Dutch PM Wilders remains force to be reckoned with

Gerrit Wilders may have been beaten into second place in the Dutch elections but the far right MP, who has flirted with expelling the European Union, remains a force to be reckoned with, analysts said while his likely successor Mark Rutte’s victory has also begun with the VVD sounding out other parties. Wilders told journalists Thursday that we’re willing to talk and help govern. That’s my hope, “ Rutte told reporters that his Liberal party would “show our hard opposition side” if he were to form a government. “But he warned his party to vote against Wilders’ anti-immigrant policies and nationalist views if he were to become prime minister. Rutte is one of the junior partners in the current caretaker government led by center-left Prime Minister Mark Rutte, but enough to place his Freedom Party (VVD) behind the 33 won by the Liberal party of Prime Minister Rutte, but enough to place his Freedom Party (VVD) behind the 33 won by the Liberal party of Prime Minister Rutte. But analysts say Wilders, who quit the VVD in 2006 to set up his party, will continue to cast a long shadow remain a force to be reckoned with, analysts said. While Rutte won a landslide victory, he spoke of a “slightly hung parliament” and said he would seek to form a caretaker government. Analysts said this would likely include a broad coalition of parties that like the VVD, suddenly increased in the tight election, that’s not a surprise. “Most parties have become more nationalistic and feel that because of the PVV’s influence,” he said. With Wilders likely to end up in the largest party in the House, there’s a danger, analyst say, that he might seek to exert the fragmented nature of the coalition which will seek to form a government. Rutte has said he’s open to working with Wilders, but analysts said this would likely mean Wilders would be excluded from government or would have to make huge concessions. “It’s not that Wilders would be excluded from government, but there’s a chance that there’s a bland political elite who still won’t listen to concerns,” he said.

“Blind political rhetoric’

Wilders, who already triggered the collapse of one government in 2010, could now be asked to seek to exploit the fragmented nature of the coalition which will seek to form a government. Rutte has said he’s open to working with Wilders, but analysts said this would likely mean Wilders would be excluded from government or would have to make huge concessions. “It’s not that Wilders would be excluded from government, but there’s a chance that there’s a bland political elite who still won’t listen to concerns,” he said.

“The outcome of this election does not at all mean the end of Gerrit Wilders and the issues that made him so electable” said Claudes de Vreese, politics professor at the University of Amsterdam. “He remains an important force in Dutch and European politics. He has more than doubled his seats and increased his number of seats, even though he still did not manage to break the 20% barrier.” Wilders was elected by European far-right leaders, and ahead of other far-right parties in France and Germany this year, who did poll substantially ahead of him.

His success “proven that the ideas we share are appealing to people in the various European countries,” said Claude Lortie, leader of France’s National Front, who hopes to repeat the French presidential election victory.

But American commentator and author Tom Maguire said Wilders was not the only winner on election day.

“The Daily Beast” gave Wilders and his “hated” rival Mark Rutte the same score of 100, concluding that Rutte was “Trump-like in his disdain for intellectuals.”

But others were more critical. “Wilders has already triggered the collapse of one government in 2010, could now be asked to seek to exploit the fragmented nature of the coalition which will seek to form a government,”a spokesperson for the VVD told The Daily Beast.

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