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Attn To the President of the House of Representatives of  
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**Ministry BZK**

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**Enclosure(s)**

Value-Driven Digitalisation  
Work Agenda

Date 4 November 2022  
Re. "Value-Driven Digitalisation Work" Agenda

On behalf of the cabinet, enclosed to this letter, I present you with the "Value-Driven Digitalisation Work Agenda" (hereinafter referred to as: the "agenda"). This agenda has been announced in my letter of 8 March last<sup>1</sup> which presented the main features of the digitalisation policy on behalf of the cabinet (hereinafter referred to as: the "framework letter"). This agenda is the first step in substantiating the ambitions of the cabinet for the value-driven digital transition of the Netherlands.

The framework letter outlines the ambition and objectives of the cabinet for the digital transition of our society and economy. "It is up to us as a country, and as a government, to steer the digital transition in the right direction and to provide for proper social embedding. To stimulate and embrace the opportunities, in a way that safeguards our public values. In this respect, we make choices of our own - and together with the EU - about the things we boost and the things we curb and about the direction in which we steer the developments. The objective is then to safeguard public values in the digital transition, to facilitate the discussion about value-driven digitalisation, and to develop the building blocks of a value-driven digital government."

Digitalisation offers wonderful opportunities for our society and economy. Opportunities that we want to seize and embrace, in a manner that induces confidence and that safeguards our public values. Confidence in digitalisation implies that we do not turn a blind eye to the serious risks, e.g. disinformation or cyber-attacks. We should not consider digitalisation from a technology but from our values point of view. Public values like security, democracy, self-determination, privacy, and transparency are the guiding principles here. This agenda has the ambition that:

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<sup>1</sup> Letter of the State Secretary for the Interior and Kingdom Relations, the Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, the Minister of Justice and Security and the Minister of Legal Protection of 8 March 2022 on 'Framework Policy for Digitalisation' (Parliamentary Papers II 2021/22 26 643, no. 842).

1. Everyone can participate in the digital era;
2. Everyone can have confidence in the digital world;
3. Everyone has control over the digital life;
4. The digital government works value-driven and transparent for everyone;
5. We strengthen the digital society in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom.

In this first agenda, the cabinet has elaborated the theme 'digital government' and a number of aspects of the theme 'digital foundation' from the aforementioned framework letter. You will receive a separate letter from the Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy on behalf of the cabinet about the 'digital economy' before the end of the year. It will contain the elaboration of the ambitions and priorities of the cabinet for the digital economy. This includes digitalisation of SME, digital innovation and skills, well-functioning digital markets and services, a secure, sophisticated, and reliable digital infrastructure and strengthening of cyber security in the digital economy. The Agenda for the Digital Society you will receive from me in the first half of 2023. The government-wide Dutch Cyber Security Strategy announced in the framework letter was presented by the Minister of Justice and Security on 10 October last<sup>2</sup>. Later this year, you will receive the International Cyber Strategy from the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The agenda, including the public values it contains, was prepared in close consultation with many local and regional authorities, experts, NGOs, and other partners. It provides guidance for the digital transition and the digitalisation in the various policy areas. The agenda has a high level of ambition and for good reason. We set specific objectives and we set actions in motion. We also look beyond this cabinet's term in office and focus on 2030. With an annual update we stay on top of things regarding its progress as well as the realisation of its ambitions. Digitalisation indeed requires permanent attention, flexibility, and adjustment.

The Working Agenda has been added as annex 1 of this letter. With this agenda the government is responding to a number of motions and fulfills several commitments. An overview of the motions and commitments related to the Working Agenda is attached to this letter as annex 2.

## **Reason**

The question we have to face when it comes to digitalisation is: "in what society do we want to live?" A digital transition that works for everyone is what I aim to substantiate in this agenda. Here public values and societal challenges should be leading for the development of digitalisation and its applications.

In the coalition agreement<sup>3</sup> the cabinet has outlined the ambitions in the area of digitalisation: "The current digital revolution offers tremendous opportunities for

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/actueel/nieuws/2022/10/10/kabinet-presenteert-nieuwe-cybersecuritystrategie>

<sup>3</sup> Parliamentary Papers II 2021/22, 35 788, no. 77.

our society and economy. We will take advantage of these opportunities with excellent digital skills, a strong European digital market, sophisticated digital infrastructure, and ambitious cooperation in technological innovation.” The European Union also links digitalisation to the social tasks in its Digital Strategy<sup>4</sup>: “The digital transition must work for everyone, put people first, and create new opportunities for business. Digital solutions are also necessary to combat the climate change and to realise the green transition.”

