

META
Mr. Mark Zuckerberg CEO
1601 Willow Road *Menlo Park*, CA 94025
United States



Datum

February 1, 2022

Onderwerp

Data centers in The Netherlands

Mr. Mark Zuckerberg, CEO Meta
Dear Members of the Board,

You and your colleagues from Amazon, Microsoft, Apple and Alphabet have shown, in varying degrees, interest in establishing hyperscale data centers in The Netherlands. As inhabitants of our country, we ask you to **abandon** these plans and shift your attention to other countries in Europe. Countries that are further advanced in terms of sustainable energy, that have more available space and better solutions for the use of residual warmth.

The Netherlands has enormous problems:

- The Netherlands has one of the worst levels of biodiversity in Europe.
- The Netherlands has the least sustainable energy in Europe. The last thing we, therefore, need are new, energy devouring business activities that will necessitate the construction of hundreds of windmills or devoting acres of land to solar energy parks.
- The Netherlands has several hyperscale data centers. The data center, such as the one Meta would like to establish in Zeewolde powered by green energy, uses approximately the same total amount of energy as our capital, Amsterdam. The lack of support for this plan has led to political tension and civil defeatism.
- The declining availability of fresh water due to salinization and pollution is an increasing problem. According to Dutch law, fresh water for public consumption precedes the growing needs of industry.
- There is a growing demand for more forested and natural areas in The Netherlands. We are in the penultimate place in Europe in this respect. This situation is also taking its toll on agriculture.
- We have a shortage of one million houses for every 8 million existing homes. This shortage urgently needs to be addressed in the coming years and will lay claim on already scarce land.
- The rise in sea level as a result of climate change will only exacerbate this situation. Four million people here are NOW living below sea level. An increase of one meter could push that number to 6.5 million.

Land van Ons coöperatie ua

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- And finally, due to exceeded CO2 emissions and the attack on biodiversity, Dutch agriculture must be made more sustainable.

Given the aforementioned, it means that we need to use the open space we currently have sparingly and make use of good farmland only when positive, social effects on the problem areas mentioned above can be achieved.

Your hyperscale data centers in no way contribute solutions, but only make the problems outlined above worse. Which is why we ask you to stay away from our country. We already have approximately 200 data centers, which is more than meet our national needs, several times over. The arrival of your and other companies' hyperscale centers makes our already daunting task in terms of space, energy and water even harder to accomplish.

This letter has been drawn up by Land van Ons, a cooperative of 18.000 participants who invest in the purchase and preservation of agricultural land so that we can pass on a livable country to future generations.

Yours sincerely,

Franke Remerie,
Chairperson Coöperatie Land van Ons

Cc:

House of Representatives of The Netherlands,
House of Representative Committees on Agriculture, Economy and Climate, and Internal Affairs,
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature And Food quality,
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy,
Ministry of the Interior.

