

## COMMISSIE-REGELING VAN WERKZAAMHEDEN EUROPESE ZAKEN

Donderdag 3 april 2025, bij aanvang procedurevergadering 10:30 uur

het lid VAN HOUWELINGEN (FVD), verzoekt om namens de commissie een brief te sturen naar de Franse regering. De tekstvoorstel is als volgt:

*Dear Sir,*

*I am writing to you on behalf of the House of Representatives of the Netherlands to express our deepest concern at the decision taken on 31 March 2025 to prevent Marine Le Pen from standing for election. As you know, her party is the largest in the French National Assembly and she is a favourite to win in the next presidential election.*

*Free elections are the very basis of democracy and a core right according to both Article 3 of the 1st protocol of the European Convention for the Protection of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms and Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. To prevent a candidate from standing, especially when the candidate enjoys the support of a very sizeable part of the electorate, is to prevent the 'free expression of the opinion of the people' guaranteed by both these treaties, as well as by Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.*

*The European Union is founded on the principles of respect for human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. These values are enshrined in the Treaty on European Union and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. By restricting the rights of the electorate to choose the candidate it wants, these basic rights are clearly violated and democracy undermined. By violating Europe's core rights, France is jeopardizing the unity and integrity of the Union.*

*The House of Representatives of the Netherlands is convinced that the protection and promotion of the rights of all citizens, regardless of their political orientation or identity, is crucial for a democratic and just society. We therefore urge you reinstate Marine le Pen for the forthcoming poll.*

*We stand in solidarity with the now disenfranchised electorate in France and will continue to support their struggle for equality and justice. We hope that the French government will align itself with international norms and values and take steps to guarantee the rights of all citizens.*

*We call on the president of the French Republic to invoke Article 17 of the Constitution of 1958 and use his discretionary powers to pardon Marine Le Pen so that this severe judicial attack on the electoral process can be reversed.*

*Yours sincerely,*