

Campaign for Food Sovereignty and Climate Justice (version 2023)

Overview document:

- **Proposals within the updated Petition for Food Sovereignty and Climate Justice with all supporters;**
- **backgrounds and inspiration of the fast**
- **and current campaign activities (2011-2023) to address the food, energy and climate crises;**
- **progress in politics in the Dutch Parliament;**
- **an overview of the media on this petition and action;**
- **possibilities to support this campaign.**

Introduction

In this document you will find first in part 1 the updated proposals for a more just trade, agricultural, climate and energy policy, within **the Petition for Food Sovereignty and Climate Justice**. This petition is supported by many civil society organisations, enterprises and civilians inside and outside the Netherlands. The updated petition with all supporters can be downloaded at: <https://guusgeurts.nl/gg/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/23-04-13-Updated-Petition-for-Food-sovereignty-and-Climate-justice.pdf> In April 2023 this petition is supported by 47 civil society organisations, 9 social enterprises and 316 civilians in outside the Netherlands.

These proposals are directed to the Dutch politics and have been send in October 2011 with an accompanying letter to members of Parliament and ministerial departments of trade, agriculture and environment. Also, the CEO's of Solidaridad, World Wildlife Fund and the Initiative for Sustainable Trade (IDH) received these proposals, to demand that they stop greenwashing in among others soy and palm oil. Exactly 10 years later in November 2021 during COP25 in Glasgow, the updated petition was again sent to Dutch Parliament and the same ministerial Departments.

Part 2 of this document contains **the letter to politics mentioned before**, with background and inspiration of a fast / hunger strike by many activists in 2011. These demands were in 2011 enforced by 28 people inside and outside the Netherlands who fasted for 24 hours at World Food Day 16 October 2011. At this day also Working group Food Justice was established, see: www.foodjustice.eu and <https://www.facebook.com/voedselrechtvaardigheid/>.

Also, at 1 (7 people), 20 (3 people) and 24 November (5 people) and at 13 December (5 people) fasted for 24 hours. Moreover, from 1 November onwards food, trade and climate justice activist Guus Geurts continued these actions by fasting for forty days, urgently requesting to take over as much proposals as possible. During this period, he didn't eat anything and only drank water, herbal tea and coffee, added by salts recommended by doctor Co van Melle. The last two weeks he also ate some dextrose and Vitamin B1, because of heavy weight loss. He started a hunger strike from 11 December onwards, with the plan to stop at the time that at least one of these demands was met by the Dutch parliament. But at 14 December he had to stop at doctor's advice, after a fast of 43 days, because he lost more than the critical 18% body weight loss (from 79 to 61 kg).

In part 3 you will find an overview of all campaign activities from the fasting action in 2011 until now in 2023 within the Working Group Food Justice. These actions have been shaped in collaboration with other civil society organizations and networks. Part 4 provides an update on the progress of the proposals in the House of Representatives in the Dutch Parliament from 2011 to 2013. So, what ultimately happened to our proposals in the first years? Part 5 gives an overview of all media attention for this petition and accompanying action in 2011 and 2012 and finally Part 6 is about how you can support said actions.

You can download this whole document at: www.foodjustice.eu/hungerclimate

1. Updated Petition for Food Sovereignty and Climate Justice

- Analysis and proposals to address the climate, food, biodiversity and energy crises

The petition was sent to the Dutch Parliament and relevant ministries (Trade, Agriculture, Environment, Climate) in November 2011 by Working group Food Justice, which is campaigning around the petition.

Exactly ten years later in November 2021, we updated the petition and sent it again to the following committees in the House of Representatives and the following ministries: Foreign Trade & Development Cooperation, Agriculture, Nature & Food Quality, Economic Affairs & Climate, and General Affairs (Minister-President Rutte).

In April 2023, some data has been improved and all new signatories have been added.

If you would like to support the petition, please send an email to guusgeurts@yahoo.com. Thank you!

In this document, we propose a more just trade, agricultural, climate and energy policy. The prevention of disastrous climate change and loss of biodiversity, the protection of the right to food and the right to livelihood of farmers, pastoralists and Indigenous peoples, have everything to do with the political choice for competition on the world market within the WTO and other free trade agreements. That is why we are proposing measures in all these areas.

We did this earlier in November 2011 because at that time crucial decisions were made about the provision of basic needs, the climate and the future of our planet. For example, the UN climate summit COP17 was held in Durban South Africa, there was a ministerial WTO summit in Geneva and a new European Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the period from 2014 to 2020 was negotiated.

In November 2021 the COP26 climate summit was held in Glasgow, a new WTO summit (MC12) was planned in Geneva (but postponed to 2022 at last minute), and the new CAP will apply from 2023 to 2027. Since 1992, the CAP has been fully aligned with this free trade policy, and therefore ineffective for farmers and nature and the environment in the EU and in the countries from which it is importing or exporting.

Despite the fact that progress has been made on climate, such as at the Paris climate summit in 2015, the urgency of these proposals has only increased since 2011. The topic is now more prominent on the political and social agenda and the EU has recently come up with a Green Deal and a Farm to Fork strategy. It sets better targets than before, such as a 55% reduction in emissions in 2030.

Yet we can talk about 10 lost years. We are now heading for a temperature increase of 2.7 °C at the end of this century. The link between the destruction of nature – and the associated additional greenhouse gas emissions – in the Global South and the European import of luxury products such as beef, soy, palm oil, biofuels and timber¹ is also becoming increasingly clear. Especially after President Bolsonaro in Brazil has lifted the protection of the Amazon and other nature reserves and the Indigenous peoples and small farmers living there. Environmental and land rights activists and Indigenous peoples' leaders continue to be murdered and intimidated in Brazil and other countries from which the EU imports these more luxurious products. In 2020, 227 environmental and land rights activists were murdered worldwide, including representatives of Indigenous peoples.² In the

¹ 'Sustainable' import of this is virtually impossible, see e.g., Rainforest Rescue's standpoint on tropical hardwoods: <https://www.rainforest-rescue.org/topics/tropical-timber>.

² See: <https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/environmental-activists/last-line-defence/>

meantime, however, the EU has concluded a provisional trade agreement with Mercosur,³ as well as with Canada (CETA), Ukraine and possibly with Indonesia. It is precisely these treaties that make an effective Green Deal and Farm to Fork strategy very difficult because EU farmers are confronted with unfair competition while they have to meet increasingly higher environmental and animal welfare requirements.⁴ The main lines of the new CAP are well known, and there too another six years of muddling along the wrong path is foreseen, meanwhile farming and biodiversity are deteriorating. Instead of learning from the mistakes, such as the abolition of the milk quota, the CAP remains WTO-proof, and the legalized dumping of Western surpluses in the Global South is also continued.⁵

Instead of opting for EU- and national CO₂ taxes coupled with import duties, the EU continues to focus on the ineffective Emissions Trading System (ETS). In addition, the EU risks opting for further market-oriented solutions in which large multinational companies within the energy and agribusiness do not have to reduce their emissions, but can compensate (*offsetting*) with dubious claims whereby CO₂ would be (long-term) captured in forests and soils. Misleading terms such as *Nature-based solutions*, *Carbon Neutral* and *Carbon Net-Zero* are used.⁶ Because this ‘solutions’ are partly happening in the Global South, it is small farmers and Indigenous peoples who will get into further trouble because their land will be taken away for this ‘compensation’.

International climate policy is already unfair because it is not the consuming countries but the producing countries that are held responsible for reducing emissions. For example, free trade agreements within the WTO have allowed Western countries to export their greenhouse gas pollution to countries such as China (industry), Brazil (soy, meat and biofuels) and Indonesia (palm oil, half of which is destined for biofuels). These market-oriented "solutions" and new free trade agreements will only further exacerbate this colonization of natural resources in the Global South.