Digitalisation is, indeed, an important tool to tackle societal challenges. Digital innovations assist us in, for instance, areas like housing, mobility, climate, nitrogen, sustainability, energy, education, agriculture, food, nature, and public health. They offer opportunities to render our society more sophisticated, more inclusive, more innovative, more sustainable, and more efficient. This requires both stimulation of research and digital innovation and firmer control and more normative<sup>5</sup> action on this transition, in order to be able to safeguard the public values that are consequently compromised.

The agenda forms the foundation for the policy for digitalisation of the Dutch society and the government. It centres on people, society, and our public values. In all policy areas is being built on this foundation, while actively seeking cooperation.

Given the role digitalisation plays in the societal challenges, the House of Representatives will, primarily, continue to be informed by the responsible government members about digitalisation in their policy areas. Also about the topics that are part of the agenda. For instance, the Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport is preparing a framework letter about the standardisation of data exchange and you will receive a Vision on Digitalisation in Education for the Secondary Education and Higher Education from the Minister of Education, Culture and Science and an Action Together with the Minister of Housing and Spatial Planning, I will be working on digitalisation visions on housing and spatial planning, including use-cases with geodata for so-called digital twins for the physical living environment.

One of the priority topics within the digital transition is the digital economy. Digitalisation represents a driving force behind a productive and future-resistant Dutch economy and its earning capacity and makes an important contribution to our living standards.

However, the preservation of this excellent starting position is all but a certainty, given the increasingly global competition, larger cyber threats and incidents, as

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<sup>4</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/shaping-europe-digital-future\\_nl#voordelen-van-de-digitale-strategie-van-de-eu](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/shaping-europe-digital-future_nl#voordelen-van-de-digitale-strategie-van-de-eu)

<sup>5</sup> This agenda is supported by the Report on Digitalisation in Legislation and Case Law of the Council of State of June 2021. Many of the recommendations from this report were elaborated in this agenda. An overview of all recommendations and the actions deriving from the same will be presented in a separate letter of the cabinet. See <https://www.raadvanstate.nl/@125918/publicatie-digitalisering/>.

well as substantial investment in key technologies in countries such as China and the US. This strengthens their position to set standards worldwide, which could put pressure on our digital autonomy. Investments in and application of digital technology should, therefore, remain high to maintain the competitive position of Europe and the Netherlands worldwide. The tight labour market and considerable shortages of technically trained staff are urgent bottlenecks in order to be able to shape the digital transition.

Moreover, as a result of the further digitalisation it becomes ever more complex to safeguard public interests, e.g. properly operating markets, healthy competition, freedom (of choice), openness, and security in the digital economy. To continue reaping the fruits of the digital transition and to safeguard our future living standards, the Netherlands must work on an assertive and enterprising digital society and economy that contribute to sustainable economic growth for everyone, from the values that we stand for. The minister of economic affairs and climate policy will, as announced, send the Strategy for the Digital Economy to your Chamber.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs will inform you of the cabinet efforts with regard to new Commission proposals (BNC fiches) and with regard to digitalisation in the context of the broader EU agenda, e.g. the annual State of the Union Letter to the House of Representatives<sup>6</sup> and the cabinet appreciation of the Commission work programme that will be shared with the House of Representatives in November. The Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation has already informed the House of Representatives of the central role of digitalisation in the FTDC policy<sup>7</sup>.

Based on my coordinating role, I safeguard that the departmental digitalisation visions and other specified documents are in line with the values from the agenda and I connect with and between the relevant cross-cutting themes. Consider, inter alia, the handling of data and algorithms, control of data, and the sharing of the these data with other public and private parties. In the first half of 2023 I will inform the House of Representatives in the agenda for the digital society of the issues in the various policy areas that required joint answers.

Within the CIO system we, moreover, cooperate on the digitalisation of the Central Government. The House of Representatives receives annual reports about this in the form of departmental information plans. Because of my government-wide responsibility, you hereby receive, simultaneously with this letter, an

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2022/04/28/staat-van-de-unie-2022>

<sup>7</sup> [Strategie voor Buitenlandse Handel en Ontwikkelingssamenwerking. Beleidsnotitie 2022 - Doen waar Nederland goed in is](#). See also the Digital Agenda for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation (BHOS).

umbrella appreciation of these plans from me.

