



Welkom

van de Voorzitter van de Eerste Kamer der Staten-Generaal, prof.dr. J.A. Bruijn,
ter gelegenheid van de ontvangst in de Tweede Kamer van de President van de
NAVO Parlementaire Assemblée, Marcos Perestrello.

datum 24 juni 2025

Dear President Perestrello,
Dear Vice Presidents,
Dear members of the delegation,
Dear colleagues,

It is a great honor and a pleasure to meet you here today.
On behalf of the Senate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, I also bid you a warm welcome
to our country.

A visit under very special circumstances, since this year's NATO Summit is held in the
Netherlands, today and tomorrow.

About four kilometers from where we are now, NATO leaders convene to discuss the future
of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and the safety and security of all of us.

Last week, ahead of the governmental NATO Summit, I met with you and other Presidents of
Parliaments of NATO Member States to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Parliamentary
Assembly of the NATO.

The Parliamentary Assembly has been for the past 70 years a bridge to society, to critical
voices, and to democratic checks and balances.

President Perestrello,

Like you said last Friday:

[Quote]

'Our founding fathers came together with one firm conviction: NATO's commitment to
collective defence needs to be anchored firmly in the Alliance's democratic foundations, and
this requires the active engagement of allied citizens through their elected representatives.'

[Unquote]

It is therefore important that the leadership of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly is present
during the The Hague Summit.

And speaking of anchoring defence in democratic foundations:

A week ago, ahead of the NATO Summit, the Dutch Senate debated on NATO.
After a thorough debate in which the proponents and opponents exchanged their arguments
in a measured manner, the Senate voted in favour of enshrining in law the 2% of GDP as the
absolute lower limit.

I look forward to hearing from you what the experiences are from other parliaments.

Dear Mr President,

It is a pleasure and an honour to welcome you here today. I would like to give the floor to
you.

Thank you.