That is why we say NO to:

- The EU trade strategies Trade Policy Review - *An Open, Sustainable and Assertive Trade Policy* (2021) and predecessors such as *Global Europe* (2006), *Trade, Growth and World Affairs* (2010) and *Trade for all* (2015).⁷ Little progress is made because the 2021 strategy refers to climate change and biodiversity loss. But the environment, animal welfare and workers’ rights will only appear in the non-binding sustainability chapters within trade agreements. Within the previous strategies, it was clearer that the main objective was to maximize the profits of European multinationals. European access to markets and raw materials outside Europe was considered ‘fundamental rights’ and colonial times revived. In addition, the political choice for competition

³ See the report *The EU-Mercosur trade agreement: a critical analysis and an alternative*, Handel Anders! coalition, October 2021, <https://handelanders.nl/nieuwe-publicatie-eu-mercotur-handelsverdrag/> (Translation in English, Spanish and Portuguese will be ready in 2021).

⁴ *Farm to Fork: How can the European food strategy become more effective?*, Voedsel Anders NL, June 2020, <https://www.voedselnders.nl/farm-to-fork-hoe-kan-de-europese-voedselstrategie-effectiever-worden/>

⁵ In July 2021, Guus Geurts participated on behalf of Voedsel Anders NL in a round table discussion on the new CAP for the LNV Committee in the Dutch Parliament. In addition, a position paper with historical analysis and alternatives was submitted. After the conversation, another letter was sent to this committee. See:

<https://www.voedselnders.nl/position-paper-alternatieven-voor-het-huidige-eu-handels-en-landbouwbeleid/>

⁶ *Nature based Solutions: a wolf in sheep's clothing*, Friends of the Earth Europe, October 2021,

<https://www.foei.org/news/nature-based-solutions-a-wolf-in-sheeps-clothing>

Collective statement *No to Nature Based Solutions / Disposessions!*, 2021,

<https://greencloud.gn.apc.org/index.php/s/XrgKNXE3nkm4dFn>

⁷ 2021: https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2021/february/tradoc_159438.pdf

Reaction Action Aid on this trading strategy: *The new EU trade strategy: What's actually new?*

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/economy-jobs/opinion/the-new-eu-trade-strategy-whats-actually-new/>

Trade, Growth and World Affairs – Trade policy as a core component of the EU's 2020 strategy, European

Commission DG Trade, November 2010, http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2010/november/tradoc_146955.pdf

Trade for all - Towards a more responsible trade and investment policy, European Commission DG Trade 2015,

http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2015/october/tradoc_153846.pdf

on the world market makes effective European policies impossible in other policy areas such as agriculture, climate, energy and biodiversity. This is because every environmental or social measure weakens the international competitive position. New trade agreements increase unfair competition, especially in agriculture, because the WTO does not allow environmental, animal welfare and workers' rights requirements to be imposed on imported products.

- The liberalization of trade in agricultural products; a political choice that was (only) made about 30 (WTO and EU) to 35 years ago (World Bank, IMF). Before that, politicians realized that agriculture and free trade do not go together, because farmers can only produce sustainably for a cost-covering price. This is impossible without market regulation.
- These free trade agreements because they also lead to access to – and continued depletion of – natural resources (in the Global South) such as land, water, minerals and energy to produce luxury products for the happy few with purchasing power, rather than the provision of basic needs for all, now and in the future.
- Misleading ‘solutions’ such as self-regulation – with voluntary and insignificant criteria – by the business community (e.g., within round tables for soy (RTRS)⁸ and palm oil (RSPO)) instead of binding social and environmental legislation, protection of human rights and market regulation. Unjust and ineffective ‘climate solutions’ such as the CO2 emissions trading (ETS), biofuels and tree plantations and *nature-based solutions* (in the Global South), with which the Global North and their multinationals avoid their responsibility to drastically reduce overconsumption, greenhouse gas emissions and/or energy consumption. Within the Paris climate agreement of 2015, it was agreed that the temperature may rise by a maximum of 2 °C and preferably 1.5 °C. But this target is not accompanied by binding measures. According to the IPCC, the temperature may rise from 1.1 to 5.7 °C in 2100, depending on whether or not sufficient effective intervention is taking place. However, an increase of 1.5 to 2 °C can already lead to an irreversible situation. Small-scale farmers in developing countries are already facing the biggest negative consequences of this climate change. Some of them are also driven from their land by these kinds of 'climate measures', with which developed countries evade their responsibility.⁹

Until now, arguments for political change that could lead to an ecologically responsible and socially just future for everyone have had little to no effect. The lobbying power of large multinational companies on the (inter)national governments is too great, the courage of politicians to deviate too far from *Business as Usual* is too small, and the belief in the neoliberal ‘world religion’ and technological ‘solutions’ is unaffected, despite the economic, social and ecological crises we are in the midst of. In addition, it is still taboo to make proposals within the EU and its member states for an overall more sober lifestyle, in which well-being is given priority over economic growth. It is precisely at this point that Indigenous people can be a great source of inspiration for us because they generally manage to meet their basic needs in balance with the available natural resources.

We therefore - once again – make an urgent appeal to you to drastically change courses while we still can do so within: climate policy, the necessary regulation of world trade and European agricultural policy.

⁸ Also criminologist and Amazon expert Tim Boekhout of Solinge calls on the Netherlands to stop greenwashing of 'sustainable soy' and import less soy, NPO Radio1, November 2021, <https://www.nporadio1.nl/fragmenten/de-nieuws-bv/17231de2-5ddc-432a-bcc8-a7f02d88e3eb/2021-11-03-president-bolsonaro-ondertekende-het-akkoord-voor-de-stop-van-ontbossing-wat-betekent-zijn-handtekening-voor-de-amazone>

⁹ *Climate Change: Global Temperature Projections* <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/understanding-climate/climate-change-global-temperature-projections>

We propose that the EU and its member states change its commitment as follows:

Food sovereignty¹⁰ in agricultural, trade and environmental policy:

- Within the WTO, there is no just and environmentally friendly trade policy, and the interests of multinationals take precedence over family farms in agriculture, SMEs, workers, Indigenous peoples and nature and the environment in both the Global North and South. These multinationals can use WTO rules as a crowbar to gain access to markets and resources. Furthermore, within the WTO dumping of agricultural products below cost price is permitted, and no requirements may be imposed on the environment, animal welfare and working conditions of imported products.
So, the WTO, and especially the *Agreement on Agriculture* on free trade in agriculture, must be radically reformed so that sovereignty and respect for human rights become the guiding measures. *See the analysis and proposals for an alternative of the Handel Anders! coalition, and by Jacques Berthelot on this.*¹¹
- The EU stops concluding bilateral and regional trade agreements such as EU-Mercosur, CETA and a treaty with Indonesia, and the Economic Partnership Agreements with the European former colonies the so-called ACP-countries.
- Countries in the Global South are allowed to increase their import duties as soon as possible in order to protect their food production through their own farmers. The World Bank and the IMF are removing these demands for liberalization from their dictates towards the Global South like the former Structural Adjustment Programs.
- Trade policy and the European Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the period 2023 – 2027 and beyond are being reformed in such a way that Europe becomes as self-sufficient as possible in the areas of food, animal feed, wood, textiles and energy. This can be done via:
 - o Import duties are (re)introduced for all agricultural products where Europe can produce alternatives. In addition, EU supply management and minimum prices within arable farming and livestock farming will be (re)introduced so that farmers are paid cost-covering, and the current – trade-distorting – generic hectare subsidies can be abolished. In this way, disguised dumping in the Global South is prevented and European farmers can produce the alternatives to products (such as soy, palm oil) that are still imported and lead to major social and ecological problems in the Global South.
 - o Protection of markets enables higher environmental and animal welfare requirements for farmers and European ecotaxes on CO₂, pesticides and fertilizers. This will lead to an internalization of all costs in the price to the consumer.
 - o The billions that are thus saved in the GLB¹² can be used to pay farmers for green services to society in the area of nature, soil and water protection, stimulation of agroecological, regional agriculture and processing, short chains between farmers and consumers and for increasing organic matter in the soil (good for climate and soil fertility).
- European companies and investment funds are forbidden to buy land in the Global South, in order to stop the European contribution to the current *landgrab*.

