

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **China Debate in the Tweede Kamer:**

### **Less dependency from China to safeguard peace and security in Europe**

The Hague, July 10th, 2023 – In the context of Friday's China debate in the Tweede Kamer (the Dutch Parliament's House of Representatives), Tibetans and support organizations raise concerns about the human rights situation in Tibet and urge for increased awareness and engagement from the Netherlands and the European Union (EU) in the region.

As expected, the China debate revealed the fatal dependency of the Dutch and European economy on China. The debate showed that recovering from this dependency and gaining more control in this relationship should be a major concern for the public in the Netherlands.

Amidst this debate, Tibet groups and others emphasize the need to also consider the importance of Tibet and Inner Asia<sup>1</sup> for the future of peace and security in Europe and the Netherlands. Moreover, the EU and its Member States should apply a policy of non-recognition of the People's Republic of China's (PRC) illegal annexation of Tibet in all their China related matters.

In this context, Tibetans and their supporters have put forth a set of recommendations to the Dutch government, urging it to consider the following key points:

1. Use in all documents the label "people"(instead of minority) when referring to Tibetans.
2. Review the pool of China experts to be consulted for studies and advice by the government.
3. Commission a new report on the subject of the PRC's influence in the Netherlands.
4. Provide in Central Bureau of Statistics statistics an additional section that allows people to self-identify as Mongolians, Tibetans, Uyghurs, or others.
5. Monitor Tibet and the Inner Asian region (Tibet, East Turkestan, Himalayas, and Mongolia), including the human rights situation and security matters systematically.
6. Ensure the visibility of EU and EU Member States' support for the human rights concerns of Tibetans on national and UN levels.

Tibet and its surrounding areas bear a huge burden due to their strategic importance in supplying rare metals and raw materials to the global electronics industry. It is imperative for the EU and the Netherlands to firmly insist on the application of the UN-established principle of "free, prior, and informed consent" from the local population before any exploitation of these resources takes place.

Tibet groups and their supporters firmly believe that by addressing these concerns within the broader context of the strategic importance of China for the Netherlands, the Dutch government can

---

<sup>1</sup> Inner Asia refers to Tibet, East Turkestan, Mongolia and other areas in the heart of Asia.

play a vital role in promoting dialogue between the Dalai Lama and Beijing, and finding a peaceful solution for Tibet.

For the comprehensive response to the government's China policy, please contact:

Laila Tara Schumann, ICT Europe, Campaign and Communication, tel: +31 6 47 38 35 60 (Dutch)

Tsering Jampa, President Tibet Support Group Netherlands, +31 6 29004547 (Dutch)