



# Tweede Kamer

DER STATEN-GENERAAL

## **BIJDRAGE VAN DE ONDERVOORZITTER VAN DE TWEEDE KAMER TEN BEHOEVE VAN DE ONTVANGST VAN DE MINISTER-PRESIDENT VAN ITALIË, DHR. SERGIO MATTARELLA, OP 10 NOVEMBER 2022**

Your Excellency, Mr President,

Also on behalf of the Tweede Kamer/House of Representatives, I would like to welcome you to the Netherlands. It is a great honour to meet you here today.

I assume you must feel at home in this parliamentary environment, given your impressive history and experience in the Italian Parliament and government and your extensive knowledge of parliamentary law. It seems to me that your life prior to your presidency was a preparation for the current responsibilities that your leadership of your country involves.

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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

I believe tomorrow you will visit the the Thermenmuseum, which houses the best preserved Roman bathhouse in the Netherlands. This location is a visible sign of our shared history for over two thousand years. I hope your visit to the Netherlands will reaffirm the relations between our two countries.

Mr President – What do you think is the importance of our shared values in facing the challenges of our world and in particular our continent?

*After the answer from the president:*

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