¹⁰ For more explanation on food sovereignty, see this joint final statement by European farmers and civil society organizations during the Nyeleni-European Forum for Food Sovereignty in Austria in 2011: <https://viacampesina.org/en/nyeleni-europe-2011-declaration-food-sovereignty-in-europe-now/>

¹¹ For an overview of similar proposals by trade unions, farmers' and civil society organizations, see the *Call for fair and sustainable trade* of the Handel Anders! coalition, 2020: <https://handelanders.nl/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/English-version-of-our-publication.pdf> - Launch in Nieuwspoort with video, November 2020: <https://handelanders.nl/geslaagde-lancering-publicatie-in-nieuwspoort/>

Rebuilding the WTO for a sustainable Global development, Jacques Berthelot, 2019, See: <https://www.sol-asso.fr/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Rebuilding-the-WTO-for-a-sustainable-global-development-SOL-7-January-2019.pdf>

¹² *Assessment of the budgetary effects of the 'New Policy'*, JM Boussard Hotels and others, December 2010, Pag. 8, See: <https://www.aardeboerconsument.nl/wp/wp-content/uploads/2008/11/10-12-13-budget-21-dec.doc>

- Strongly reformed global multilateral trade agreements lead to an end to the current forced liberalization, fair prices for tropical products through commodity agreements, abolition of tariff escalation on these products, more self-sufficient regions, a circular economy with drastically lower energy consumption and more employment. The Global South then gets a large part of their markets and natural resources back for their own development, at a pace of their own choosing.

Climate justice and energy security:

- The EU will stop using fossil fuels as soon as possible and reduce net greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2025 (instead of 2050).¹³ To this end, the following measures shall be taken:
 - o The CO2 Emissions Trading System (ETS) is being abolished because it is not effective.
 - o Ecotaxes on fossil fuels will be drastically increased in the EU and its member states (and the tax on labour will be reduced). The Dutch Central Bank (DNB) and many economists argue in favour of a CO2 tax because it can be very effective.¹⁴
 - o These EU CO2 taxes are accompanied by EU import duties to prevent unfair competition. The *Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism* is a first step forward.¹⁵
 - o As a result of these measures, the prices for essential necessities of life will rise. To ensure that the climate transition is just, social benefits and the minimum wage are being increased so that all citizens have access to these basic needs.
 - o Instead of subsidizing large companies for their carbon capture and storage (CCS), housing cooperatives and homeowners are financially supported to insulate homes and make them energy neutral as quickly as possible.
 - o The subsidies on fossil fuels and the tax benefits for large-scale energy consumers will be abolished (in the Netherlands € 30 billion per year¹⁶).
 - o Public money is no longer going to build new highways, seaports and airports, which now lead to unnecessary pollution and subsidized competition for regional small and medium sized businesses.
 - o Public investment in public transport is greatly expanded, creating an intricate network of trains, long-distance buses and minibuses as shown in many countries in the Global South. Everyone in an electric car is impossible and undesirable because of the high demand for electricity (next to data centres, green steel, etc.) and (rare) mining products. This mining is often at the expense of land rights, the food security of the local population and nature in the Global South.
 - o Maritime transport and aviation will also have to deal with drastic reduction obligations for their greenhouse gas emissions. With regard to maritime transport of goods and air freight, the country of destination becomes responsible for reduction obligations. In addition, kerosene and airline tickets are heavily taxed.

¹³ Demand by Extinction Rebellion, see: <https://extinctionrebellion.nl/eisen/>

¹⁴ *Economic consequences of CO2 taxation can be foreseen*, DNBulletin, 30 October 2018, see: <https://www.dnb.nl/actueel/algemeen-nieuws/dnbulletin-2020/economische-gevolgen-co2-belasting-zijn-te-overzien/>
Economists want CO2 tax for companies: 'Climate agreement disappoints', NOS, 25 January 2019, see: <https://nos.nl/artikel/2269005-economen-willen-co2-heffing-voor-bedrijven-klimaatakoord-stelt-teleur.html>

¹⁵ An economist such as Mathijs Bouman therefore also argues for import duties: <http://mathijsbouman.nl/pijnlijk-voor-liberale-economen-voor-een-effectief-klimaatbeleid-zijn-misschien-flinke-importheffingen-nodig/> and <https://fd.nl/opinie/1380747/hoogste-tijd-voor-co2-belasting-op-vuile-import-ook-als-we-daarvoor-handelsregels-moeten-aanpassen-kqd1caiVtPza>

¹⁶ Calculation 2023: <https://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2023/03/23/onderzoeker-corrigeert-zichzelf-fossiele-subsidies-bedragen-niet-173-maar-30-miljard-a4160305> In 2022 this was calculated at 17.5 billion euros, in 2020 8.3 billion euros: <https://www.parool.nl/nederland/milieudedefensie-nederland-sponsort-fossiele-industrie-met-8-3-miljard-euro-per-jaar-b1eeecb4/>

- Furthermore, stimulating decentralized sustainable electricity production by citizens and cooperatives at cost-covering prices in the Netherlands and the EU, rapidly improving the infrastructure to supply sustainable energy back to the grid.
- Dutch (and European) coal-fired power stations will be closed as soon as possible.
- There will be a European import ban on shale gas and oil, and oil (products) from tar sands.
- The European Biofuels Directive will be abolished, and the import of biofuels from developing countries will also be prohibited.
- The EU is leaving the Energy Charter Treaty and no longer concludes ISDS/ICS investment clauses within free trade agreements. Those treaties allow multinational energy companies and other investors to sue states that want to implement stricter environmental policies, with claims of billions. For example, RWE and Uniper are suing the Netherlands, because the Parliament been decided to have a coal exit in 2030.¹⁷
- According to Via Campesina, 50 to 75% of all global greenhouse gas emissions can be prevented or captured by: increasing the organic matter content in agricultural lands, ending intensive livestock farming and transitioning to mixed farms, moving to regionalized food production, and by stopping deforestation and nature destruction for plantations of export crops and beef production.¹⁸

Stopping EU and its member states' violation of human rights and an end to *green washing*:

- A parliamentary inquiry is conducted into the current and future violations of human rights resulting from the conclusion of bilateral and regional free trade agreements, the WTO treaties, and the World Bank and IMF programs. This concerns in particular the right to food, water and livelihood. The EU are adapting these treaties in such a way that human rights violations no longer occur.¹⁹
- Ditto for the possible negative effects of EU and its member states' climate policy in the Global South, such as through the import of biofuels and biomass, and the planting of tree plantations as compensation for European emissions.
- Multinationals that contribute to human rights violations in countries outside Europe through the extraction of raw materials, production, import or trade are held criminally liable for this, in the country of origin and/or the country where the crime was committed. This can be done through a binding UN treaty on human rights and business that has been negotiated since 2014.²⁰
- EU member states governments (such as the Netherlands) are stopping subsidizing the *greenwashing* platforms Round Table on *Responsible Soy* and Roundtable on *Sustainable Palm Oil*. The millions of government subsidies to the Dutch Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) are also drastically reduced and the programs in the field of soy, palm oil, tropical timber and farmed fish are discontinued. Large-scale import of these products is not sustainable,²¹ and the IDH wrongly gives a green image to importing companies with taxpayers' money.

¹⁷ See: <https://friendsoftheearth.eu/energy-charter-treaty/> and

<https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/actueel/nieuws/2021/05/17/nederlandse-staat-naar-duitse-rechter-om-kolenmaatregel>

¹⁸ See: *Small scale sustainable Farmers are cooling down the Earth*, GRAIN and Via Campesina Views, December 10, 2009: <https://www.grain.org/en/article/4163-small-scale-sustainable-farmers-are-cooling-down-the-earth> and *Small scale sustainable farmers are cooling down the Earth*, La Via Campesina 9 November 2007:

<https://viacampesina.org/en/small-scale-sustainable-farmers-are-cooling-down-the-earth/>

¹⁹ See *Indictment against the WTO, in view of human rights on food and livelihood*, Guus Geurts (XminY Solidariteitsfonds) and Ger Roebeling (Wemos), 8 April 2005, <https://adoc.pub/aanklacht-tegen-de-wto-met-het-oog-op-de-mensenrechten-op-vo.html> and <http://www.ravagedigitaal.org/2005/nummer6/afwezig.htm>

²⁰ <https://www.somo.nl/nl/onderwerp/business-human-rights/> and *EU steps out of negotiations human rights treaty*, Sustainable news, 12 March 2019, see: <https://www.duurzaamnieuws.nl/eu-stapt-uit-mensenrechten-verdrag/>

²¹ *RSPO fails to deliver on environmental and social sustainability, study finds*, Mongabay, 11 July 2018, see:

<https://news.mongabay.com/2018/07/rspo-fails-to-deliver-on-environmental-and-social-sustainability-study-finds/>

+ Workshop report *Making imports of soya imports more sustainable or, as far as possible, European self-sufficiency of protein crops*, March 2016, see: <https://www.voedselnders.nl/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/2H.pdf>

- In order to prevent the current abuse by the business community of the term ‘sustainable’, a broad social discussion will determine which (binding) criteria apply to this. These criteria also apply to all purchases made by the national, provincial and local authorities.
Some suggestions: no (indirect) violation of human rights, closing cycles of minerals and fresh water, no nature destruction and no expulsion of farmers, herders and Indigenous peoples from their land – including through indirect land use change, as little use of fossil fuels as possible, respect for ILO standards and a fair wage for employees, no genetic manipulation, respect for the species-specific behaviour of animals in livestock farming, and the lowest possible ecological footprint.

