



Tweede Kamer

DER STATEN-GENERAAL

**BIJDRAGE VAN DE VOORZITTER VAN DE TWEEDE KAMER TEN
BEHOEVE VAN DE ONTVANGST VAN DE MINISTER-PRESIDENT VAN
FRANKRIJK, DHR. EMMANUEL MACRON, OP 11 APRIL 2023**

Thank you very much Jan Anthonie,

Your excellency, honorable President Macron,

It is my pleasure to also welcome you to The Netherlands. I would like to join the words of Jan Anthonie Bruijn and express how much of an honour it is to speak with you today.

Let me begin with expressing how I appreciate the strong bilateral ties our countries have. There is a history of effective and active Ambassadors here in the Netherlands, who always maintained close relations with our Parliament. Just last year, the Ambassadors visited our parliament twice to meet with our Members of Parliament. Some Members of our Parliament were kindly invited to have dinner at the residency, and we are very much looking forward to hosting members of your *Assemblée Nationale*, hopefully later this year.

During your EU-presidency last year, which I want to compliment you on, a delegation of our parliament travelled to Paris last year, to visit the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs. Your beautiful capital city of Paris was a great host, like it always is.

Mr President – the relationship between your country and our Parliament indeed is strong. As you undoubtedly know, both our countries were part of the Inner Six, those who signed the Treaty of Paris, creating the European Coal and Steel Community on the 18th of April 1951. Therefore, both our countries are known as being a founding member state of the European Communities. Today we stand side by side, as European Union member states and NATO Allies. The European Union is founded on the key values of human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, rule of law and human rights. Our countries share these values and the same major challenges of our time. We will face these challenges together, like we have done for the past seventy years.

Mr. President, – the relationship between your country and our Parliament indeed is strong and there is high mutual trust between us. In times like these, where our continent faces war, an energy crisis and climate change, this bond proves to be of great value, again and again. However, it is important that we do not take this for granted and keep on building and strengthening our strong relationship. For this reason, I am especially thankful to have you here today.

Mr President – thank you for honouring us with your visit today. It is a great pleasure to meet with you.