



AMBASSADE DE FRANCE AUX PAYS-BAS

**Inge Philips-Bryan : Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite  
(13 mars 2018, Résidence de France à La Haye)**

*Discours de Philippe Lalliot, Ambassadeur de France aux Pays-Bas*

Messieurs les directeurs, Madame Philips-Bryan,  
Mesdames, messieurs, Chers amis,

Nous sommes réunis ce soir pour partager un moment solennel puisque j'ai l'honneur, et le plaisir, de vous accueillir à la Résidence de France pour remettre, au nom du Président de la République française, à Madame Inge PHILIPS-BRYAN les insignes de chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite.

Mrs. Philips-Bryan,

I am very well aware that you and your family, and especially your son Werner who was born in Paris ten years ago, speak French fluently. However I will speak English for everyone to understand me here tonight.

Allow me first to give you some insight on the prestigious award that I am about to bestow upon you. The Ordre National du Mérite is indeed a distinction awarded by the President of France. It was established in 1963 by Charles de Gaulle to reward very distinguished achievements.

As is customary in France for such a ceremony, I would like to recall if not all, the main stages of your personal and professional career, marked by many responsibilities throughout 20 years within the Dutch intelligence community and the national police before joining Deloitte in September 2016.

After being graduated in tourism and event management in 1988, which is quite an unusual start for a police officer, you spend three years in Italy, at the University of Perugia. Back in the Netherlands, you started studies of medieval economics and modern American history at the University of Leiden, and got in 1999 a master's degree in general history.

Since you are decidedly a woman of many talents and full of surprises, your thesis dedicated to the decolonization of Kenya leads you to an internship at the Dutch Permanent Representation to the United Nations in New York.

In 1997, your career took a new and decisive turn with your decision to join the Dutch general intelligence and security service, the AIVD. In 1999, you became team leader of domestic as well as international operations. You worked on undercover operations on the Internet and led intelligence operations against weapons of mass destruction in Iraq during the Second Gulf war.

After 10 years in the intelligence community, your boss, the current NCTV Coordinator, Dick Schoof, proposed you for a post abroad in the field of police cooperation, either in Brussels or in Paris. From 2007 onwards, it will so be Paris where you spent four great years as security and home affairs counselor at the Dutch embassy and even found the time to get a post-doc degree in security studies delivered by the Institut national des Hautes Etudes de la Sécurité, which makes you even more a full member of the French police family.

Mrs. Philips-Bryan,

I am told that your ability to build direct and personal links with French police chiefs contributed greatly to soothe the relationship between our two countries and bring it to a new level with a significant improvement in police cooperation in a broad range of security issues, including sensitive matters like fight against international drug trafficking and terrorism.

Upon your return to the Netherlands in 2011, you work on a major reform of the Dutch police force, which became effective on the 1st of January 2013. As a project manager, you have been very much involved in the creation of the Dutch police national unit and then, as deputy director, in setting up the national criminal investigations division. As of December 2014, you were also appointed national head of counter terrorism investigative operations.

During the last two decades, you were so at the heart of the intelligence and law enforcement community, from counter terrorism to organized crime such as drug trafficking, armed robbery, money laundering and high tech crime. You also paid a special attention to modernizing the structures you belonged to and significantly changed their professional culture and working methods.

You so laid the basis for the use of Internet in intelligence work in the Netherlands and pioneered in the use of big data. You specialized in integrating new technology in old school investigating procedures. Furthermore, the fight against money laundering and cybercrime was for you an opportunity to establish new partnerships with, for example, the consumer market authority, the Delft technical university or the banking sector.

The impressive number of your responsibilities didn't prevent you, on the contrary, from staying in close touch with the French police authorities engaged in the fight against the wide range of transnational crime such as terrorism, drug or arms trafficking, money laundering, child pornography or cybercrime, so many issues which are at the heart of our security concerns and priorities, given the challenges and the threats that our countries and Europe continue to face.

During all these years, you remained acting as an ambassador of police cooperation for the mutual benefit of our two countries and therefore entrusted with supporting the Dutch police chief responsible at the national level for this matter.

Mrs. Philips-Bryan,

2016 was a new turning point in your already very successful professional career since you decided to join the Deloitte Company as director of the cyber-security department, a new commitment in a different capacity to fight cyber threats, one of the major challenges that States, businesses and citizens are confronted with.

Mrs. Philips-Bryan, you can be proud of the work you have accomplished in the service of police cooperation and security, essential pillars in our democratic societies that are constantly affected by intense security crises and large-scale criminal activities.

Last but not least, I would like to commend your commitment to gender equality, including women's access to leadership positions in public services and private sector. We very much appreciated in particular your sharing of your personal experience with senior executive women of the French Ministry of the Interior during the first new training course "ARIANE" back in 2013. And I would like in closing underline your participation, between 2008 and 2011, as a board member of Femihes, a network of women in the French security sector.

Madame Inge PHILIPS-BRYAN, en reconnaissance de vos grandes qualités professionnelles et morales et de votre action soutenue en faveur du renforcement de la relation entre la France et les Pays-Bas, le Président de la République a décidé de vous nommer Chevalier dans l'Ordre national du Mérite, dont je vais à présent vous remettre les insignes.

Madame Inge PHILIPS-BRYAN, au nom du Président de la République, nous vous faisons Chevalier dans l'Ordre National du Mérite./.