Advantages of these proposals

Through a much more self-sufficient Europe (food, animal feed, energy, wood, textiles and fibre), farmers in the Global South get their local markets and natural resources back for their own food production and livelihoods. This will reduce the need to migrate to slums or to the West. This greater European self-sufficiency and drastic European energy savings also offer the best guarantee of future European food and energy security, offer farmers in North and South cost-covering prices and consumers fair prices for fair and as environmentally and animal-friendly products as possible. It also creates many new jobs in the (regional) processing industry and trade. Cycles of increasingly scarce minerals and fresh water are closed, the European contribution to climate change is drastically reduced, the European contribution to the destruction of nature and the land expropriation of Indigenous peoples and small farmers in the Global South is stopped, and the European agricultural budget is used much more effectively. But above all: Europe is taking its responsibility and putting an end as much as possible to the violation of human rights on the food, water and livelihoods of people inside and outside Europe.

*If you and / or your organization want to support this petition, please sent an email to guusgeurts@yahoo.com
Thanks for your support!*

Working group Food Justice: www.foodjustice.eu
<https://www.facebook.com/voedselrechtvaardigheid/>

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26 April 2023

As of 26 April 2023, these proposals are supported by 47 civil society organizations, 9 (social) enterprises and 316 citizens in the Netherlands and abroad.

These are the following 47 civil society organizations:

- Amsterdam Vredescafé (*Peace Cafe*)
- ASEED Europe - Action for Solidarity, Equality, Environment, and Diversity Europe
- Association for BioDynamic Agriculture and Food (*BD-vereniging*)
- Bangsa Adat Alifuru
- Behoud de Parel (North-Limburg)
- CIMI, Cigla for Indigenous Missionary Council, *Brazil*
- Climate Justice Action Netherlands
- Congregation Sisters of Charity, Schijndel
- Corporate Europe Observatory (*international NGO*)
- Dutch Province of the Sisters of the Society of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
- EVS – EcoVrede (*Eco Peace*)
- Extinction Rebellion Agriculture
- Free West Papua Campaign (*inter.*)
- Friends of the Landless, *Finland*
- Front Siwa Lima
- Fund Rescue Maluku Sekarang
- Gifsoja.nl
- Haagse Mug
- Handel Anders!-coalition (*Trade differently-coalition*)
- Indigenous Movement
- Kollektief Rampenplan
- Leef op Safe Horst aan de Maas
- Leeuwarden department, Friends of the Earth Netherlands
- Moluccan Historic Museum
- Nieuw Nederland (political party)
- NVLV – Netwerk Vitale Landbouw en Voeding
- Ondernemers van Nu (*Entrepreneurs from Now*)
- Radio Siwa Lima
- Reclame Fossilvrij (*Advertising Fossil Free*)
- Socialist Party Working group Agriculture and horticulture North-Limburg
- Society "Sustainable development", *Azerbaijan*
- Stichting Aarde (*Founding Earth*)
- Stichting Leven met de Aarde (*Founding Living with the Earth*)
- Stichting Nusa AlifURU
- Stichting Oyugis Integrated Project, The Netherlands
- stichting Samenwerkingsverband Hoogland Indianen SHI, (*Founding Highland Indians Partnership*)
- StoereVrouwen (*Tough Women*)
- Supermacht.nl
- S.V.D.; Missionaries of the Divine Word in the Netherlands and *Belgium*
- TROCA - Plataforma por um Comércio Internacional Justo, *Portugal*
- Vasten voor Vrede (*Fast for Peace*), *Belgium*
- Wij stoppen steenkool (*We stop coal*)
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, WILPF Netherlands
- Working group Food Justice
- Working group Justice and Peace of the Missionaries of Africa
- Working group Openness to the world, of the Franciscan Sisters of Etten
- Young & Fair

The following (social) enterprises:

- Buizer Consultancy – Sustainable agriculture and energy
- Bureau Ver(?)Antwoord (*Bureau Responsible*)
- CleSch Beheer B.V.
- Il Circolo, social enterprise
- RCA Energy
- Swadeshi - Bureau for Alternative Globalization
- Voetprint Cooking (*Footprint Cooking*)
- Wolverlei Cheese factory
- Zonnehoeve Ing. P.M.A. van IJzendoorn MEd

These proposals are supported by the following 316 citizens in the Netherlands and *abroad* (first with the support team, the (28) fasters and/or speakers during the kick-off of the campaign for Food Sovereignty and Climate Justice on World Food Day 16 October 2011). At the end a tribute to the supporters in 2011, who passed away after 2011.:

Alowieke Van Beusekom	Sophie Schaffernicht, <i>Austria</i>	<u>Other supporters (in chronical order):</u>	Sara Svensson, <i>Sweden</i>
seMUel Sahureka	Kirsten Smalenberg	Lou Keune	Modroocka Klimova
Co van Melle, <i>doctor</i>	Edwin Cornelissen	Hay Coenen	Daria De
Thomas Reineke	Niels Gorisse	Paulina Lovo	Małgorzata Bortko, <i>Poland</i>
Biju Negi, <i>India</i>	Irma Beusink	Lily Marlene	Marek Griks
Riky Schut	Jan Schut (†)	Eelco Fortuijn	Wiebe de Boer
Lies Visscher	Zr. Margreet van Wijk	Bart van Baardwijk	Pieter Jansen
Hugo Beunder	Trees Daverveld	Jayakumar Chelaton, <i>India</i>	Didi Van Dijk
Conny Bergé	Klaas Strooker	David Sánchez Carpio, <i>Spain</i>	Varpu Sairinen, <i>now Finland</i>
Wilbrord Braakman	Rix Kijne	Laís Lima, <i>Brazil</i>	Kushal Neogy, <i>India</i>
Linda Coen	Renu Thakur, <i>India</i>	Rashmi Painuly, <i>India</i>	Elvira Helena Brock Mendoza
Paul Hendriksen	Oridek Ap	Luka van Tudor	Hylke Sierksma
Francine Thielen	Guus Geurts	Michal Zareba	Marc van der Sterren
Jan Assies		Krishan Kalsi, <i>India</i>	Liza Hirschegger
Marianne Juffermans		Annelies Schorpion, <i>Belgium</i>	Paulus Benny Bernady, <i>Indonesia</i>
Jan Juffermans, <i>Voor Mondiale Duurzaamheid</i>		Jaya Mishra, <i>India</i>	Petra Lala
Scott Cetie, <i>Germany</i>		Paul Connor, <i>Australia</i>	Paul Geurts
Tracy Worcester, <i>England</i> , documentary maker <i>Pig Business</i>		Karen Eliot	Senada Rougoor-Mahalbasic
		Dante Ryel, <i>Canada</i>	Karlijn Dijkgraaf
			Jan Dijkgraaf