### **The main features of the Value-Driven Digitalisation Work Agenda**

The agenda consists of five main features. The ambitions and objectives per main feature are described in the agenda. Although the efforts may differ per main feature, these main features are complementary to each other and are realised in conjunction with each other. This way, we safeguard our values together and we seize the opportunities offered by the digital transition.

#### *1. Everyone can participate in the digital era*

In the Netherlands, approximately 2.5 million people do not dispose of sufficient digital skills or tools. Hence, they get stuck in their work, in education, at work, and when organising their affairs with the business community, official authorities, and other institutions. Also as result of that, they cannot optimally seize the opportunities of the digital transition and are too vulnerable for cybercrime and desinformation. There also is an urgent need for appropriately digitally trained people in all domains of economy and society. The digital services of the official authorities and enterprises are still insufficiently accessible to everyone. This needs to change.

As the government, we take the initiative and we are working on accessible services via all desks, in order that citizens and businesses have easy access to everything and are assisted well. Where possible, we do this proactively, starting with specific life events. We stimulate the digital skills of all citizens and facilities for businesses. We offer, where required, support via low-threshold physical information points. It is already, to a limited degree, possible to authorise a trusted person via DigiD to handle your digital affairs. We aim to have this rolled out widely in 2025.

Because we learnt from the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), we are going to support public and private parties during the implementation of European legislation. And, as the government, we set a good example during the said implementation. Together with the sectors, we ensure that employees and directors can also dispose of the correct knowledge and information to do their work well.

Disinformation is timeless, yet its targeted and large-scale dissemination by major online platforms undermines the public debate and damages the open economy, public health, national security, and mutual trust and confidence in public organizations and institutions. We counter this by promoting digital skills and media literacy, by regulating online platforms, by introducing the European Code of Practice against Disinformation, and by providing more opportunities for fact-checking and public alternatives to digital social platforms. In addition, we apply digitalisation for a stronger and more inclusive democracy.

## *2. Everyone can have confidence in the digital world*

Confidence in the digital world requires that, also on the basis of the implementation of EU regulations, the right to respect of the personal privacy, the safeguarding of privacy, the prevention of discrimination, the prevention of the online distribution of disinformation, and the creation of a safe(r) digital environment for citizens and businesses are addressed proactively. In this respect, we pay specific attention to the protection of children, the elderly, and other vulnerable groups.

The government fights criminality that abuses the online world and tries to limit the damages through information, and digital district police officers, and detection. In case of new technologies, like quantum technology and synthetic data, we explore their influence on our society in a timely fashion in order to limit adverse consequences. Where required, we adopt new frameworks in order to safeguard our public values.

## *3. Everyone controls the digital life*

Many people do not know what data organisations collect, market or even lose about them. Due to the use by official authorities and the business community of (more or less autonomous) algorithms and their 'decisions', people feel they are losing control. We want to change this.

Basically, everyone can inspect, retrieve, and correct (have corrected) their own personal data at official authorities on the basis of the GDPR. The technical possibilities are still too limited and are being expanded, in order that it becomes easier for everyone to be able to exercise these rights. With digital identities and wallets, for which we adopt clear rules, we offer people more control over their data. We draw up clear rules for ID wallets, among other things, which give citizens the right and the opportunity to digitally manage and share their data. In this way, we give people more control over their own data.

Moreover, everyone should personally be able to determine with whom those data are shared, publicly or privately, in the Netherlands and in Europe. These rights pursuant to the GDPR, which ensure that data subjects have insight into and control over the processing of their personal data, also apply to algorithms with which personal data are being processed. It goes without saying that this is limited by statutory or justified exceptions that are applicable in case of a balancing of interests in the context of, for instance, detection, enforcement or collection of information.

Also everyone must be able to understand how parties or institutions have reached a 'decision' with the help of algorithms. With European and national legislation and supervision we render algorithms and their relevant applications fair and transparent for citizens and businesses. We start with the appointment of

an Algorithm Supervisory Authority and the establishment of an Algorithm Register. Because transparency is the basis for confidence.

#### *4. A value-driven digital government that works for everyone*

Problems with IT systems and the role of data in, for instance, the “benefits affair” (the childcare benefit system) harmed the confidence in the (Central) Government and its digitalisation. We want to change this by setting a good example as the government.

At present, citizens, organisations (including media), and the Parliament are not always receiving insight (in a timely fashion) into the actions and the decisions of the government. That is why I am going to bring the information management in order. I want the government to be able to handle requests for information in a timely and adequate manner and also disclosed government information proactively. This way, citizens and organisations can call the government to account and better look after their interests.

