

judgement

**NORTHERN
NETHERLANDS
DISTRICT COURT**

Civil law

Place of hearing:
Leeuwarden

C/17/190788 / HA ZA 23-172

Case number:



Judgment of 26 November 2025

in the case of

1. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
2. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
3. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
4. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
5. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
6. (THE LATE) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
7. [REDACTED]
of [REDACTED]
claimants,
hereinafter collectively referred to as: the claimants,
solicitor: Mr P.W.H. Stassen,

against

1. EVERHARDUS ITE HOFSTRA,
2. JAAP TAMINO VAN DISSEL,
3. MARIA PETRONELLA GERARDA KOOPMANS,
4. MARK RUTTE,
5. SIGRID AGNES MARIA KAAG,
6. HUGO MATTHEÛS DE JONGE,
7. ERNST JOHAN KUIPERS,
8. DIEDERIK ANTONIUS MARIA PAULUS JOHANNES GOMMERS,
9. WOPKE BASTIAAN HOEKSTRA,
10. CORNELIA VAN NIEUWENHUIZEN,
14. FEIKE SIJBESMA,
all electing domicile in The Hague,
17. THE STATE OF THE NETHERLANDS,
hereinafter referred to as the State,
with its seat in The Hague,
hereinafter collectively referred to as Hofstra et al.,

solicitors: R.W. Veldhuis, LL.B., and M.E.A. Möhring, LL.B.,

11. **ALBERT BOURLA**,

residing in Greenwich (United States of America),

solicitors: D. Roessingh and Bredenoord-Spoek,

12. **GISELLE JACQUELINE MARIE-THÉRÈSE VAN CANN**,

residing in the municipality of De Bilt,

13. **PAUL EDWIN JANSEN**,

residing in the municipality of Leiden,

lawyers: L. Broers, LL.B., and R.H.W. Lamme, LL.B.,

15. **WILLIAM HENRY BILL GATES III**,

residing in Medina, Washington (United States of America),

lawyer: W. Heemskerck, LL.B.

16. **AGNES CATHARINA VAN DER VOORT-KANT**,

having elected domicile in Amsterdam,

lawyer: Mr A.H. Ekker,

the defendants,

hereinafter collectively referred to as: the defendants.

1. Further proceedings

1.1. By order of 1 October 2025, the court placed the case on the list for judgment on certain procedural points.

1.2. The judgment is scheduled for today.

2. Assessment

Designation of the parties as ‘the State et al.’

2.1. In the heading of Chapter IV on page 16 of the reply, the claimants refer to defendants 1 to 12 as ‘the State et al.’. However, from the content of that chapter, the court understands that by ‘the State et al.’, the claimants do not mean defendants 1 to 12, but rather the (legal) persons referred to in this judgment as Hofstra et al. For example, paragraph 46 of the reply states:

The State et al. open their statement of defence with the opening sentence: ‘The Covid-19 pandemic was a turbulent period, during which various, sometimes far-reaching, measures were necessary to protect public health and society’.

The statement of defence cited here by the claimants relates to the statement of defence submitted by Hofstra et al. The court will therefore interpret the reference to ‘the State et al.’ in the reply as referring to the (legal) persons referred to in this judgment as ‘Hofstra et al.’.

Applicable law

2.2. On 1 January 2025, the Act on the Simplification and Modernisation of the Law of Evidence came into force, which, amongst other things, led to amendments to the Code of Civil Procedure (Rv). Pursuant to Article XIIa of the Act on the Simplification

and Modernisation of the Law of Evidence, the law applicable to this case remains that which was in force prior to 1 January 2025, as this case was brought before that date.

Request to introduce an unredacted version of page 6 of Pfizer's report into the proceedings

2.3. Pursuant to Article 22(1) of the Code of Civil Procedure (old), the court may, amongst other things, order a party to produce documents relating to the case. In their reply, the claimants requested the court to order Hofstra et al. to produce an 'unredacted' version of page 6 of the Pfizer report submitted by the claimants (Exhibit 40 to the writ of summons) for inclusion in the proceedings. The claimants explained that the information regarding the number of 'doses or vials' in their copy of the Pfizer report has been redacted (the court understands this to mean: rendered illegible). According to the claimants, Hofstra et al. undoubtedly possess a copy that does show the number of doses or vials. The relevant sentence in the report reads as follows:

It is estimated that approximately (b) (4) doses of BNT162b2 were shipped worldwide from the receipt of the first temporary authorisation for emergency supply on 1 December 2020 through to 28 February 2021.

