

## Slide 1



# VLOS 2.0

Next level of reporting in the Dutch Parliament

Welcome to his last presentation of this series of IPRS meetings.

The subject of this presentation is VLOS, which stands for (in Dutch/Flemish) VerslagLegging Ondersteunend Systeem. (in English) Reporting Support System.

Before we begin, some introduction:

My name is Herbert Houdijk. I'm staff member with the Dutch Parliamentary Reporting Office. As subject expert I'm responsible for the VLOS system.

Co-presentator is Matthijs Bakker. Earlier on he presented the first version of VLOS at the Paris conference. Matthijs is a senior reporter with the Reporting Office and a member of the project team which was closely involved in the development of this new version of the VLOS system.

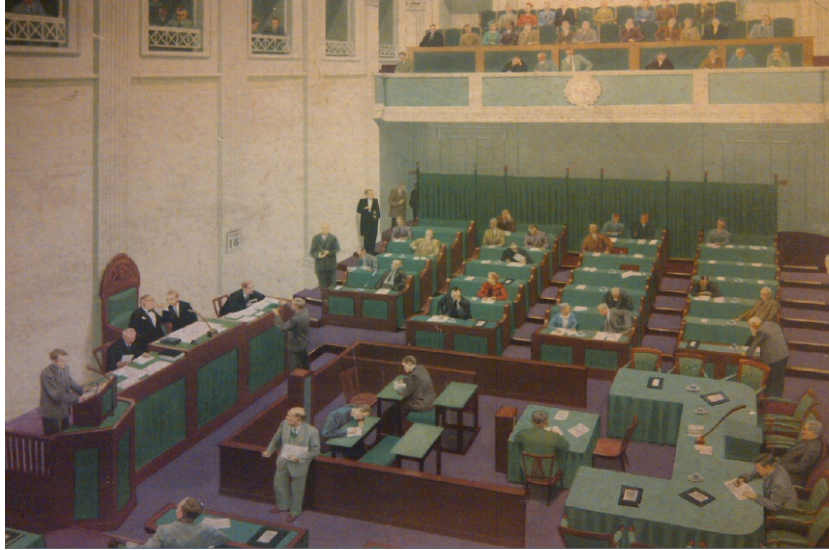
And last but not least Arash Ahmadi. He offered to assist us in this presentation. Arash is the lead architect of the development team, responsible for the technical development of the system.

Enough introduction, let's start the tour!

In this first part of the presentation I will tell you a bit more about the context of the application, which, by the way, was launched on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June in the plenary meetings of the Dutch House of Representatives.

As you see on the slide, we consider the 2.0 version of VLOS as a "next level version" in reporting. But to put things a bit more in perspective, let's step back in time!

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To be precise: to the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1971, the day I entered the ranks of the Stenographers Office as a trainee stenographer/reporter.

This is what I saw:

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# Characteristics:

- Notes made using shorthand
- Report written using typewriter
- Uncorrected report published next day
- Process oriented towards:

# PAPER

OK, we turn the clock fast forward and jump to the 21st century.

- Hand typewriters are replaced by computers.
- An application called StenoService has been introduced, which worked with templates within Word documents.
- On this basis we started the development of the first version of VLOS (1.3), still based on the idea of using templates and working within MS Word document structures.

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As we see in this picture, the world is changing faster and faster.  
This is what we see in parliament nowadays.....

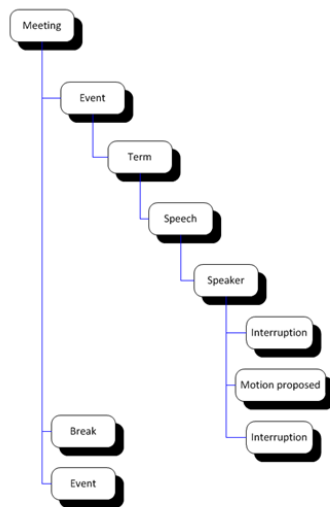
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## Characteristics:

- Members/MPs use tablets and smartphones
- On-going debate on social networks (twitter, facebook)
- Need for fast information, open to the public
- Need for immediate digital reports.

# LESS PAPER

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# VLOS 2.0

- Design database profile
- Update logging screen
- New editing module
- Revision website
- Paperless process

## Report ??

To meet the needs of the fast developing information world we decided to build a completely new version of the VLOS system, called 2.0.

### - **Structure:**

First step was to take a close look at the structure of a plenary meeting of parliament and of the way we make our reports of these meetings. On this basis we designed the structure of our database.

### - **Logging**

In using VLOS 1.3 we had learned that the logging screen wasn't intuitive enough. While logging, the reporter was actually already thinking in terms of editing the report. This slowed down the logging and made it more complex than necessary. So we updated this screen *(Matthijs will show it to you)*

### - **Editing**

The new way of working demanded also to abandon MS Word as the editing module. A new editing module was introduced with a sidick to it – yes! – in the form of the good old MS Word. *(Matthijs will show tis to you also)*

### - **Revision**

Completely new to the system is the introduction of a Revision Website. Under VLOS 1.3 the whole revision process was orientated on Paper, sent in and out by mail. This use of paper is no longer needed by using this website.