Equally essential is diligent data management (handling of data), certainly when it comes to personal data. This imposes high technical and procedural requirements on the acquisition, storage, processing, and sharing of data, inter alia in terms of privacy, transparency, and control for citizens (also see features 2 and 3).

Only if we comply with the highest requirements will the use of data no longer be revolting, and instead offer opportunities to improve the services to citizens. For instance, we dispose of many public data about our living environment. Private and public parties use these spatial data for services and for all sorts of work processes. Since 2016 the searches of spatial government data have increased from 2 billion to 30 billion a year. For this purpose, with the Central Government, provinces, and municipalities we are, inter alia based on the Inter-Administrative Data Strategy, developing a federative data system. This implies that data are stored and retrieved as much as possible at the source. The Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations actively contributes to this from its policy responsibility for the system of key registers and specifically for the key registers in the spatial domain and for the key register of persons.

In order to realise all this, the Central Government must strengthen its ICT organisation and systems. Old systems and processes are restructured and replaced by modern and harmonised arrangements, standards, and facilities. Ultimately, ICT is human work and the government must be able to commit the right people, knowledge, and talents. To this end, I take control of turning the government into a modern organisation where digital talent feels at home. To this

end, I have also integrated the Digital Government Agenda, which I promised you in my letter of March 8, 2022<sup>8</sup>, into this Work Agenda

To seize opportunities and mitigate risks, the governance of data throughout the Central Government will be improved with frameworks and guidelines (e.g. the implementation framework for responsible use of algorithms), a tighter data community, and the inclusion of the duties and role of a Chief Data Officer in the system of the CIO Decree.

#### *5. Strengthening of the digital society in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom*

Citizens and businesses in the Caribbean Netherlands must be able to equally participate in the digital society. At present, this is often not the case. The official services have not been set up optimally yet and the digital government is still in its infancy. We start working expeditiously on this. We will bring the services at an identical level as in the European Netherlands, both digitally and physically. Where possible, the actions of features one up to and including four of the agenda are also applicable in the Caribbean Netherlands.

The cabinet is going to tackle the degree of coverage of and accessibility to fast and stable internet in the Caribbean Netherlands. We enhance the digital skills of citizens and businesses and we will set to work on privacy and cyber security.

We are also preparing a proposal for the National Growth Fund in order to make a leap in scale in the digital society and to consequently stimulate the economy. We support the Caribbean countries within the Kingdom and assist them in their transition to a digital society. We will enter into conversation with the Caribbean Countries within the Kingdom about whether and how we can support and facilitate them in their transition to a digital society.

#### **My approach**

As the first coordinating government member for Digitalisation, I want to be a frontrunner and I want to inspire, off course building on what my predecessor at BZK has already achieved in this area. Hence, a different working method of the government emerges in this agenda. It is characterised by "departing from public values", "non-acceptance of the non-commitment to self-regulation in the area of digitalisation", "setting clear boundaries", "taking a step forwards", "setting a good example", "not getting stuck in small-scale pilots, but immediate implementation and scaling up as soon as possible", "developing public alternatives where required", and acting "transparently" and "in open dialogue with society". In addition, we will continue to engage in European and

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<sup>8</sup> Letter of the State Secretary for the Interior and Kingdom Relations, the Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, the Minister of Justice and Security and the Minister of Legal Protection of 8 March 2022 on 'Framework Policy for Digitalisation' (Parliamentary Papers II 2021/22 26 643, no. 842).



international cooperation, stimulating creativity and innovation and investing in public-private partnerships.

Setting a good example means more than just adopting policy. It requires of us that we personally take a step forwards and are at the cutting edge in shaping the digital government of tomorrow and also include other EU Member States and like-minded partners. This also implies that we, where possible, work in open source, with open data, open algorithms, and open policy rules. This more open, transparent, and proactive approach will be visible when implementing the agenda. For instance, during the realisation of a public open source wallet that is being developed in complete transparency and that complies with the highest requirements for data protection, information security, and accessibility.

The world around us, our society, and the technique are not standing still. The agenda is a living document and will annually be updated. The House of Representatives will, moreover, annually receive a progress report from me.

### **Public communities**

I will involve the society in the implementation and updating of the agenda along two tracks. First of all, I will, in addition to the utilisation of existing digitalisation fora like NL Digitaal, the CIO Platform, and Cyberveilig Nederland (Cyber Secure Netherlands), actively start the dialogue about the value-driven digitalisation of the Netherlands and Europe with relevant experts, scientists, 'unconventional thinkers', interested parties, and societal organisations (e.g. Bits of Freedom and Amnesty International), and advisory bodies (e.g. WRR, Rathenau Institute, and AWTI). With the Social and Economic Council I am exploring a potential role in the public debate about the balancing of public values in case of digitalisation, also in situations where these values may be under pressure. This agenda is also the result of the contribution of a large number of experts, scientists, unconventional thinkers and societal organisations.

