

Welkomstwoord

van de Voorzitter van de Eerste Kamer der Staten-Generaal, dr. M.L. (Mei Li) Vos,
ter gelegenheid van het bezoek van de President van Duitsland, dr. F.W. (Frank-Walter)
Steinmeier

Datum *10 juni 2026*

*Sehr geehrte Herr Bundespräsident,
Sehr geehrte Delegationsmitglieder,
Herzlich Willkommen.*

On behalf of the States General, both Houses of the Dutch
Parliament, I would like to welcome you here in the Dutch Senate.

It is an honour to receive you here today, together with my colleague
from the House of Representatives, Mr Thom van Campen and
members of both houses of the Dutch Parliament.

From the Senate I'd like to introduce Mr Bastiaan van Apeldoorn,
chair of the committee on European Affairs.

Germany has been a friend of our country for a long period of time.
Relations between our countries are excellent.

We share the same views on many issues, and we work closely
together at the national level and in the border region.

Your Excellency,

The new Dutch government was installed in the same week in February that we commemorated the start of the war in Ukraine, four years before.

The people in Ukraine who have been living in fear and uncertainty for four years now and whose daily hopes and wishes are for peace, security, and freedom.

It is important that we do not forget this and continue to express our support for them.

Despite the terrible circumstances, the way in which countries in Europe have begun to cooperate more closely in their support for Ukraine demonstrates the importance of European and international cooperation and solidarity.

From the ashes of the Second World War, visionaries from six countries, including Germany and the Netherlands, took the initiative for the European Coal and Steel Community.

It was the precursor to the European Union, in which we now cooperate closely with 27 countries.

The same union that has joined forces to help Ukraine and that works together to defend freedom and security in the EU countries.

It shows once again that we need friends like Germany.

Not only regarding the war in Ukraine, but also to face the challenges of the future together.

And we also see this in the joint action of our countries, together with the other EU countries, at the geopolitical level.

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We see polarization increasing in our countries, between communities and groups.

People are turning their backs on one another.

And we also see polarization increasing in the world, between countries and continents.

As politicians, we have a responsibility.

Not to emphasize and magnify the differences, but rather to respect the value of the differences between people and countries.

How this is for you in Germany? I look forward to discussing that with you after our formal introductions.

I would now like to give the floor to Thom van Campen, my colleague from the House of Representatives.

Danke schön.

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