

Formation of Dutch government advances as far-right Wilders admits he can't be PM

Four parties have agreed to pursue 'extra-parliamentary' cabinet, says mediator overseeing tense coalition talks

Dutch coalition talks will move on from exploratory discussions to more concrete negotiations aimed at forming a largely technocratic government, after the far-right leader Geert Wilders accepted he could not be prime minister.

Four months after Wilders' anti-Islam Freedom party (PVV) became the largest in parliament, Kim Putters, the former socialist senator overseeing the talks, said they would continue based on a cabinet of political veterans and outside experts.

In a keenly awaited report released on Thursday, Putters said the four parties involved - PVV, the liberal-conservative VVD, the agrarian BBB and the centre-right newcomer NSC - had agreed to pursue an "extra-parliamentary" government.

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