In addition, I want to structurally offer a platform to communities, citizens, and businesses that play a role in the societal and political debate about digitalisation. I will examine as to whether online platforms, e.g. Pol.is, can be used in consultations about specified proposals. We also aim for an active community of parties involved in our activities and we are examining as to whether active contributions to relevant developments (e.g. source code for the public wallet or the algorithm register) can be remunerated.

On the thus created platform of communities we continuously conduct talks about the society that we want to be, the place digitalisation occupies in it, the public values that are at stake, and the tensions between them. We actively link this to the societal challenges and related implementation issues.

## **Governance and cooperation**

The task to steer digitalisation in the right direction is wide-ranging. That is why digitalisation is an important topic in the coalition agreement and why, for the first time, this cabinet has a State Secretary for Digitalisation.

All governments are going to have to deal with digitalisation and adopt their own policy (agenda) for it. The realisation of the ambitions of the cabinet requires more control. In the aforementioned framework letter it is outlined that under my control the Central Government will completely focus on the utilisation of the opportunities offered by the digital transition and, more than before, will act in a normative manner towards public and private parties. With the objective of safeguarding public values in the digital transition, facilitating the discussion about value-driven digitalisation, and developing the building blocks of a value-driven digital government. I will do this by stimulating and by offering frameworks, and through active supervision via the monitoring and annual progress report to the House of Representatives. The proposed indicators included in the agenda are, in association with the parties involved, given further concrete form in the coming period, for the benefit of the control, monitoring, and reporting.

Meanwhile, digitalisation has become an essential factor in almost all our primary processes. Nowadays, new or changed policy almost always implies a significant digitalisation task, which is not limited to specific (policy) domains. The proper, reliable, and secure deployment of systems, automated processes, portals, and handling of data and algorithms are decisive for the official services to citizens and businesses. The organisation and relevant implementation is both a government-wide and a departmental responsibility. In this respect, the frameworks are developed by me at a government-wide level, starting with the value-driven approach of digitalisation, and the elaboration hereof is given further substance at the departmental level.

Because each Ministry works on its own social tasks, with the thereto-pertaining digitalisation tasks, which can intersect on many points. The cabinet is aiming to strike a good balance between the safeguarding of the fundamental values from the "value-driven digitalisation" agenda, cooperation on intersecting themes, including the digitalisation components, and the elaboration in the personal departmental / organisational context and relevant responsibility. This requires a close partnership between policy-makers, implementers, supervisors, and the digital experts. In the CIO Council and with the Inter-Administrative Data Strategy we can observe how this approach works. In respect of certain aspects, this still requires a good balance between my coordinating and the departmental responsibilities. I will enter into discussions about this with my colleagues and I will inform the House of Representatives in the first progress report about this agenda.

I give direction and substance to this by keeping control of the national digitalisation policy and through coordination of the Dutch international deployment with my colleagues at EZK and BZ. The agenda provides for the enshrining of public values in the digital transition and is the starting point for the

coordination of the departmental and inter-administrative digitalisation visions. Annually, you receive both the accountability for and the updating of the agenda from me. In the first half of 2023 I will send the House of Representative, as described above, the agenda for the "Digital Society", in which an elaboration is provided of answers to the identified joint issues.

In addition, I am responsible for the coordination of the multi-annual departmental information plans, including the thereto-pertaining financial section, by setting frameworks for these plans and by reporting to the House of Representatives about the ambitions and progress of the same in a separate annual appreciation, to be received in November. This includes an integral overview of the budgets as requested by the House of Representatives. To this end, I outline my relevant approach in the government-wide analysis with the aforementioned departmental information plans. It focuses on the further development of the ICT dashboard of the Central Government in order to provide insight into the costs of large ICT projects (the administration, the maintenance, and the renewal). In addition, I am, in the run-up to the next delivery of the information plans in 2023, working together with the departmental CIOs and the Ministry of Finance on the implementation of the motion of the members Van Ginneken and Leijten<sup>9</sup>. You will receive a first overview of earmarked budgets for digitalisation from me prior to the budget debate in 2023.

