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To:
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Letter of support for J.M.P. van den Oever regarding the request for source code

Your reference: **zaaknummer ZWO 19 /1102 WOB PRM**

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To whom it may concern.

The Free Software Foundation Europe (FSFE) writes to support the Who (Wet hergebruik overheidsinformatie) request by Jos van den Oever for the source code of the Debat Direct app of the Dutch Tweede Kamer.

Mr Van den Oever wants to access the parliamentary Debat Direct app to stay informed. Parliament makes this app only available as proprietary application that runs on three proprietary platforms. The citizen needs to have one of the offered solutions and get permission from companies (Apple, Google or Microsoft) to use this application. With a Free Software solution more citizens would get access to the app without being forced to hand over their data to one of those companies. Mr Van den Oever wants to use the source code to remove this barrier in order to use this app also on other Operating Systems and communicate with parliament without oversight.

The FSFE is a charity that empowers users to control technology. The FSFE believes that in order for people to be in charge of their digital lives, they need to have the ability to use, study, share and improve their software. These rights should also be available when people are interacting with their government via digital channels.

To promote these rights, FSFE launched the "Public Money? Public Code!" campaign [1] in September 2017 by publishing an open letter signed by more than 170 organizations and 26,000 citizens calling for European and national administrations to "Implement legislation requiring that publicly financed software developed for the public sector be made publicly available under a Free and Open Source Software license".

The FSFE is represented in the Netherlands by dozens of supporters, coordinated by André Ockers and Nico Rikken. In the Netherlands the FSFE has been involved on a national and local level with governmental policies.

The Wet Hergebruik van overheidsinformatie, the Dutch implementation of the 'Directive on the re-use of public sector information' is meant to improve transparency, reuse and economic progress that results from it. The request by Mr. Van den Oever according to this law aligns with our goals and way of working, and we support his cause.

With kind regards,


Alexander Sander

[1] <https://publiccode.eu/>