



Toespraak

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BIJDRAGE VAN DE VOORZITTER VAN DE EERSTE KAMER BIJ DE G20 PARLIAMENTARY SPEAKERS SUMMIT (P20) IN ROME

Session II 'Rebooting Economic Growth in terms of social and environmental sustainability'

Your Excellencies, dear colleagues,

It is a very great honour to be here today.

It is a great privilege for the Dutch Parliament and for me personally to participate in this meeting. We are grateful to the Italian Presidency of the G20 for the invitation to our country. More specifically, I would like to thank my colleagues from the Italian Parliament, Ms. Alberti Casellati and mr. Fico, and the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, mr. Pacheco, to allow us to join you here today. *Grazie mille.*

I believe that our meeting today is even more valuable since the Covid-19 pandemic prevented us from meeting each other in inter-parliamentary conferences for a long time. It is a great pleasure to be able to meet you again here today.

Your Excellencies, dear colleagues,

I would like to contribute some thoughts to our important discussions on this topic: *rebooting Economic Growth in terms of social and environmental sustainability*. The title of this session combines three key elements of our societies: the economic element, the environmental element and the social element. Or, as the Italian G20-Presidency puts it forward, the three P's: prosperity, planet and people.

As representatives of the people, parliaments should keep in mind that these three elements are crucial for successful, sustainable and prosperous societies. A well-functioning economy to provide jobs and welfare to the people. A healthy and well-preserved environment for people to live in. And a fair and free social structure, that provides equal rights, justice, freedom and democracy. It is needless to say that these three elements should strengthen each other, instead of affect each other in a negative way.

That is why I am very happy with the priorities of the Italian G20-presidency, the three P's, and its efforts to regard these three elements as inter-connected pillars.

Your Excellencies, dear colleagues,

Allow me to shortly turn back to our discussions two years ago during the P20 Summit that took place in Tokyo, Japan. We spoke about our future societies: how digitalisation, robotisation and big data will change the way we work, the way we interact and the way we live. Economically, environmentally and socially.



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Societies where Artificial Intelligence makes our live more comfortable. Where innovations in the medical field make us more healthy. Where technology increases our standard of living and provides us with the possibility to organise our economies in an environmentally friendly way.

Speaking today about rebooting economic growth, and about social and environmental sustainability, I would like to stress that innovation and technology will play a very important role in this. Technological innovation helps us to solve many challenges we face in our societies on the economic, social and environmental level.

But on the other hand, it is wise to realise that innovation at the same time appears to be a challenge itself. A challenge for our societies and for our democracies. Algorithms, artificial intelligence and big data provide great opportunities, but also serious risks and some important questions for parliamentarians on the fields of accountability and control.

As parliamentarians, we should invest in our knowledge to be prepared for the society of the future. To be prepared to have the knowledge, the facilities and the ability to oversee the consequences of technological innovation, to scrutinize our governments and to also become the parliaments of the future.

Your Excellencies, dear colleagues,

Thank you for your attention, it is a great privilege to be here today and I look forward to the rest of our discussions.