



MINISTER VOOR MEDISCHE ZORG EN SPORT
MINISTERIE VAN VOLKSGEZONDHEID, WELZIJN EN SPORT

H.E. Karl Lauterbach
Bundesministerium für Gesundheit
11055 Berlin
Germany

The Hague, **18 JAN. 2022**

Excellency,

We would like to congratulate you on your appointment as minister for Health. A challenging task, especially in these Covid-19 times.

We are also just recently appointed and look ahead to take on the tasks that lay ahead of us. We are convinced that, thanks to our predecessors, we can build upon the established relationship between our countries.

During this pandemic, Germany and the Netherlands have always remained in close contact, fully aware of the fact that the responsibility for the health of our people in a pandemic does not stop at national borders but is in fact a shared responsibility.

In 2020 together with our colleagues from France and Italy, Germany and The Netherlands were able to boost the process of joint vaccination procurement via the EU through the Inclusive Vaccine Alliance. We would also like to mention the generous role your country plays in taking care of Dutch Covid-19 patients in German hospitals.

We also worked closely together on the establishment of the EU Health Union, and more recently on the HERA negotiations. We look forward to continuing our cooperation as the proposals are finalised and implemented.

The Covid-19 pandemic has given a new impulse to cooperation between our countries in the field of global health and health security. Our two countries share the same vision regarding the strengthening of the global health architecture. We both support the WHO to get the appropriate sustainable funding. And we share the ambitions reflected in the international instrument, the pandemic treaty, for which the real work lies up ahead.

We also value our cooperation on other health care issues, be it bilateral, multilateral or in EU-context. For instance the digital health agenda. We look forward to accelerating and renewing our collaboration on safe and trustworthy exchange of patient data for better and innovative care, both bilateral in our border regions and in the European eHealth Network. We offer our experience and best practices in setting up a



MINISTER
MINISTERIE VAN VOLKSGEZONDHEID, WELZIJN EN SPORT

National Contact Point for eHealth, as we know this is one of the projects on your digital health agenda.

Securing our supply of medicines, vaccines, medical devices and personal protective equipment is of utmost importance for both our countries. Particularly, we welcome our bilateral contacts related to the EU pharmaceutical strategy and the special subject of the availability of medical radioisotopes for beating cancer. By working together, we can ensure continued supply of medical radioisotopes and improve accessibility and affordability of innovative treatments for all European patients. We look forward to continued cooperation on concrete actions to tackle shortages and the vulnerabilities and dependencies in the supply chains in order to strengthen our open strategic autonomy.

Finally, Germany and The Netherlands have a longstanding relation, as border countries and as friends. Your coalition agreement mentions plans on different healthcare subjects, such as the security of supply of medical products, on which we would like to work closely together. On other topics, such as a national Prevention Agreement, digital health or cannabis policy, we are open to share our experiences.

In view of your great track-record on health files, we are convinced that you will make a valuable contribution to German-Dutch cooperation. We look forward to meeting you soon to discuss how we can maintain our valuable cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

5.1.2e

Ernst Kuipers
Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport

5.1.2e

Conny Helder
Minister for Long Term Care and Sport

5.1.2e

nd Sport