In this way VLOS 2.0 introduces the possibility of a completely Paperless process.

And what happened to the Report as a result of all this?!

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# THERE IS NO REPORT !



At least....

not in the way we used the term "Report" before: a paper version of the Report document

Of course there still is a Report, but in another form.

The Report in its new form is:

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"report" =  
View of a database filled with

TIME LOGGINGS

METADATA

CONTENT

embedded in

XML code

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```

<woordvoerder objectid="57621299-2aa0-4450-a672-c483f868a8e2">
- <woordvoerder objectid="57621299-2aa0-4450-a672-c483f868a8e2">
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- <alineaz>
- <alineaitem>
  Minister
  <nadruk type="Vet">Kamp</nadruk>
  :
</alineaitem>
<alineaitem>Nee. Ik kan niet op de stoel van de ondernemer gaan zitten, zeker niet met terugwerkende kracht. Het bedrijf heeft vier jaar achter elkaar verliezen geleden. Een
ondernemer heeft geprobeerd om het bedrijf voort te zetten. Dat is niet gelukt. Hoe dat precies is gegaan in de marktverhoudingen en hoe dat administratief en boekhoudkundig
precies is verwerkt, heb ik geen zicht op. Ik weet wel dat op een gegeven moment blijkt dat het niet meer gaat. Het bedrijf meldt zich. Dan komt de overheid erbij en dan gaan we
kijken of er oplossingen denkbaar zijn: met dezelfde eigenaar, met een andere eigenaar, een faillissement en daarna doorgaan of een faillissement voorkomen. Al die
mogelijkheden zijn onderzocht. Om nu met terugwerkende kracht op de stoel van de ondernemer te zitten, lijkt mij echter niet goed mogelijk.</alineaitem>
</alineaz>
</tekst>
- <nterumpant objectid="b813f3fd-5727-481b-acta-5b054e38c7f5">
- <spreker soort="Tweede Kamerlid" objectid="6ac20f35-777e-4121-a092-3be959b0e69b">
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  <aanhef>Mevrouw</aanhef>
  <verslaagnaam>Klever</verslaagnaam>

```

← METADATA

← time loggings

CONTENT

And this is what a Report in XML-code looks like.

By using this code we transform the Report from a “flat”, paper document to a Report with many layers in it, which each have their own place and meaning.

