

Closing remarks by Mrs van Miltenburg, Speaker of the House of Representative of the Netherlands, on the occasion of the visit of His Majesty King Felipe of Spain

Your Majesty,

Thank you for visiting our parliament. It has been a pleasure having you here. The contrast could not be bigger: some four hundred years ago, an on-going war with Spain was planned in this square kilometre. Nowadays, no-one in this place doubts the friendship between our countries.

The friendship between your father and Princess Beatrix can be regarded as a symbol of the good relations between Spain and the Netherlands. With both their abdications and the abdication of King Albert II of Belgium (July 2013), I think we can say a new generation of Kings – and Queens, not to forget! – has stood up. A fresh wind is blowing through European monarchies!

You have ascended the throne while Spain is still suffering from the consequences of the financial crisis. While our countries face challenges that may or may not be similar, we work together on solutions within the framework of the European Union. Our Parliament also tries to do its part: members of our House of Representatives already visited the Cortes [**zeg: Kórtes**] during your reign (July 2014). An important topic of discussion was the way in which national parliaments can influence legislation and decision-making at the European level,

in particular the issue of subsidiarity. Our Parliament looks forward to contribute to maintaining the excellent relationship with Spain.

Your Majesty,

Thank you again for honouring us with your visit. Next year, we will celebrate the bicentennial of the States-General. It gives us great pleasure that this historical place was part of your program, and that you actually saw the debate room where so many things have been discussed and decided. Always feel welcome here. And, needless to say, we wish you and your country all the best.