



## **Inbreng**

Inbreng van de Eerste Ondervoorzitter van de Eerste Kamer der Staten-Generaal, mevrouw dr. Mei Li Vos, tijdens de ontmoeting met de ondervoorzitter van het parlement van Oekraïne, de heer Oleksandr Korniyenko

*datum 31 januari 2024*

Mr Deputy Speaker, your Excellencies,

Also on behalf the Senate of the Kingdom of The Netherlands, I am very honored to welcome you in the Dutch parliament.

For the past 23 months Ukraine has been fighting the Russian invasion in a fierce and unrelenting manner.

The way the Ukrainian people have defended and continue to defend their country, impresses us greatly.

The images of the war, the numerous innocent victims and the total destruction of so many cities and villages continue to fill us with horror. We are impressed by the achievements and resilience of the Ukrainian people in a war that is entering its third year, next month.

The war in your country once more proves the importance of international cooperation. Common problems need common solutions. And the Russian aggression requires common, united action. We need close friends and close cooperation to face the challenges of the future. To that regard, I believe you visited the NATO Headquarters in Brussels yesterday, and will you meet members of the Dutch delegation in the Parliamentary Assembly in NATO later this morning.

In this light, I would also like to stress the importance of interparliamentary diplomacy. It is of great value that parliamentarians from different countries meet each other, have a dialogue with each other and inform each other about the situation in their countries.

As representatives of the people of our countries, we should exchange information, learn from each other and work together where possible. That is why I am very glad to welcome you here today. Because only you can inform us first hand about the actual situation in Ukraine and the latest developments from your perspective.



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Earlier we had the honour to welcome the Speaker of the Ukrainian parliament, Mr. Stefanchuk, and the President of Ukraine, Mr. Zelensky. I hope that many delegations will follow in the future, as the Dutch parliament will always be happy to welcome them.

Although sadly the war is not over yet, it is of great importance that already at this point, we start to discuss the situation of post-war reconstruction. And although we might not have a clear vision of what is needed in the long run, we should start to think about the situation on the long run, especially with regard to the reconstruction of Ukraine.

As I have already stressed, common and united action is needed: financial, military, but foremost democratic. The values of the rule of law are at the core of what binds us, Ukrainians and Dutch alike.

The Netherlands continues to support Ukraine, with regard to the rule of law, human rights, and with regard to accountability.

*Dakoejoe.* Thank you.