

## Political parties are back

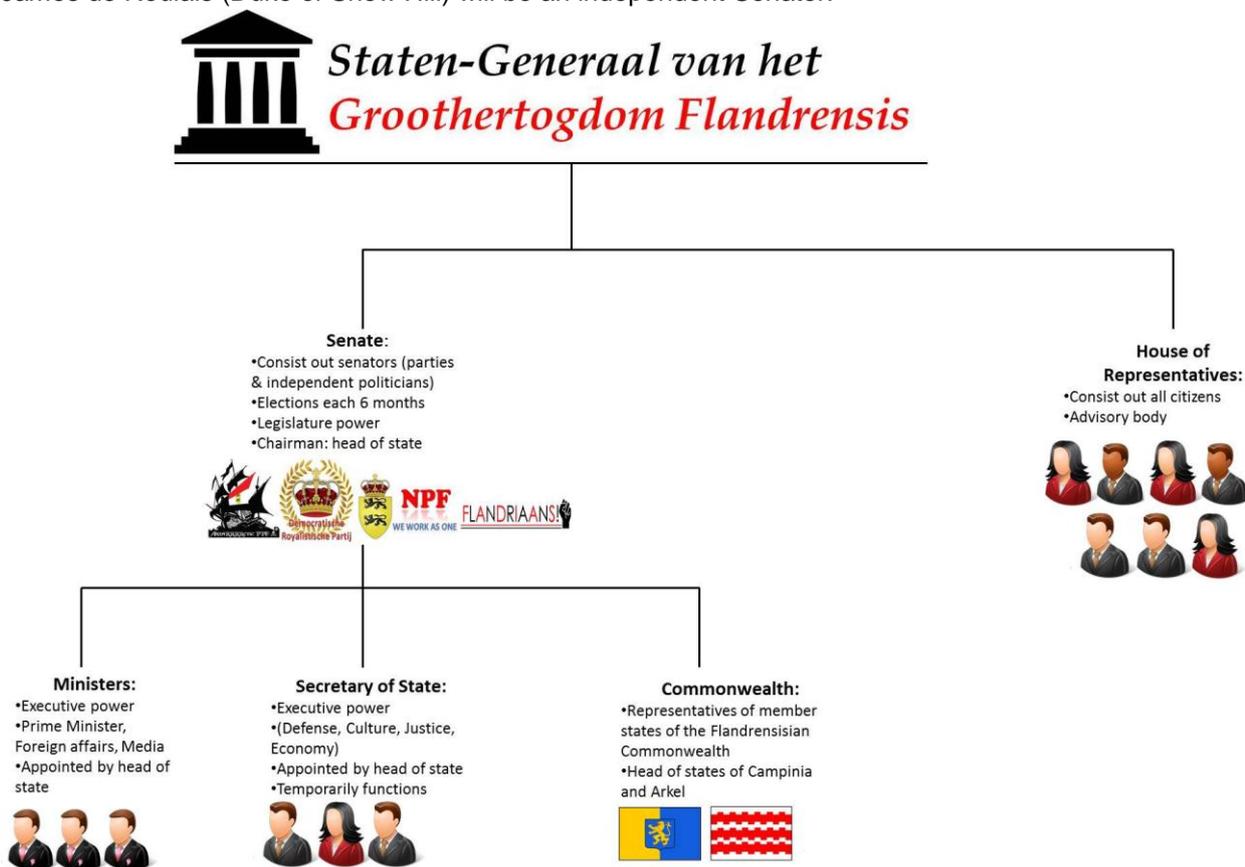
Just a year after the fall of the Flandrensisian government and dissolution of political parties in May 2011, Grand Duke Niels official announced the return of political parties and new elections.

The last months several politicians like Prime Minister Hein of Giddis and Wesley of Gandensis asked several times for a new political reform with elections. Many formal politicians and active Flandrensisians like Saar of Ipremsis and Claire de Loungville supported their proposals. Although everyone agrees that the current system works perfect, they regret that the Senate meetings lost its competition and rivalry.

So the States-General of Flandrensis will continue to consist of the Senate and House of Representatives.

The only change will be that Senators can form political factions and their influence will depend on the results of the elections. Grand Duke Niels – who was first not a supporter of the new reform – said that they first need to evaluate the formal political systems and elections so the new government would not made the same mistakes.

The new political parties are the nationalist NPF of Hein of Giddis, the royalist DRP of Wesley of Gandensis, the Pirate Party APPF of Claire de Loungville and Elisa of Gothenberg and the conservative party FLANDRIAANS! of Lyam Desmet. Several politicians like Maarten of Bruggia (Minister of Foreign Affairs) or James de Roulais (Duke of Snow Hill) will be an independent Senator.



