

Toespraak

van de Voorzitter van de Eerste Kamer der Staten-Generaal, dr. Mei Li Vos, ter gelegenheid van het bezoek van de president van Oekraïne, Volodymyr Zelensky, aan de Staten-Generaal

datum 16 december 2025

Dear Mr President,

Dear members of the Ukrainian delegation,

On behalf of the Dutch Senate I'm also honoured to welcome you here in The Hague.

The sacrifices the Ukrainian people have made for their freedom – that is our freedom as well - move us deeply.

These sacrifices, especially the countless lives lost, sadden us and strengthen the bonds between our two nations.

Today marks an important moment in that respect.

Leaders and politicians from across Europe are here in The Hague, the city of Peace and Justice, for the Signing Conference of the Convention on the Establishment of an International Claims Commission for Ukraine.

Russia's full-scale aggression against Ukraine has led to widespread death and suffering.

The establishment of the Register of Damage for Ukraine in April 2024 was a significant first step.

The second step towards a mechanism that will ensure justice and compensation is today's institution of the International Claims Commission for Ukraine.

Truth, justice and reparation are essential for the victims of the Russian aggression to overcome what has happened to them.

At the same time, Mr President, you are involved in intensive negotiations.

Yesterday you were in Berlin for the latest talks on ending the invasion of Ukraine.

I hope these talks will bring the result that does justice to the people of Ukraine.

Mr President,

Next week is Christmas, a holiday that fills our hearts with hope and light.

Let 'Peace on Earth' be with you and the Ukrainian people very soon.

Thank you.