As a result of this, the report is now “free of form”!

You want a Word-document? It's possible

You want a PDF-document It's possible

You want HTML It's possible

You want..... It's possible

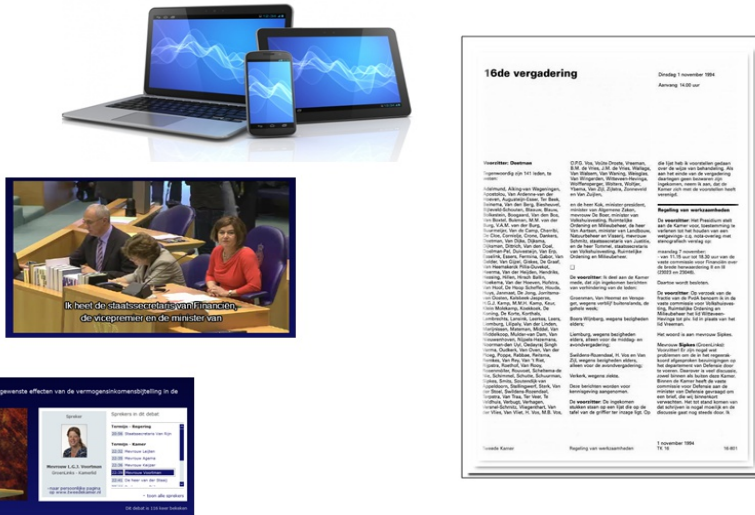
## Slide 10



In the following slides, I want to give you some examples of what is possible with this report in XML-code



## Slide 11



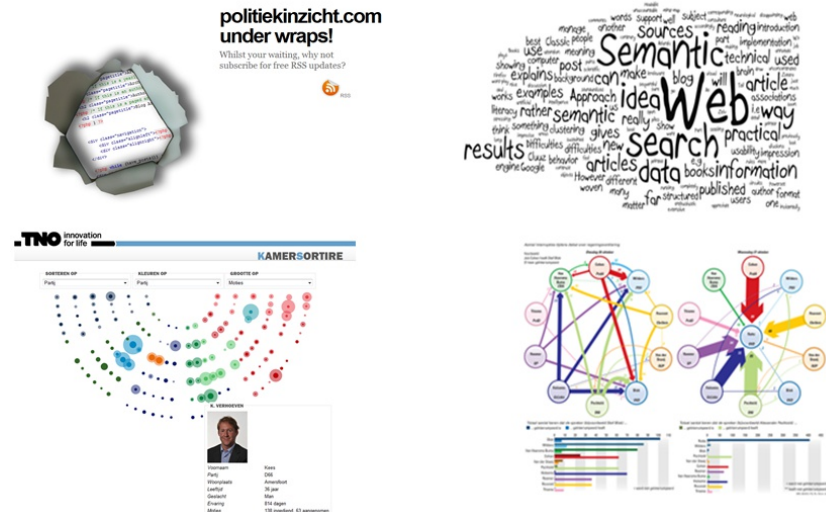
We can:

- Print the report in the old, trusted form.... on paper
- But we can also make fast publicationsw in HTML on a pc, a laptop, an iPad of Smartphone.
- We can use the structure of the report to make video of debates accessible (missed debate)
- With the aid of speech recognition we can even use the report to generate subtitles in video.

That is what we can do ourselves.... in house

A lot of parties outside are also very interested in receiving our coded report:

## Third party use



- It's possible to make graphic summaries of debates as Word Clouds
- Some parties already introduce the possibility to receive RSS-feed based on the meta data from the XML-code
- Researchers can extract all sorts of graphs from the report, which give interesting views of debates and what's going on between MP's (who's interrupting who most times. Who works together most with who? Etc.
- All these graphs you can present in interesting ways to the public.

These are just some examples of the possibilities VLOS is offering to parliament, but also to parties outside of parliament.

As I said, VLOS is now in use in the plenary meetings of our House of Representatives

Already separate modules are built to make reports of committee meetings

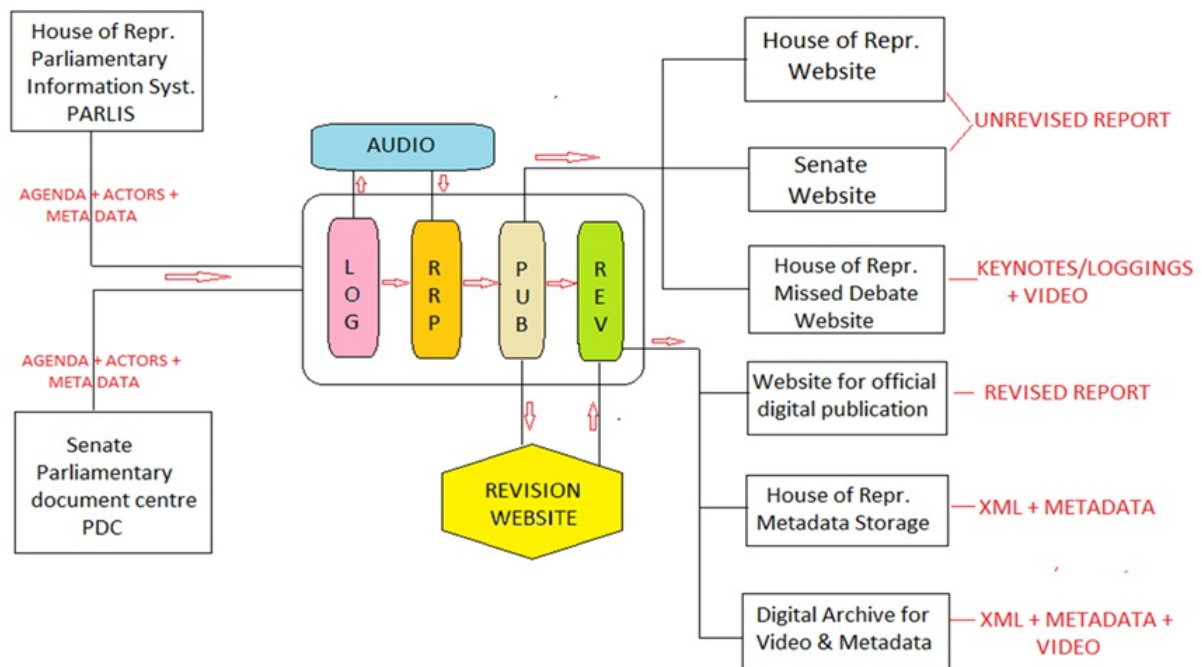
In september we start building the last VLOS module: making reports of plenary meetings of the Senate.

To my expectation in 2014 it will be possible for the Reporting Office to make reports of both plenary meetings of House and Senate + all committee meetings in the VLOS system.

Looking further into the future I have high expectations of the combination of VLOS and speech recognition.

Finally as introduction to what Matthijs is going to tell you The VLOS-Matrix  
(also handed out)

## VLOS matrix



Followed by a presentation of Matthijs Bakker, giving a “live” demonstration of the VLOS system.