



Toespraak

van de Voorzitter van de Eerste Kamer der Staten-Generaal, prof. dr. J.A. Bruijn,
ter gelegenheid van de ontvangst van de Voorzitter van het Portugese parlement

datum 8 juni 2023

Your Excellency, dear colleague,

Also on behalf of the Senate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, I would like to bid you a warm welcome to the Netherlands and to the city of The Hague. *Bem vindo*.

It is always a great pleasure and an honor to welcome colleagues from foreign parliaments to our parliamentary Houses, especially when it regards colleagues from countries with whom we enjoy a longstanding and valuable friendship, like the Portuguese Republic.

I believe that it is very important to maintain good and fruitful international relationships also on the inter-parliamentary level. The Dutch parliament has a long tradition of so-called parliamentary diplomacy and I clearly see the value of dialogue between national parliaments, to share information, to learn from each other and to cooperate where possible.

Dear colleague,

An important platform for inter-parliamentary diplomacy are the parliamentary assemblies. Many members of the Dutch parliament play very active roles in these assemblies, and the same goes for members of the Portuguese parliament. For example, I had the pleasure to meet Mr. Duarte Pacheco, the current President of the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU), last year in the margins of an international conference. His important position in the IPU symbolizes the active participation of Portuguese parliamentarians on the international field.

Dear colleague,



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The need for international dialogue and cooperation is even more emphasized by the terrible war in Ukraine. Because I believe that only together, we will be able to stand up against tyranny and aggression.

The same applies to other common challenges that we face in this period of time. Because common challenges require common answers. An important example lies in the field of climate change, which increasingly causes problems on the European continent, including in Portugal and other Mediterranean countries that suffer from severe drought.

Dear colleague,

I was informed that you delivered a lecture this morning at the University of Utrecht on '*Institutions for open societies in a national and international context*'. As a university professor myself (in the medical field), I think it is of major importance that we keep working on the involvement and commitment of the younger generation with regard to politics and other topics of public interest, so I applaud you and thank you for taking the effort to deliver this lecture in Utrecht.

Dear colleague,

Once again, it is a great pleasure and an honor to welcome you today. Thank you. *Muito obrigado.*