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Yesterday, the BeNeLux-University Center (B.U.C) held a conference in the beautiful Council Chamber of the City Hall in The Hague, also known as Ice Palace because of its white colour. At arrival at the foyer I was welcomed by the board members of the B.U.C and escorted to the council chamber to take a seat at the round table.

The opening of the conference was conducted by B.U.C. chairman Prof. Anton van der Geld. Mayor Jan van Zanen of the municipality of The Hague delivered his welcome speech online due to travel abroad.



Member of the Council of State of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Mr. Mildred Schwengle, discussed the state of play in political relations within the Kingdom of The Netherlands.

Minister of State Prof. Jan Peter Balkenende, head holder of B.U.C., held a formidable talk about reorienting the

market economy for the benefit of a sustainable society.

National Ombudsman Reinier van Zutphen described his important role building bridges between the Government, citizens and organizations in the Kingdom.

Between the speeches there was a musical interlude on piano projected on screen from Wim Statius Muller (1930 – 2021)

The roundtable discussion was led by Prof. Guus van Heck, head lecturer at B.U.C., with the assistance of Minister Plenipotentiary of Curaçao Carlson Manuel, Minister Plenipotentiary of Aruba, Mr. Juan Thijsen, State Councilor of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Mr. Mildred Schwengle, Prof. Jan Peter Balkenende, Mr. Reinier van Zutphen and Prof. Anton van der Geld.

After the closing remarks of the conference held by chairman Prof. Anton van der Geld there was a reception in the foyer where we could further exchange views on cooperation within the Kingdom in a more informal setting.



It was an excellent organized event with high-level dignitaries.

Also present from the B.U.C. - Council, State Minister Donner, former Minister Van der Hoeven, Inspector General Bakker, former Ambassador Veldhuizen.

The non-profit Foundation BeNeLux-University Center (B.U.C.) promotes cooperation between Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, and is active in the fields of education, science, culture and humanity.