In view of the text set out above, the court understands that the claimants use the terms 'doses' and 'vials' interchangeably. The court sees no reason to exercise the power referred to above. The claimants themselves have stated that the number of 'vials' is irrelevant to the research described in this Pfizer report (see paragraph 80, second sentence, of the reply). This means that they have no interest in the disclosure of the number of doses. The request is therefore rejected.

The document submitted as Exhibit 105 and the amendment to the claim

2.4. In their reply, the claimants submitted a document previously rejected by the court as Exhibit 105 and requested the court to regard the contents of this document as 'repeated verbatim and incorporated herein'. The court grants this request because the introduction of this document is consistent with the content of the case management order of 11 December 2024 under legal ground 2.4. The content of the document therefore forms an integral part of the reply. This document includes, amongst other things, an amendment to the claim.

2.5. In their reply, the claimants have thus increased their claim. As the defendants have not objected to the increase in the claim and the court, acting ex officio, sees no reason to disregard the increased claim on the grounds that it is contrary to the proper conduct of proceedings, the court will rule on the increased claim. The claim is therefore now as follows:

1. to declare that the defendants, as a group and each individually, have continued to act unlawfully towards the claimants up to the date of the final decision handed down by the court in this case (including unlawful omissions) by deliberately and unlawfully misleading them and the Dutch people in order to induce the claimants and/or the Dutch people to receive Covid-19 injections, which the defendants knew, or at least ought to have known, were not safe and effective, or at least that the false and misleading narrative propagated by the defendants in the context of the Covid-19: The Great Reset, and/or the Covid-19 injections introduced as part of this project

are harmful to the health, fertility and mental well-being of the defendants and/or the Dutch people:

2. to order the defendants, jointly and severally – such that payment by one shall discharge the other – to compensate the claimants for their damages, to be determined by the court and settled in accordance with the law.
3. to order the defendants to pay the costs of these proceedings pursuant to an order for costs to be made by the court for that purpose, enforceable immediately.

Request for a preliminary hearing and examination during the oral proceedings

2.6 In the document submitted as Exhibit 105 (i.e. the reply), the claimants request the court to schedule a preparatory hearing at which they may consult with the court and the lawyers of all parties regarding:

- a. the progress of the proceedings for each group of defendants
- b. the submission of new and supplementary evidence in light of the rapidly unfolding developments concerning the factual basis of the claimants' claims; this evidence is to be submitted by producing new documents and taking the evidence of national and international expert witnesses under oath
- c. the manner in which the right to be heard is to be observed in the interests of proper procedural order
- d. the admission of independent media to all public oral hearings and to all examinations of national and international expert witnesses
- e. how the remainder of the proceedings will proceed.

The court will not schedule a pre-trial conference for the following reasons.

2.7. The court sees no reason to divide the defendants into groups and then determine the further course of the proceedings for each group separately. The claims against the defendants are too closely interrelated for this. In this regard, the court takes into account that the statement of claim makes no distinction between groups of defendants and that the claimants allege, amongst other things, that all defendants, acting as (a) group, have acted unlawfully towards them. A further specific or separate course of proceedings for each group of defendants is therefore not necessary.

2.8. Nor is consultation on the production of new and supplementary evidence required. As no order to produce evidence has been issued to either party, the production of evidence is not currently at issue. In so far as the claimants wish to submit further documents prior to the oral hearing to further substantiate their arguments, the court does not see why prior consultation on this matter should take place.

2.9. As an order to produce evidence – and consequently the submission of evidence – is not at issue at this stage, and as the claimants have not submitted a request for the provisional examination of witnesses and/or experts during these proceedings, the court interprets the request for a preliminary hearing to discuss the examination of party-appointed experts under oath as a request pursuant to Article 87(3) of the Code of Civil Procedure. That provision stipulates that, with the prior consent of the court, witnesses and party-appointed experts may be heard during the oral hearing.

2.10. The court sees no reason to exercise its power to hear party experts or witnesses during the oral hearing, or to do so during

a separate oral hearing. According to the parliamentary history, the provision in Article 87(3) of the Code of Civil Procedure is intended to expedite proceedings and is meant for cases that are relatively straightforward in terms of the facts¹. That is not the case here. In the court's view, this would also disrupt the course of the oral hearing too much, as the examination would take a great deal of time. In this regard, the court also takes into account that the defendants must then be given the opportunity to examine party-appointed experts and witnesses in cross-examination. A preparatory hearing to discuss this matter is therefore not required.