Joris Heylen, <i>Belgium</i>	Theo Weenink	Taru Salmenkari and Mussu, <i>Finland</i>	Edwin de Bruijn
	Alec Boswijk		Joop Eggermont
Lucija Talijancic, <i>Croatia</i>	Brenda Strooker	Martijn Stekelenburg	Sibbe Jan Kramer
Pelle Berting	Irmi Salzer, <i>Austria</i>	Mike Venekamp	Fenna Bastiaansen
Hugo Klip	Pankaj Bhuskan, <i>India</i>	Linda van IJzendoorn	Rosan Stuijt
Anton van Alebeek	Stephan Eshuis	Patricia Bergink	Peter Huber
Baba Conteh, <i>Switzerland</i>	To Elting	Cokky Klein Hofmeijer	Monic Geurts
Iris van Alebeek	Zr. Ancilla Martens	Sibe Jan Kramer	Ger Vankoolwijk
Kartini Le Grand	Zr. Jacoba de Ceuster	Mariana Cristova, <i>Bulgaria</i>	Luc Vankrunkelsven, <i>Wervel, Belgium</i>
Greet Goverde	Zr. Augustina Bastiaansen	Marja van Hedel	Els van Dongen
Nico Schoen	Zr. Jean-Marie Verhulst	Esin Candan, <i>Turkey</i>	Lucas Buur
Jan Janssen	Netty Sanchez	Carolien van de Stadt-Sabel	A. Matahelumual
Michael van Rengs	Rentia Krijnen	Niels Hollenbeek Brouwer	Gerard Floor
Jacques Kelleners	Pablo Eppelin	Erna Klaasse-van Maaren	Jacob M. Sahureka
Bart Visscher	Jeannette Albers	Joke Coldenhoff	Jacqueline Vorst Benghazi
Jelle de Groot	Jenny Gkougi, <i>Greece</i>	Antonis Koul, <i>Greece</i>	Benjamin Pessy
Çağdaş Öğüt	Anwar Siwa	Cevher Demir, <i>Turkey</i>	Dirk Hart
Jean Armand Bokally, <i>Cameroon</i>	Caroline Docters van Leeuwen	Louis Banens	Naomi Sahureka
Loes Berkhout	John La Haye	Abraham Jochem	Mireille van Hout
Job van Weelden	Anastasia Poimenidou, <i>Greece</i>	Fred van Eenbergen	Milly Cuijpers
Ian Wagenhuis	Piet van der Lende	Janneke Juffermans	M.W. Sahureka
Rozi Konjo, <i>Ethiopia</i>	Jaap Simonis	Anne Maatoke	John Habets
Eddy Lerou	Nellie Werner		Jaap Schouls
Ammy Langenbach			
Monique Veenstra			

Edwin Matahelumual	Marc Joolen	Zr. Margaret Lammerts	Emil Möller
José van Leeuwen	Nona Verzijde	M.A.J. van den Eijnden	Bets Verbakel
Mr. Talarima	Rowena Latupeirissa	D. Huismans	Atit Sigari
D. Tuynman	Firhanna Ohorella	R. Freijse	Philip de Goey
Geurt van de Kerk	Batti Sahureka	A. de Groot	Juan Noguera
Rymke Wiersma - <i>Atalanta</i>	Otto Sahureka	M. Krupers	Dorien Soons
Ingrid van der Beele	Julius Arnold Tahamata	Zr. Marianne Kemmeren	Lars Keizerswaard
Floor Hermans	Lounusa Besi	J. Senten	Willem Hoogendijk
Mart Schellekens	Matua Maone Matulessij	J. v.d. Wiel	Peter Lubbers
Hans Wijering	Paul Metz	Peter van de Wiel, <i>coördinator van de commissie Vrede, Gerechtigheid en Heelheid van de Schepping (GVS) van S.V.D.</i>	Aristide Amok
Ramona Fortuna	Carlo Duncan, <i>Italy</i>	Ingrid van Dijk	Maranke Spoor
Rinie van der Zanden	John Huige	Zr. Imaria Niessen, <i>SSPS</i>	Agnes Konings, <i>Belgium</i>
Gerdien Kleijer	Tijn van Beurden	Helena Kartsen	Ademir Arapovic
Hellen Opie	Bart de Boer	Joost Schneiders – Evers	Renate Ebner
Akindimeji Olabode, <i>Nigeria</i>	Coby Baars	Wilhelmine van Hövell	Rob Bleijerveld
Wim Gielingh	Jeroen Flapper	Fatima-Zohra Buurman	Jurrien Kok
Welmoed van Mansvelt	Louise Bredero	Paul Delrue, <i>Missionary van Scheut, Brussels, Belgium</i>	Kris Tsakona <i>Greece</i>
Maaïke Wijngaard	Roeland Schweitzer	Peter van den Berg	Like Kocken
Chomi Tegeltija	Jeroen Flapper		Karina Kroft
Roosje Hart	Henk van de Wal		Piet Kroft, <i>vz. Mondiaal Platform Venray</i>
Gerrit Barnard	Suze Lases		Cees Sies
Frank Ntim	Sjef Kuppens, <i>mafr</i>		Marc Oyserman
Willem van Middendorp	Zr. Albertha te Wierik		Hugo Hooijer
	Antoinette Witjes		Joyce van Heijningen

Nel Sahuleka	Bert Nederbragt	Corrie van Rijthoven	<u>Supporters who passed away after 2011, RIP</u>
Adrie Noordhuis	Priscilla Paulussen	Annemarie Elout	Lin Tabak (2012)
Grace Jagdewsing	Bertus Buizer	Riet Beukert	https://groenlinks.nl/nieuws/lin-tabak-overleden
Piet Siebers	Mirjam van Rijn	Eddy van der Noord	
Mariska Laan	Tom van de Beek	Uitgeverij Louise	Cor van den Brand (2012)
Nathalie van der Vorst	Raf Janssen	Esther Meulenkamp	https://www.deroerom.nl/nieuws/2012/06/in-memori-am-cor-van-den-brand-w-p/
Lia Heemskerk	Marina Figeo	Kitty de Bruin	
Harry van den Berkmortel	Wim Lentink	Jopke van Mersbergen	Ans van Oers (2017)
Dette Glashouwer	Monique Mol	Sandra van Bruggen	https://www.peelenmaasvenray.nl/nieuws/nieuws/70480/ans-van-oers-overleden
Janneke Trapman	Willie Raaijmakers	Ans Huisman	
Dela Geerling	Femke Slegers	Mirke van Leeuwen	Jan Schut (2017)
Bea Segers	Rick Clephas	Eveline Bernard	https://www.trouw.nl/nieuws/jan-schut-1937-2017-van-landbouwpionier-tot-overlever~b4c2fcb6/
Yvonne Soudijn	Sietske Inberg	Renée Turken	
Wout Hermans	Mw. R. Ruigrok	Caroline van Beurden	Zr. Veronique - Johanna van Woerkum (2018)
Jan Diek van Mansvelt	Maria Inckmann Van Gaalen, <i>vz BD-Vereniging</i>	Marie-José Westen	https://www.ed.nl/eindhoven/zuster-veronique-zette-zich-in-eindhoven-in-voor-vluchtelingen~a103ee a3/
Marc Siepman	Hein Muller	Connie Teekens	
Carol Schyns	Jan Vugts	Christa de Leeuw van Weenen	
Theo Berendsen	Armando van Vlastuin	Siny Roelfs	Jan Willem van Leenhoff (2019)
Quetzal Tzab	Marjolein Moeijes	Annelies Justus	<i>(Idealist and activist for a better world and with a heart of gold (from obituary))</i>
Harry Donkers	Henk Linders	Noortje Kuhlman	
Stephanie Rosenkranz	Theo Mulder, <i>voorz. Symphony of Soils</i>		
Anne Gentenaar	Irene van Staveren, <i>Professor at ISS part of Erasmus University</i>		
Gemma Meyer			
Martijn de Jong	Ruud Meij		

2. Fast (and hunger strike) for Food Sovereignty and Climate Justice

- Background and inspiration to cope with the ‘forgotten’ food-, energy and climate crises

Amsterdam, 31 October 2011,

To:

- Minister-President Rutte, the Minister of Economic Affairs, Innovation and Agriculture (ELI), the Assistant Secretary of International Trade and Agriculture, the Minister of Infrastructure and Environment, the Assistant Secretary of Environment, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Assistant Secretary of Development Cooperation
- The member of Parliament of the following Commissions: Economic Affairs, Innovation and Agriculture, Infrastructure and Environment, Foreign Affairs and European Affairs
- The CEO's of Solidaridad, World Wildlife Fund the Netherlands, Initiative Sustainable Trade (IDH)

Dear Mrs, Mr,

In the attached document you will find an analysis and several proposals in the area of:

- **Food sovereignty within agricultural and trade policy;**
- **Climate justice and energy security;**
- **Stopping the Dutch and European violations of human rights and *Green washing*.**

These proposals are supported by 27 development, environmental, farmers, human rights, Indigenous people and women's' organisations, and by 161 individuals (31 October).

