

Dutch politician Wilders seeks brand status
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AMSTERDAM, Aug 17 – Dutch politician Geert Wilders, head of the anti-Islam Freedom Party, is now a “brand name” politician, a Dutch newspaper reported today.

Famous for his sharp criticism of Islam, his opposition to immigration and more recently his rejection of bailing out fellow euro zone members, Wilders (picture) wields considerable influence even though his party is not a member of the ruling coalition.

The Freedom Party, the third-largest in parliament, is the minority coalition government’s key ally, providing crucial support when the government needs a majority to pass legislation.

Wilders stands out among Dutch politicians because of his mane of bleached-blond hair and was nicknamed “the golden pompadour” in US diplomatic cables disclosed by WikiLeaks.

Het Financieele Dagblad reported today that the Freedom Party and Wilders have been registered as trademarks to prevent misuse of their names.

The paper said that Wilders’ trademark application included a category for seeds, plants and flowers, adding that Wilders had a tulip named after him earlier this year. – Reuters

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