2.11. Nor is a pre-trial conference necessary to discuss how the hearing of both sides' arguments will take place. This has largely already taken place through two rounds of written submissions, and further hearing of both sides' arguments will take place during the oral hearing. No pre-trial conference therefore needs to be held on this matter.

2.12. Nor does the court see any reason to hold a pre-trial conference to discuss the admission of independent media to the hearings. Should the court deem it necessary to consult the parties on this matter, this can be done in writing at any time. A pre-trial conference is not required for this.

2.13. Finally, a preliminary hearing is not required to discuss the next steps in the proceedings. As already announced in the order on the list of cases dated 1 October 2025, the court will (now) schedule an oral hearing and the parties will be given the opportunity to inform the court in writing of their preferences regarding the substantive part of that oral hearing, such as speaking time, etc.

Statement of the parties

2.14. The court will refer the case to the roll of 14 January 2026 for both parties to submit their written statements setting out the preferences referred to above. The court is applying this extended deadline for the statement due to the Christmas period. In that statement, the parties must also specify the dates on which they and their solicitors are unavailable during the months of **May 2026 to October 2026 inclusive**. The claimants must also state in their statement the identity of claimant No. 7. Hofstra et al. have rightly pointed out that claimant No. 7 is named as George Reginald Vlegels in the writ of summons, whilst he is named as George Reginald Dijkstra in the reply.

Finally

2.15. During the oral hearing, the parties' lawyers will be given the opportunity to explain the parties' legal positions in more detail. They may make use of (concise) speaking notes for this purpose. The court wishes to note that the oral hearing is primarily intended to allow the parties themselves to be heard, as written submissions have already been made in two rounds. The court will determine, following the exchange of documents, how much speaking time the lawyers will be allocated.

¹ See Proceedings II 19 May 2015, No. 84-13, p. 12

2.16. The court notes that, in addition to the points discussed above, there are other procedural issues between the parties, such as the admissibility of certain exhibits. The court will rule on these matters in its judgment following the oral hearing.

2.17. All further decisions are reserved.

3. The decision

The court

3.1. orders an oral hearing and the appearance of the parties, assisted by their solicitors, to provide information and further substantiate their arguments, before Mr C.M. Telman, Mr T.P. Hoekstra and Mr P. van Eijk, at the courthouse in Leeuwarden, Zaailand 102, on a date and at a time to be determined by the court,

3.2. orders that the parties – natural persons in person and the State duly represented – accompanied by their lawyers, must be present,

3.3. orders that the case shall be placed on the roll again on **Wednesday 14 January 2026** for both parties to submit their statements, as referred to in legal ground 2.14, after which the date and time of the oral hearing shall be determined,

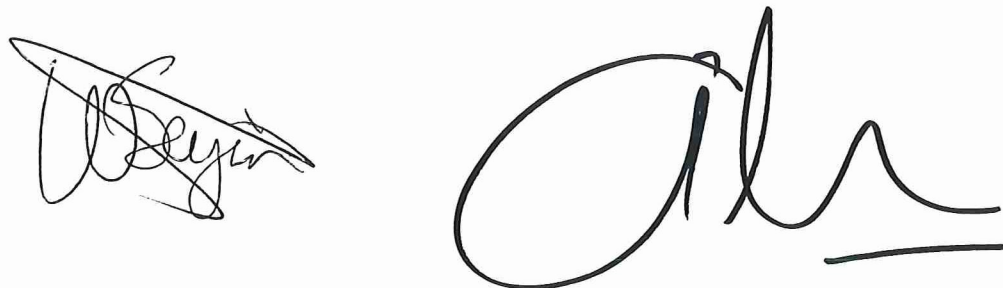
3.4. orders that, in the absence of the requested list(s) of dates on which the parties are unavailable, the court will determine the time of the oral hearing itself,

3.5. rules that, once the date and time of the oral hearing have been set, these will, in principle, not be altered;

3.6. reserves all further decisions.

This judgment was delivered by C.M. Telman, T.P. Hoekstra and P. van Eijk and pronounced in open court on 26 November 2025.

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The Registrar,
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