

Opzet

Taal: Engels

Tijd/duur gesprek: 15 minuten

Meeluisteren: *DIE:* (10)(2e) (10)(2e) en (10)(2e)

Inbelgegevens:

Hoofdboodschap / doelstelling

- **Intro/bilateraal:** Informeren naar situatie in Portugal. Best practices uitwisselen, hoe kunnen we elkaar helpen.
- **MFK/Herstelfonds:** Benadrukken dat NL bereid is tot tijdelijk verhogen MFK om corona-impact op te vangen maar voorkomen dat dit leidt tot een structureel hoger MFK. Wat NL betreft is solidariteit tweerichtingsverkeer (solidariteit én stabiliteit). Essentieel dat extra middelen aan hervormingen en versterking interne markt bijdragen. Eerdere onderhandelingsprincipes blijven gelden: beperkte omvang, terughoudend op nieuwe eigen middelen en benadrukken belang behoud afdrachtenkorting.

- **Green deal en digitalisering:**

Spreekpunten

[Intro / Bilateraal]

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[MFK/herstelfonds]

- In these exceptional times with COVID-19 having unprecedented impact on our citizens and economy, clear that modifications to next MFF are needed. EU needs a

common recovery strategy, focusing on the internal market, the green deal, digitalisation.

- What is your perspective in this regard, also taking into account your Presidency in the first half of 2021?
- At the same time, it is necessary to keep long-term focus on broader policy priorities and the need for real reforms. In this regard, I compliment you with the reforms you have undertaken following the previous economic crisis that have contributed to Portugal's resilience.
- Recognize the need for additional recovery measures. My main concern however is that there should be strong and enforceable guarantees that recovery funding contributes to **concrete reforms and completion of the internal market**. They should lead to more convergence to foster growth and competitiveness and make sure that Member States are better prepared for the next crisis. Important that we stimulate a green and digital recovery. Also needed to explain to a critical public that this new money is well spent.
- Furthermore very concerned about proposed **funding mechanism** the CION is considering, by issuing debt to finance the EU budget ("loans for grants"). This is not only a difficult legal question, but first and foremost a fundamental point as it runs counter to sound budgetary principles and might lead to debt mutualization.
- Undesired precedent that might then be used over and over again. Strong political concerns and almost unanimously critical parliament to take into consideration. That's why strong link to reforms and conditionalities is so important. I am willing to pay a fair share for recovery and could agree to additional loans to MS, but without reform proposals loans for grants is certainly a bridge too far. Must not end up as budget aid.
- [Ambtelijke follow-up]: Let's agree that we ask our MFF teams to **follow up** at their earliest possible convenience.

[Passief/in reactie]

- **Needs assessment:** NL budget deficit more than 10% this year, same for others. Figures we read of new MFF of 2-3% GDP are simply not realistic. Need to be clear about who is most affected and what form of recovery support leads to sustainable increase in competitiveness. Also look at what has already been done (ECB, EIB, current EU budget, SURE).

- **Priorities:** If some additional investment is needed, these recovery efforts should be
 - Limited in time.
 - Linked to structural reforms (with appropriate conditions).
 - Focused on research & innovation, green recovery, strengthening of the internal market and crisis response capacity.
- Recovery measures should primarily be made available by **adjusting** and **reprioritizing** the MFF proposal of 21 February 2020.
- In addition, we see room for **frontloading** of Cohesion funds during the first 2 years to kick-start economies and quickly support Member States' actions. I understand Portugal has already used the instrument of frontloading quite extensively during the past months.
- Leaders will have to agree on a **package**, where additional MFF and recovery resources will have to be clearly linked to reforms, conditionalities and further strengthening Internal Market. In order to stimulate sustainable economic growth and convergence. We could use BICC methodology (national reform plans), that should be further strengthened.
- **Rebates:** Permanent rebates must be included in the upcoming CION proposal. (10)(2g)
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(10)(2g) Maintaining our current rebate as discussed in February will be an essential part of the deal.
- **Own resources:** We remain reluctant to new own resources; more complex and risk of additional burden to our tax payers in these already very precarious times. And as volume is considered, a permanent increase of the MFF ceiling should be prevented.

[Green Deal en digitalisering]

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Valt buiten reikwijdte wobverzoek

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Valt buiten reikwijdte wobverzoek

Achtergrond

[Bilateraal]

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Valt buiten reikwijdte wobverzoek

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[MFK]

- PT heeft sterk geleden onder de vorige crisis en onder de Trojka een reeks diepgaande hervormingen doorgevoerd (o.m. pensioenleeftijd: nu 67 jaar). De afgelopen jaren gold PT vaak als schoolvoorbeeld in Europa. Maar PT krijgt nu zware klappen (lenteraming CIE: -6,8% in 2020, + 5,8 in 2021) en heeft beperkte buffers. Het is sterk afhankelijk van toerisme (19% BBP) en heeft een hoge staatsschuld (rond de 120%).

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[Green Deal en digitalisering]

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