In this letter you will find the background and the inspiration for the choice of:

- Several people in the Netherlands and in other countries, to enforce these proposals by means of fast for 24 hours at World Food Day 16 October, 1 November, 20 November, 24 November and 14 December.
- Moreover from 1 November one individual will continue this action by going on a forty day fast out of solidarity with the people and nature mentioned below, by not eating anything. During this period, he won't eat anything and only drink water and herbal tea, added by salts recommended by a doctor.
- Depending on your reaction to this request, he will possibly start a hunger strike from 11 December onwards, until some demands are met.

Besides that, you will find in this letter information about other activities within this action, and how to support this action.

We wish you courage and wisdom.

In solidarity with:

- all (unnecessary) hungry and malnourished people now and in the future;
 - all climate refugees now and in the future;
 - all murdered, threatened and (with violence) evicted farmers, pastoralists, I
 - Indigenous people and environmental activists, who want(ed) to protect nature, their living areas and/or way of living, against destruction to make way for plantations of soybeans, palm oil, bio fuels and timber, for cattle ranches, or for drilling or mining for fossil fuels and raw materials – especially when these products are exported to Europe;
 - all farmers in the global North and the global South who are driven from their local, national and regional (e.g., the EU) markets by free trade agreements;
 - all Indigenous people whose livelihoods and culture are threatened by the current western development model based on growth, over-consumption and competition;
 - all animal and plant species which are threatened with extinction because of human activities;
 - our children and grandchildren, who will surely ask “why didn't you do anything when you still could?”,
-
- **28 Dutch and foreign citizens** force the mentioned proposals by fasting for 24 hours on World Food Day 16 October 2011 1 November, 20 November, 24 November and 14 December;
 - **Guus Geurts** ²² **starts a forty day fast at 1 November**, in which he will eat nothing and drink only water and herbal tea. Out of solidarity with the mentioned living beings he makes an urgent request to you to take over these proposals as much as possible;
 - depending on your reaction to this urgent request he will possibly continue this action by going on hunger strike from 11 December onwards, until an amount of these proposals is taken over by you.

Why now?

During the G20-summit in France at 3 and 4 November, the Climate Summit COP17 in Durban South Africa (28 November – 9 December), the WTO-summit (15 – 17 December), and the upcoming negotiations about a new European Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), crucial decisions will be made about the supply of basic needs and the future of the planet. Protection of the right to food and right to a livelihood, and the prevention of disastrous climate change have everything to do with the political choice for competition on the world market in WTO and other free trade agreements.

Until now former attempts such as demonstrations, petitions, advocacy letters to politicians, non-violent actions, or opinion articles in newspapers and magazines and other publications, have hardly led to a change of policy. Arguments for a political change towards an ecologically sound and socially just future for all don't seem to count. The influence of big multinational corporations on governments is too big, the courage of politicians to deviate from ‘Business as Usual’ is too small and the belief in the neoliberal ‘world religion’ is ongoing despite the current crises.

Hence this ultimate demand in the decisive months for the climate, regulation of world trade and the European common agricultural policy, to change for the better now when it's still possible. And thus, also to meet the serious concerns of many Dutch citizens about the provision of their basic needs and those of their children in the – near – future.

²² At this moment one person (Guus Geurts) will go on hunger strike starting on 1 November for the whole period, but several other people will join the action for one day or longer. He considers this hunger strike also as a spiritual quest and would like to combine this fast with periods of meditation. He will attend a ten day course Vipassana-meditation from 19 until 28 October. During this meditation he will eat a meal at 6.30 am and 11 am. After 12 noon no meals are allowed (see for more information: www.dhamma.org). So, this would mean that he fasts for 24 hours at 16 October, partly fasts from 19 until 28 October, and start his long term fast from 1 November onwards.

This fast / hunger strike is inspired by:

- Gandhi, because of his non-violent actions (such as several fasts / hunger strikes) and his pleas for inter-religious dialogue. He also said: 'The world has enough for everybody's needs but not for everybody's greed'. Finally, he invented concepts which are still very inspiring for a just and ecological future, such as *Swadeshi* (self-sufficiency, localization), *Swaraja* (local autonomy, self-rule) and his principles of *Satyagraha* (the ultimate truth, soul power).²³
- Two climate justice fasters who fasted for 43 days before and during the climate summit in Copenhagen in 2009.²⁴
- Trust and self-confidence; with spiritual help we will hopefully bring this action to a desirable end. Hopefully the ones who are able to decide about meeting these demands will also get this spiritual help and be courageous enough to take their responsibility. Depending on the specific person the source of this spiritual help could be Allah, Yahweh, God, Brahma, Mother Earth, ancestors, soul groups or the divine in oneself.

Public manifestations at World Food Day, 1 and 24 November 2011, silent demonstrations and (inter)national support:

- At World Food Day, 16 October, an information and awareness activity was organized around this fasting campaign and hunger strike in the Dominicus Church in Amsterdam. See: <https://guusgeurts.nl/gg/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/11-10-03-Programma-Wereldvoedseldag-Dominicuskerk.pdf>
- At 1 November, a petition with the aforementioned proposals will be presented to the House of Representatives Committee on Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation between 1.15 pm and 1.45 pm. This is also the first day of the 40-day fast. From 12.30 to 14.30 there will be a demonstration on the Square in front of the House of Representatives.
- Every Tuesday from 8 November, Guus Geurts will take place on the Plein between 9 am and 6 pm, where supporters are asked to accompany him for a shorter or longer period of time. These concerns - as long as this is physically possible - 8, 15, 22, 29 November and 6 December. On those days there will be a silent action on the Plein between 1.30 pm and 3 pm, with wind lights. This with the aim of calling on the members of the House of Representatives to also pay attention to the 'forgotten food, climate and natural resource crises' in the simultaneous Question Time, and somewhat less to hypes and the favorite topics of the past 10 years: crime, integration and immigration.
- This fasting action and hunger strike is supported both nationally and internationally. For the Dutch text and support, see: <http://www.causes.com/causes/634694-steun-voor-hongerstaking-voor-voedselsoevereiniteit-en-klimaatrechtvaardigheid> For the English text and support: <http://www.causes.com/causes/635070-support-for-hunger-strike-for-food-sovereignty-and-climate-justice>

Yours faithfully,

Guus Geurts, on behalf of the Working Group Food Justice, the co-fasters and other people who - morally - support these actions in any way.

²³ - A recommendation on Swadeshi: *Gandhi's Swadeshi – The Economics of permanence*, Satish Kumar, see: <http://caravan.squat.net/ICC-en/Krrs-en/gandi-econ-en.htm>,

- More information about *Swadeshi*: <http://www.transitiontownrotterdam.nl/wiki/Swadeshi>

- More information about *Satyagraha*: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satyagraha>

²⁴ See for more information of the Climate Justice Fast by Anna Keenan and Sara Svensson, and their inspiration by Gandhi: Article in the Guardian (November 2009) <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2009/nov/06/copenhagen-activists-hunger-strike> and <https://gandhiking.ning.com/forum/topics/gandhi-and-the-climate-justice>. This link doesn't work anymore: www.climatejusticefast.com

3. Campaign activities 2011 – 2023

* This action was certainly not a one-man action. For example, on October 16 during World Food Day, 28 people in the Netherlands and abroad fasted for 24 hours, on November 1 by 7 people, on November 20 by 3 people, November 24 by 5 people and on December 13 by 5 people.

