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Dear Ambassador, dear colleagues, dear partners, dear members of the Eureka family,

It is a real pleasure for me to speak today, as Belgium takes over the Eureka Chair.

In Belgium, innovation is a shared responsibility. Our regions and the federal level work closely together. For this Eureka Chair, we are united and fully committed to make it a success.

Wallonia offers a dynamic innovation ecosystem, with strong companies and a clear openness to international cooperation. Wallonia is proud to play its part in this common effort. We believe in cooperation, in Europe and beyond.

We will be especially engaged on research security and on dual-use topics. It is important to support open cooperation, while also protecting our knowledge and strategic interests.

This is key in a changing geopolitical context, with growing tensions and pressure on public budgets. We must adapt how we cooperate and how we invest in innovation.

In this context, measuring impact is essential. We will focus on efficiency and on clear added value, to ensure real benefits for Eureka members.

I am also very pleased to invite you all to Namur, the capital of Wallonia, for the third Network meeting of the Belgian Eureka Chair.

We look forward to working with all of you.

Thank you very much.