



## **Interventie**

van de Voorzitter van de Eerste Kamer der Staten-Generaal, prof.dr. J.A. Bruijn,  
tijdens de EU Speakers Conference (Parlementensvoorzitters van de EU-lidstaten) in Praag  
Sessie: Russian aggression in Ukraine and the EU response in the wider geopolitical context  
(EU enlargement, energy security, post-war reconstruction)

*datum* 24 april 2023

Dear Chair, dear colleagues,

Thank you, also on behalf of my colleague Mrs Bergkamp – Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Dutch parliament, for this wonderful welcome here in Prague and thank you to the Czech Parliament for organizing this meeting. Also, very good to be able to listen to our colleagues Mr Stefanchuk here in person as well.

Dear colleagues,  
the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the violence carried out by the Russian army have shocked us all deeply.

The war once more proves the importance of European and international cooperation. Common problems need common solutions. And this requires common action. We need close friends and close cooperation to face the challenges of the future.

It is of great importance that already at this point, although sadly the war is not over, 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, it is good to see that the EU and its member states are already establishing the building blocks for the reconstruction of Ukraine.

The war has affected the work of Ukraine's state institutions in unprecedented ways - ranging from the destruction of infrastructure, displacement, loss of staff and disruption of their regular working processes.

This directly impacts the ability of these institutions to implement their mandates and functions, and importantly, their ability to provide timely and accurate information to the general public and to particularly those that are directly affected by the war.

Colleagues,  
Bodies of local and national government, and also courts, function under martial law at this time in Ukraine. It is essential that all principles of the rule of law in peacetime will be established when the war is over. And that the Ukrainian civil society is involved in this process.

The Netherlands continues to support Ukraine, also with regard to the rule of law, human rights, and with regard to accountability. Together we will stand strong.

Thank you for giving me the floor.