* On October 16, a public meeting on this subject was organized in the Dominicus Church in Amsterdam, with about fifty visitors. There were speakers from women's, youth, environmental, development, farmers, and Indigenous peoples' organizations. *See before in the letter.*

* On Tuesdays 1, 8, 15 and 22 November, between 8 and 20 people were always present on the Square in front of the House of Representatives in The Hague between 9.30 and 16.30. On November 1, a petition containing all proposals was presented to the Parliamentary Committee for Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation. On those days, a silent action with wind lights was held between 1:30 PM and 3:00 PM. This with the aim of calling on the members of the House of Representatives to also pay attention to the 'forgotten food, climate and natural resource crises' in the simultaneous Question Time, and somewhat less to hypes and the favorite topics of the past 10 years: crime, integration and immigration.

* On November 24, a climate manifestation was organized on the Square in front of the House of Representatives, in preparation for the House of Representatives debate on climate. We were addressed by Paulus Jansen (SP) and Liesbeth van Tongeren (GroenLinks). Music was also played. Afterwards we took a seat in the public gallery in the House of Representatives.

* Guus Geurts gave lectures on November 7 during *Occupy College* on the Beursplein in Amsterdam, and on December 11 during *Occupy the Climate* at the Hemweg coal power plant, in Amsterdam, see: <https://www.indymedia.nl/node/1004>

* From 2012, the campaign continued through lectures and a strategy meeting for all supporters on March 30, 2012. At that time, the Food Different network was set up together with others, in which fair trade and agricultural policies are a prominent theme. See also the updated manifesto (2022): <https://www.voedselnders.nl/manifest/>

* Voedsel Anders organized the *Voedsel Anders conference – Towards fair and sustainable food and agricultural systems* in 2014, 2016 and 2022 and in 2018 the Food Caravan throughout the country. For more information: www.voedselnders.nl and <https://www.facebook.com/voedselnders>

* Partly inspired by this action, documentary maker Wiek Lenssen left for Brazil to make a documentary about the problem of large-scale soy production for the Indigenous Guarani People and other local residents in Brazil. On October 1, 2012, the debate *'Pigs and soy'* was held during the Floriade in Venlo, during which these images were shown. The debate was organized by Oxfam/Novib, Milieudefensie (Friends of the Earth Netherlands), Association Behoud de Parel, Wiek Lenssen Film Productions and the Socialist Party Working Group on Agriculture and Horticulture. A video report of this meeting and images about the negative consequences of soy cultivation for the Guarani Indians in Brazil can be viewed at: <http://wielenssenfilm.nl/de-kwestie-soja>

* This petition has been partly incorporated into the alternative within the European partnership, in collaboration with Platform Aarde Boer Consument: Alternative Trade Mandate. Development, environmental and farmers' organizations work together and develop together. This alternative was launched in December 2013. See: <https://www.tni.org/en/publication/trade-time-for-a-new-vision>
In 2014, a campaign was also conducted on the ATM direction the European elections in May 2014.

* On 26 May 2013 in Wageningen during the March against Monsanto and on 30 October 2013 during a demonstration against the Crop World Global conference at the RAI in Amsterdam, Guus Geurts addressed the attendees: *How are we really going to feed the world?* See the video report of this speech: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i52QPOYxp9g> and for the text: <https://guusgeurts.nl/gg/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/13-05-26-Hoe-gaan-we-de-wereld-werkelijk-voeden-MAM-Wageningen-voetnoot-ipv-eindnoot.docx>.

* A European Election Debate was organized on 6 May 2014, with a lot of attention for TTIP and ATM. A video of presentation of the ATM proposals in the field of agriculture: <http://vimeo.com/94767357>

* Co-organization of the International Stop TTIP Day on October 11, 2014 on the Beursplein in Amsterdam and other demonstrations against CETA and TTIP in the following years. See: https://www.facebook.com/events/beursplein/european-day-of-action-stop-ttip/289520644569383/?locale=he_IL and <https://www.grenzeloos.org/content/stop-ttip>.

* From 2015, a coalition of first only farmers and later also civil society organizations was formed against free trade agreements such as TTIP, CETA and EU-Mercosur. This was called TTIP, CETA and agricultural coalition until 2020 and from 2021 the Agricultural Coalition for Just Trade. See here the report "[TTIP and CETA a danger to high-quality European and Dutch agriculture, livestock farming and food supply](#)", and the manifesto "[Keep the farm TTIP and CETA free](#)" that this coalition wrote. These were presented to the House of Representatives in 2016.

* In 2019, we contributed to the creation of the manifesto '*Protect farmers, employees, consumers, animals and the planet against the current free trade agreements*'. This was supported by more than 40 environmental, farmers', human rights and animal welfare organizations, trade unions and entrepreneurs. See the manifesto and all signatories: <https://milieudedefensie.nl/actueel/manifester-bescherm-ons-tegen-handelsverdragen>

* In 2019, the brochure '*A call for fair and sustainable trade*' was co-written by the Handel Anders! coalition. In it, trade unions, farmers' organizations and civil society organizations outline an analysis for current trade, agricultural and environmental policies. See: <https://handelanders.nl/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/English-version-of-our-publication.pdf> We also contributed to the launch of this in Nieuwspoor, see video: <https://handelanders.nl/geslaagde-lancering-publicatie-in-nieuwspoor/>

* In 2021, the report '*The EU-Mercosur treaty: a critical analysis and an alternative*' was co-written within the Handel Anders! coalition. *English, Spanish and Portuguese translation:* <https://handelanders.nl/878-2/> Direct link to English PDF: <https://handelanders.nl/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/English.pdf>

* In November 2021, 10 years later, the petition was updated again and sent to the House of Representatives and Ministries of General Affairs, - Foreign Trade & OS, - Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, - Economic Affairs and Climate. See for the petition (version 3 November 2021) with this accompanying letter to politicians.

* In the months that followed, the updated petition was presented to the signatories and further improved, and more supporters were also found. This resulted in the current version of the petition (April 13, 2023), which is endorsed by 47 civil society organizations, 9 social enterprises and 316 citizens at home and abroad.

4. Progress in the Dutch Parliament (2011 – 2013)

* The Socialist Party (SP)-faction asked the cabinet to respond to our proposals during the procedure meeting of 8 November 2011. This response on our petition was written by State Secretary for Agriculture Bleker, and can be found here: <https://guusgeurts.nl/gg/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/11-11-17-kamerbrief-met-reactie-op-de-petitie-voedselsoeveriniteit-en-klimaatrechtvaardigheid.pdf>

* On 16 November, the proposals were sent to the House of Representatives Committees ELI (Agriculture), Infrastructure and the Environment, and Foreign Affairs, but then divided by Committee Debates in the House of Representatives. This is to maximize the chance of motions on these proposals. See: <https://guusgeurts.nl/gg/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/11-11-16-AO-Voorstellen-voedselsoeveriniteit-en-klimaatrechtvaardigheid.pdf>

* On December 6, another urgent appeal was sent to the House of Representatives Committees ELI, Infrastructure and the Environment, and Foreign Affairs, with the proposals split per upcoming debate. See: <https://guusgeurts.nl/gg/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/11-12-06-Laatste-dringende-oproep-voedselsoeveriniteit-en-klimaatrechtvaardigheid.pdf>

* On 14 December, during the debate on the Agriculture and Nature budget, the SP (Socialist Party) submitted a motion to ban land grabbing by European companies, pension and investment funds. This motion was supported in the vote by: PvdA (Labor party), SP, GL (Greens), CU (Christian Union) and PvdD (Party for the Animals). Against were VVD (neoliberals), PVV (right extreme), CDA (Christian Democrats), D66 (social neoliberals) and SGP (Christian conservatives).

