discrimination and their status as victims of double standards in their response to the events. As *Milli Görüş* leader Yusuf Altuntaş said in an interview, the events were also a reaction to the rightward shift of the Dutch political scene and debate. The public reaction to the protest largely failed to capture this, with media and politicians extrapolating on the failure of the integration of Dutch Turks through the participation of several hundreds out of over 400,000 in the protests. The underlying assumption – with reference to the “long arm” again – was that protesters were there because the Turkish government demanded them to be and that they were oriented towards Turkey rather than the Netherlands. Protesters were seen as attending because they supported the AKP’s side in the Turkish referendum,

³² “Stop integratiegesprekken met Turks-Nederlandse organisaties” [Stop integration talks with Dutch-Turkish organizations], *NOS*, 8 November 2016, <https://nos.nl/artikel/2142106-stop-integratiegesprekken-met-turks-nederlandse-organisaties.html>

³³ “Arrestaties en gewonden na rellen Rotterdam” [Arrests and injuries after Rotterdam riot], *Het Parool*, 12 March 2017, <https://www.parool.nl/binnenland/arrestaties-en-gewonden-na-rellen-rotterdam-a4473369>

which was not necessarily the case.³⁴ Discussions in the aftermath of the protests and the lead up to the Dutch election went as far as calling for the suspension of dual nationality,³⁵ which were by the Turkish government's reference to Dutch Turks as "our citizens."³⁶

"Tensions persist between the two countries after the Netherlands withdrew its ambassador to Turkey."

Ultimately, polls showed that one-quarter of Dutch voters, especially those choosing Prime Minister Mark Rutte's center-right People's Party for Freedom and Democracy and Geert Wilders's anti-Islamic Freedom Party, were influenced by the protests.³⁷ They cited fear of the escalation of tensions and their effect on the position of Dutch Turks in

Dutch society, especially given many parties' hardline stance against minorities. Meanwhile, Dutch intervention preventing Turkish authorities from campaigning in the Netherlands³⁸ was seen as providing Erdoğan and the AKP with opportunities to deflect attention from European criticism against the increasing authoritarianism prevailing in Turkey and argue that Turkey needed a strong executive system – which would be secured by a yes vote in the referendum – against hostile foreign powers³⁹ seeking to meddle in Turkey's affairs.⁴⁰ Thus, the tensions ultimately benefitted the ruling parties in both the Netherlands and Turkey, they were detrimental for Dutch Turks.

Following the debacle, little change has been seen in the Dutch behavior of questioning the political standpoints of Dutch Turks. The perceived incompatibility between support for the AKP and Dutch Turks' integration into the Netherlands

³⁴ Fidan Ekiz, "Spreek je uit" [Speak out], *Algemeen Dagblad*, 27 March 2017, <https://www.ad.nl/rotterdam/spreek-je-uit-a00683e6/>

³⁵ "Wat vinden de partijen van het paspoortenstandpunt van Buma?" [What do parties make of Buma's passport standpoint?], *HP De Tijd*, 14 March 2017, <https://www.hpdetijd.nl/2017-03-14/paspoortenstandpunt-buma/>

³⁶ "Rutte: Turkse Nederlanders zijn geen Turken" [Rutte: Dutch Turks are not Turks], *Het Financieele Dagblad*, 13 March 2017, <https://fd.nl/economie-politiek/1192054/rutte-het-zijn-nederlanders-geen-turken>

³⁷ Laurens Kok, "Vrouwen vallen voor Jesse, mannen gaan voor Mark" [Women fall for Jesse, men go for Mark], *Algemeen Dagblad*, 17 March 2017, <https://www.ad.nl/politiek/vrouwen-vallen-voor-jesse-mannen-gaan-voor-mark-a47ec4c5/>

³⁸ "President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's Cynical Interventions not Welcome," *The Telegraph*, 13 March 2017, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/2017/03/13/president-recep-tayyip-erdogans-cynical-interventions-not-welcome/>

³⁹ Murat Yetkin, "Kimi siyasetçi düşmansız yapamaz" [Some politicians cannot do without enemies], *Hürriyet*, 17 March 2017, <http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/yazarlar/murat-yetkin/kimi-siyasetci-dusmansiz-yapamaz-40397622>

⁴⁰ "İbrahim Kalın: En sert tepkiyi Avrupa Birliği göstermeli" [İbrahim Kalın: The European Union should show the biggest reaction], *Habertürk*, 12 March 2017, <http://www.haberturk.com/gundem/haber/1423035-ibrahim-kalin-en-sert-tepkiyi-avrupa-birligi-gostermeli>

continues to be emphasized, without regard for why this is the case.⁴¹ Another case in point is when the Dutch Minister of Social Affairs warned an MP of Turkish descent that he would put an end to dialogue with Turkish organizations.

Looking Ahead

With a new Dutch government dominated by right-wing parties that competed in the election on an anti-immigration message, the Dutch government is narrowing its integration policies, which is unlikely to bode well for sentiments towards established minorities. Tensions persist between the two countries after talks to restore ties recently failed and the Netherlands withdrew its ambassador to Turkey. Furthermore, on February 15th, a majority in the Dutch parliament approved two motions recognizing the Armenian genocide, which is expected to further sour relations between the Netherlands and Turkey.

As the discussion has demonstrated, Dutch Turks continue to be assessed within an individualistic framework of integration while remnants of decades of a multicultural, communal understanding of integration remain intact – both in the Dutch approach to the community as well as the AKP’s outreach attempts. Following the events in 2017, there is still little creative thinking in terms of how this strategy might be replaced with a system more consistent with the current Dutch integration approach as well as taking into account Dutch and Turkish past experiences with integration. Nonetheless, the effects of the decades-long conception of integration need to be factored into any new system.

⁴¹ “Kamer: in gesprek met Nederlandse ja-stemmers Turks referendum,” [Parliament: talk with Dutch yes-voters in Turkish referendum] *NOS*, 18 April 2017, <https://nos.nl/artikel/2168930-kamer-in-gesprek-met-nederlandse-ja-stemmers-turks-referendum.html>