

In a shock for Europe, anti-Islam populist Geert Wilders records a massive win in Dutch elections



Rebecca Bynum and Geert Wilders

[THE HAGUE, Netherlands \(AP\)](#) – Anti-Islam populist [Geert Wilders](#) won a huge victory in Dutch elections, according to a near complete count of the vote early Thursday, in a stunning lurch to the far right for a nation once famed as a beacon of tolerance.

The result will send shockwaves through Europe, where far-right ideology is on the rise, and puts Wilders in line to lead talks to form the next [governing coalition](#) and possibly become the first far-right prime minister of the Netherlands.

With nearly all votes counted, Wilders' Party for Freedom was forecast to win 37 seats in the 150-seat lower house of parliament, two more than predicted by an exit poll when voting finished Wednesday night and more than double the 17 he won at the last election.