

**Bijdrage: The Hague Summit for Accountability & Internet Democracy**  
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**Digitalisation and government: a way forward based on know how, execution capabilities and a human approach. Is it time for an online Bretton Woods?**

Digitization offers many opportunities for a safer and stronger Netherlands. As a Member of Parliament for the VVD I am working every day to capitalize on those opportunities. Today I would like to discuss three points. First on the importance of a human digitalization. Second on the knowledge and execution capabilities needed to navigate the new digital world. And finally I will draw a parallel with Bretton woods conference in 1944.

Digitalization can only deliver in our democratic societies if it happens in a human way. If humans are right left and center of the effort to build a digital government. Not systems. The rise of social media and their influence on politics are a good example. When companies saw how they were hammered on social media because their pre digital era communication strategies did not longer apply . They moved quickly to use digital solutions to engage in one-on-one conversations with their clients. Governments that are communicating with civilians often don't go much further than an one way street. Digitalisation offers to the highest form of democracy 24 / 7 interaction with inhabitants.

Often great ideas fail in execution. In silicon valley this is business as usual. *Better fail fast and small than slow and big* is the dictum there. I am convinced that big data and algorithms can contribution to better policy and bettering people's lives. It requires courage from politicians to adopt such a strategy based on trial and error within our democratic societies.

Besides courage also knowledge and capabilities are key to execute. Implementing a plan to build a road is different from a plan to digitalize a specific piece of government. The latter takes place in a constantly changing digital environment. There are no standard procedures it is new territory.

This new territory is difficult to navigate. We have to apply to the highest standards of accountability, data protection and meanwhile be open to new ideas. To do so governments need knowledge and capabilities to execute.

So I gave two examples that were focussed on daily work in the Netherlands. I haven't even mentioned the international dimension. After the world war, countries across the globe where confronted with a more interconnected financial world and the memories of the great depression were live. The conference of Bretton Woods New Hampshire, in 1944 sought to find solutions for new and yet unknown problems based on democratic institutions and free markets. Is it time for an Online Bretton Woods. This conference could be a first step towards that.

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*NB: de spreektekst kan afwijken van de gesproken tekst tijdens het debat*