

Bijdrage: Jan Middendorp, Tweede Kamerlid VVD

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Activiteit: Webinar Dutch Startup Association over over Digital Services Act

Speech: Openings statement en paneldiscussion

Thanks Dutch startup association / Thanks Constantijn,

This is a very important meeting.

The Digital Services Act will be hugely important for Dutch startups. Even smart rules can have unintended consequences, so we have to get it right. I thank the Dutch Startup Association, Techleap and other organisers for creating this important platform for dialogue between European and national MPs, startups and other stakeholders. Feel free to be in touch on future developments.

During this time with the coronavirus huge decisions are taken that will impact our lives for years to come. And The Digital Services Act will hugely impact the Dutch Startups. We got to get it right.

Firstly ,the balance between the European Union and member states is crucial when it comes to digital collaboration. So of course we must work together in Europe, but it is very important that we, in the Netherlands while working together know what we are doing : have knowledge and executions capabilities ourselves.

Tech companies are asking for smart rules. Smart because rules can have unintended consequences. You want new data rules, but you don't want startups to scale up in China because of the new data rules.

It is all new: Compare it to trains: on that we have known for 70 years what we are doing, digital infrastructure is different: it is all new.

Secondly, every member state should have a position also NL. I submitted a motion in Dutch Parliament on the Dutch position ahead of the proposals for the digital services act. It is important to achieve a critical mass in Brussels. In order to achieve that we need to make coalitions with likeminded countries. .

So what can the Dutch government do?

I think the announcements earlier on, for a 200 million euro financing bridge for tech startups was very good. As a former banker I know it is not only financing. Currently there is a lot of attention for monetary and budgetary stimuli of the economy. However we also have to look at "digital stimuli". Including paying more attention to the design of our digital environment, digital infrastructure and the people who work on digital processes.

Key is that multiple ministries, non-profit organizations and tech companies work together digitally. Corona has made a change. I participated in many video conferences. A new digital government should take action across the boundaries of ministries and work intensively with third parties from outside to make concrete use of technology. It is key to do that with the EU as well.

Finally, knowledge and technology suddenly matter.

That has to do with being open to change, open to work together with third parties, open for things such as data-analysis. This is not something the government currently does. But now is an

opportunity because we are under a lot of pressure and a major advantage is that scientific knowledge and beta-insights have undergone a revaluation within Dutch politics the last couple of weeks.

T: @Jan_Middendorp | F: @JanMiddendorpVVD | NB: spreektekst kan afwijken van gesproken tekst