



DUTCH EMPLOYERS COOPERATION PROGRAMME

## New year's message

2020 has been a special year in all respects. Businesses worldwide have ended up in difficult circumstances directly or indirectly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The suffering of entrepreneurs that is hidden behind this, is close to the heart of every employers' organisation.

At the same time, this unprecedented situation has underlined the importance of employers' organisations. Because where do you go in an unknown pandemic when you need information about how to deal with health and safety at the workplace? And who can bring a message with one voice on behalf of the business community to the government about what is needed to get out of the crisis with as little economic damage as possible? Right: employers' organisations!

DECP is convinced that in the coming years it is important to ensure the existence of employers' organisations and to increase their role and influence on the socio-economic system in countries. That is why we are focusing on the themes of membership and social dialogue these years. We believe in powerful, representative employers' organisations that, in dialogue with trade unions and other stakeholders, face the challenges of the future. And there will be many more after COVID.

That's why I am optimistic about the year 2021 and the years after.

After a year of online support, the DECP team is eager to get started both online and face-to-face. By working blended, we will make our contribution to further strengthening the key role of employers' organisations. And we look to the future with confidence.

Happy new year!

Peter Bongaerts,

Director