**Joining Hands for a Brighter Future**

Time flies and it’s been more than three years since I first arrived in the Netherlands. Though small in terms of population and land area, the Netherlands is, in my view, a “big” country which may punch above its weight. The Netherlands was a world power in its golden age of the 17th century, a country with global footage. Now it turns to be a major player in the world economy, full of vitality, with a lot of world renowned companies, innovative SMEs and start-ups. It is culturally rich, science and technology advanced. In the eyes of many Chinese, the Dutch are seen both as merchants and missionaries, we like the former more than the latter.

How is my work over the past three years? For the first year, I was struggling to find my feet, Covid only making it more difficult. For 2022. we focused on the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level. For 2023, the first post-pandemic year, we worked hard to resume contacts and catch up. To sum up, I have good relations with the business; good working relations with the government; challenges with the parliament and media. My job is to promote our relations. I have been working hard to drive home the message that, China is part of the solution, not part of the problem.

This year 2024, is the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the open and pragmatic partnership for comprehensive cooperation between China and the Netherlands. China regards the Netherlands as the gateway of China-EU cooperation. Bilateral exchanges in various fields have fully restarted after the pandemic and exports from the Netherlands to China have increased rapidly, demonstrating the huge potential of our cooperation. China is developing new quality productive forces to promote high-quality development. China is creating a world-class business environment for a higher-level open economy. Chinese market is instrumental for Dutch companies to maintain competitiveness. I hope that China will still be seen by Europeans and Dutch as a partner, not a rival, not a challenge, let alone a threat. I hope that the Netherlands will continue to uphold free and open trade, support globalization, multilateralism and international cooperation, contributing to the stability of the global industrial and supply chains. China is getting more connected with the rest of the world. In addition to the recently introduced visa free policy for Dutch citizens which is sure to facilitate people-to-people exchanges between our two countries, we are also planning high-level exchanges and deepening cooperation in various fields. In the face of unprecedented challenges like climate change and artificial intelligence, let’s join hands to promote the sustained and steady development of bilateral relations, and build a shared and brighter future for humanity.