To gain more insight into the digitalisation component in the national budget, I will examine, in association with the departmental CIOs and the Ministry of Finance, how insight can be provided into the planning and control cycle regarding digitalisation and how this information can periodically be shared with the House of Representatives. I will inform the House of Representatives further about this at the end of 2023. Finally, I will be pleased to enter into discussions with you in order to be informed of your further requirements and to tighten these steps and I propose to organise a technical briefing about the entirety of the information plans and in this respect, in particular, the theme of financial insight into digitalisation, together with the departmental CIOs and the Ministry of Finance.

In the context of the strengthening of the control, the existing interdepartmental coordination has been expanded with an Official Committee Digital Affairs (ACD, Ambtelijke Commissie Digitale Zaken), in addition to the already existing committees for, inter alia, Implementation, and for Defence, International, National, and Economic Security. Digitalisation is already a topic of discussion in these specific areas in the said committees. The departments, local and regional authorities, implementing organisations, and the Permanent Representation of the Netherlands at the European Union in Brussels are involved in the governance. The CIO Council provides for the connection between the (implementation of the) information plans of each of the departments and the inter-administrative Government-Wide Policy Dialogue Digital Government gives substance to the guiding principle 'One digital government' of this agenda.

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<sup>9</sup> Parliamentary Papers 26643-882 dated 1 July 2022

This strengthened control is required in order to ensure that we pick up the opportunities offered by digitalisation, that everyone can participate in the digital era, that everyone can have confidence in the digital world, that everyone controls the digital life, that the digital government works in a value-driven and open manner for everyone, and that we also strengthen the digital society in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom.

### **Cooperation in Europe**

Every more digitalisation policy is established in the EU context and cross-border. The European Commission elaborated a digital strategy for the coming decade that is in line with the Dutch vision on digitalisation. Together with the Member States and the European Parliament, the Commission is working on a series of considerable legislative bills to steer digitalisation in the right direction. From my control role, I make an international effort, together with my fellow government members, for a solid contribution in order that justice is done in this respect to Dutch interests and public values.

The coalition agreement contains the ambition to, as the Dutch government, fulfil a frontrunner role in the EU in order to safeguard our public values. We want to join like-minded countries to stand stronger together and to realise specific results for our own agenda. We cooperate in an inter-administrative manner to realise the Dutch contribution in Europe. The relevant coordination is a joint responsibility of BZK, BZ, EZK, and JenV and the domains to which the regulations are related. We do this together with local and regional authorities.

The cabinet elaborates its vision on the European and international aspects of the digitalisation policy in, inter alia, the International Cyber Strategy and the FTDC memorandum. Depending on the specific task, this requires cross-border cooperation in several manners, in occasionally changing coalitions with varying roles and responsibilities for the parties concerned.

In terms of the commitment in Europe, the uniformity of the various files will specifically be examined, for instance in respect of definitions and standards and the safeguarding of fundamental rights. Separate attention will, furthermore, be paid to the implementation of European legislation and helpful supervision on the same. We will develop an appropriate approach from an inter-administrative perspective for the implementation and the supervision in the Netherlands – a considerable task.

### **Practicability and finance**

The agenda gives direction to and accelerates a number of existing initiatives and also introduces new policy.

An example of how I give guidance to existing initiatives is the ratification and supervision of requirements that already apply with regard to the accessibility of government websites. This is covered from the appropriate sources in the departmental budgets. The implementation consequences of accelerating existing

initiatives are first tested, including their impact on existing activities and resources.

An important part of the new policy results from EU regulations. If financial consequences arise as a result of this, these must be accommodated according to the rules of budget discipline. For the development of new policy for which I carry primary responsibility myself, I will reprioritize my budget. New initiatives are still being tested for implementation consequences, including the impact on existing activities and resources and possible phasing.

For the public-private support network for digital skills I would like to appeal to EU funds and, together with private parties, we are considering whether a proposal can be submitted to the National Growth Fund. This also applies to the leap in scale of the digital society in the Caribbean Netherlands, once the basic conditions for this have been met. **In conclusion**

It is up to us, as a country, and as a government, to steer the digital transition in the right direction and to provide for proper social embedding. The question that we need to answer together is in what digitalised society we want to live. It is up to us together to safeguard that our public values remain the foundation for the digital transition. This requires permanent attention when we give concrete form to the contribution of digitalisation in our policy-oriented and social tasks. I look forward to taking that development further, in association with my fellow government members and local and regional authorities, in the debates with the House of Representatives and in consultation with society.

The State Secretary for the Interior and Kingdom Relations

Alexandra C. van Huffelen