

Welkom

van de Voorzitter van de Eerste Kamer der Staten-Generaal, dr. M.L. (Mei Li) Vos,
ter gelegenheid van de ontvangst van Woo Won-shik, voorzitter van de Nationale Assemblée
van Zuid-Korea

datum 12 mei 2026

Excellencies, dear colleague,

On behalf of the Dutch Senate I would like to welcome you as well.

Your visit here today forms part of a relationship between our two countries that goes back for centuries, and stretches from trade to cultural exchanges.

In the 21st century the influence of Korean culture and innovation on the Netherlands, and other Western countries, has grown substantial, with K-pop, cars and kimchi.

And also our parliaments share a history of bilateral meetings.

Good relations between parliaments are very important, especially in the difficult geopolitical times we face today.

We need to take the time to reflect on the benefits of democracy, but also reflect on the threats to the ideas of freedom, human rights and rule of law.

This involves questions such as: how do we keep our democracies resilient? How do we maintain the balance of powers?

Your country, and your parliamentary democracy in particular, has experienced some turbulent times as well in the past two years.

Could you tell us more on the current situation?

I look forward to discuss this with you during lunch.

Thank you.