### Nationalist Party of Flandrensis (NPF)

The NPF is the second oldest party in Flandrensis, founded in 2009 by Prime Minister Hein of Giddis. As one of the most powerful political factions in Flandrensis they fulfilled many political functions as Minister of Economy and defense. They formed a coalition with the royalist DRP until September 2010 when the new secretary of the DRP broke the coalition after their victory in the last elections. In May 2011 the party was disbanded but the formal members of the party



keeps their nationalist ideals. With the rebirth of the NPF Hein of Giddis hopes to restore their influence in the Senate. Important values for the NPF are family, foreign affairs, environment, safety and defense. Although Flandrensis is a neutral nation the NPF believes that Flandrensis must remain strong and not ignoring micronational difficult issues.

In comparison with the past it isn't clear if the NPF will be powerful again, the new APPF is a counterparty of the nationalists and the party FLANDRIAANS! has another view about the involvement of Flandrensis in the community.

### **Democratic Royalist Party (DRP)**

The DRP is the oldest political party of Flandrensis. It was original founded as the RPF in November 2008 by Grand Duke Niels of Flandrensis. In those days Flandrensis just has been reformed from an absolute to a constitutional monarchy. In 2010 Niels passed his function as secretary to countess Lynn of Tervannensis. She broke the coalition with the nationalist NPF and won the last elections. The DRP delivers several Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Culture and Economy. The DRP has been refounded by Wesley of Gandensis, formal vice-secretary of the party. Important values for the DRP are freedom of speech, economy, culture and the community.

The expectations are that the DRP is a big contender to win the next elections, but it depends how the other parties will work together.



### **Antarctic Pirate Party of Flandrensis (APPF)**

The APPF is a new political party inspired on several Pirate Parties from the world. The party exist out two prominent Flandrensisians: Claire de Loungville (Smartest Flandrensisian 2012) and Elisa of Gothenberg (formal Minister of Culture). Important values for the APPF are freedom of speech, participation of citizens, environment on Antarctica, etc. Some elements of the APPF refers ironically to the nationalistic NPF. They want to promote cultural activities and use their creativity during several political items and discussions.

Many citizens are skeptical about a Pirate Party in Flandrensis because they link the APPF with internet piracy. The APPF is for the reform of copyright and patent law, free sharing of knowledge. But the environment of Antarctica and culture are also important values for the party.

The expectations are that the APPF would be one of the big surprises of the elections. Elisa and Claire are very active in the cultural sector of Flandrensis and they could use their popularity.



### **FLANDRIAANS!**

FLANDRIAANS! is a new political party in Flandrensis, founded by Lyam Desmet, formal Minister of Media and CEO of this newspaper. FLANDRIAANS! is a conservative party with cultural elements. The party stands for the identity of Flandrensis and its micronational values. This party has a different opinion than the nationalist NPF about the involvement of Flandrensis in the micronational community. While the NPF wants a strong foreign policy, FLANDRIAANS! believes that Flandrensis should withdraw or minimize its activity on MicroWiki. The party is skeptical about several micronations and the management of MicroWiki.

Lyam already declared that his party will consist out him alone. Hereby FLANDRIAANS! could be the smallest political faction in the Senate, but the party can be decisive to form coalitions.

# FLANDRIAANS!

*Author: Niels of Flandrensis & Lyam Desmet*

## Flandrensisian of the month

Every month we interview a Flandrensisian citizen. In April we interviewed Niels of Flandrensis. This month we interview Brecht Soenen, future brother in law of the Grand Duke.

*Where did you first hear about the Grand Duchy of Flandrensis and what was your first impression about Flandrensis?*

I first heard about Flandrensis in 2010 because Niels is the boyfriend of my sister, although their relationship started in 2008 he didn't mentioned Flandrensis before. My first impression was 'woooow', such a cool hobby.

*In October your sister will be the first Grand Duchess of Flandrensis. What is your opinion on this, do you find this ridiculous or just special?*

I'm actually really proud that she will be the first Grand Duchess. Because Flandrensis has relations with other nations from all over the world they will know her name.

*With the Flandrensisian Games in 2011 you was the champion of the Flandrensisian marathon (see photo). Will you defend your title this year and do you have proposals for new games?*

Of course I will defend my title. But last year I was prepared and now I didn't trained much.

Because the games are in a public park we could be more alternative... conquering the most kisses of girls in an hour (laugh).

*What is for you the best or fun aspect of Flandrensis?*

I really like everything about Flandrensis!

*Then you must be a real proud Flandrensisian. To end this interview, the question we ask everyone. Will Flandrensis still exist about 10 years?*

Of course, if it's not yet melted (laugh).

*Author: Niels of Flandrensis*



## Birthdays

The Grand Duchy of Flandrensis wish these people a happy birthday:

Naert Stein	May 02, 1990
Van de Popeliere	May 11, 1988
Anne Marie	

## Follow Flandrensis