See: <https://www.tweedekamer.nl/kamerstukken/moties/detail?id=2011Z26137&did=2011D61957>
Another SP motion was to investigate the negative effects of bilateral and regional free trade agreements on the land rights of small farmers and Indigenous peoples, and food security in developing countries. This was supported by PvdA, SP, D66, GL, CU and PvdD. See: <https://www.tweedekamer.nl/kamerstukken/moties/detail?id=2011Z26139&did=2011D61960>

* On December 21, GroenLinks, SP and D66 submitted a motion on land rights in developing countries. This was supported in the vote by: PvdA, SP, D66, GL, CU and PvdD. See: <https://www.tweedekamer.nl/kamerstukken/moties/detail?id=2011Z27002&did=2011D63636>

* On December 19, this appeal was repeated to the CDA party in the House of Representatives with a copy to a number of CDA members. In particular, they were asked to approve the motion on research into the negative consequences of free trade agreements between the EU and developing countries. A few days earlier, this IPS article was published about the disastrous effects on food security in India due to the free trade agreement to be concluded between the EU and India, see: <https://archieff.viceversaonline.nl/2011/12/vrijhandelverdrag-eu-india-is-rampzalig-voor-voedselzekerheid/>

* Following the climate debate on 24 November, the Party for the Animals submitted 2 motions on a ban on the import of oil from tar sands and a European ban on the use of vegetable oil for biofuels. Unfortunately, these motions also failed to get a majority. See: <https://www.tweedekamer.nl/kamerstukken/moties/detail?id=2011Z24914&did=2011D59527> and <https://www.tweedekamer.nl/kamerstukken/moties/detail?id=2011Z24915&did=2011D59528>

* Ultimately, on 10 October 2013, on the initiative of the Party for the Animals, a majority was achieved in the House of Representatives for a motion calling for an import ban on tar sand oil. See: <https://www.tweedekamer.nl/kamerstukken/moties/detail?id=2013D40219&did=2013D40219>

* The boards of Solidaridad, the World Wildlife Fund and the IDH have not responded to our proposals being sent to them.

5. Media-attention about the Fast in 2011 and 2012

TV – Videos

* Film 'Guus' of 18 minutes made in 2011 by a student of St. Joost School of Art & Design (music and credits removed at his request), about the hunger strike / fasting action for Food Sovereignty and Climate Justice for 43 days by Guus Geurts. This lasted from November 1 to December 13, 2011. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSOp1zHM8cY>

* On December 13, 2011, AT5 News (Local Amsterdam TV) broadcasted an item of 2.5 minutes, see: <https://youtu.be/TJtDTzfNTpo>
Earlier that day, Niels Heithuis from AT5 Live came and made an interview of a total of 20 minutes, which can be seen in two parts.

- AT5 Live Part 1 (7.5 minutes): <https://youtu.be/cOzj9850RI0>

- AT5 Live Part 2 (12.5 minutes): <https://youtu.be/d19GmwIsfyQ>

* On 10 December 2011, documentary maker Wiek Lenssen made a film recording with an interview for his new documentary about the pig sector in Limburg.

This video http://youtu.be/2WVI_96HC7M (6.5 minutes, played twice) gives a good picture of the last phase of the fasting campaign and the soy problem. Wiek Lenssen sent this video to various TV current affairs programs.

Newspapers and magazines

Interviews appeared in:

* Nederlands Dagblad, De Gelderlander, BN De Stem, Eindhovens Dagblad, De Stentor, Tubantia, Leids Dagblad, de Gooi en Eemlander, Dagblad de Limburger, Leeuwarder Courant (11, 12 and 13 October 2011), with the title *I want to be able to say that I really tried everything*. See: <https://www.nd.nl/leven/leven/779750/ik-wil-kunnen-zeggen-dat-ik-echt-alles-heb-geprobeerd>

* Nieuwe Oogst (12-11-11) *Hunger strike for fair agriculture*, see: <https://guusgeurts.nl/gg/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/11-11-11-Nieuwe-Oogst-artikel-Marc-van-der-Sterren-copie.pdf>

* Trouw (15-11): *Not eating to make the world better*: <https://guusgeurts.nl/gg/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/11-11-15-Niet-eten-om-wereld-beter-te-maken-trouw.pdf>

* Agrarisch Dagblad (17-11-11) *No Other Way and Fasting Guus Geurts takes action against liberal agricultural policy*, see: <https://guusgeurts.nl/gg/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/11-11-17InterviewAgrarischDagblad.pdf>

* Intermediary in the section *Worked well?*, interview conducted by Marcel van Roosmalen: <https://guusgeurts.nl/gg/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/11-11-24-Intermediair-interview-door-Marcel-van-Roosmalen.pdf> (excuse the low resolution)

* De Volkskrant (12-12-11) *Free trade takes precedence over the right to feed one's own people*:
- newspaper article with photo: <https://guusgeurts.nl/gg/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/VK-20111212-interviewGuusGeurts-1.pdf>

- web link: <https://www.volkskrant.nl/nieuws-achtergrond/vrijhandel-gaat-boven-recht-eigen-volk-te-voeden~b9e32dce/>

Other articles:

* On November 20, 2011 the interview *Is Guus crazy?* on the Foodlog website, after which a discussion arose on this site, see: <http://www.foodlog.nl/artikel/is-guus-gek>

* On November 2, 2011, a mention of the fasting campaign appeared in the Volkskrant (page 4). The title refers to the protest action around Mauro on the same day on the Plein in The Hague: <https://www.volkskrant.nl/nieuws-achtergrond/ze-mogen-ook-blijven-zonder-aardig-gezicht~b55add656/>

* On November 24, an opinion article '*Fasting action for food sovereignty and climate justice*' was published on the website of Vice Versa, trade journal for development cooperation, see: <https://archieff.viceversaonline.nl/2011/11/vastenactie-voor-voedselsoevereiniteit-en-klimaatrechtvaardigheid/>

* On November 25, 2011, an opinion article appeared in Dagblad De Limburger '*Self-sufficiency – A possible left alternative*', see: <https://guusgeurts.nl/gg/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/11-11-25-opinieartikel-De-Limburger-Zelfvoorziening-Een-mogelijk-links-alternatief.pdf>

* On December 1, an opinion article Save the climate, food security and jobs was published on the website Joop.nl in response to an article by Pieter Hilhorst in de Volkskrant, see: <https://joop.bnnvara.nl/opinies/in-je-eentje-houd-je-de-opwarming-niet-tegen>

* On December 8, an article '*Guus Geurts still on hunger strike*' appeared in the weekly magazine Peel en Maas (North Limburg), see: <https://guusgeurts.nl/gg/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/11-12-08-Artikel-Peel-en-Maas-Geheel-kleiner.pdf>

* On 21 and 22 December 2011, an article about the end of the fasting campaign was published by the GPD newspapers in, among others, Dagblad de Limburger, Limburgs Dagblad, BN/De Stem, Brabants Dagblad, Tubantia, De Gelderlander, Eindhovens Dagblad and PZC. See: <https://guusgeurts.nl/gg/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/11-12-21-Brabants-Dagblad.pdf>
This was the authorized longer, 'more positive' version, which appeared as an interview (in an adapted form) in De Stentor and the Nederlands Dagblad: <https://guusgeurts.nl/gg/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/11-12-24-lange-versie-GPD-bladen-Gemengde-gevoelens-over-resultaten-vastenactie-voor-voedselsoevereiniteit-en-klimaatrechtvaardigheid.pdf>.

* On January 7, 2012, the article Hunger Striker finds action successful in the Nieuwe Oogst was published: <https://guusgeurts.nl/gg/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/12-01-07-Nieuwe-Oogst-Hongerstaker-vindt-actie-geslaagd-interview-Guus-Geurts.pdf>

6. Possibilities to support the Campaign for Food Sovereignty and Climate Justice – Working group Food Justice

People who want to support the food sovereignty and climate justice petition can do so in the following ways:

- By supporting the proposals as an organization, company or as a citizen, please than send an email to guusgeurts@yahoo.com .
- And hopefully spread this petition to your network.
- If you would like to financially support this campaign in the field of food sovereignty and climate justice, you can transfer a contribution to bank account NL25ABNA0811993124 in the name of. Stichting Platform Aarde Boer Consument stating 'Donation to Working Group Food Justice'.

Thank you very much for any support! Comments are of course also welcome.



Working Group Food Justice

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More info:

www.foodjustice.eu (Dutch and English)
<https://www.facebook.com/voedselrechtvaardigheid>

This English version can be downloaded from: www.foodjustice.eu/hungerclimate
The Dutch version can also be downloaded from: www.foodjustice.eu/hongerklimaat