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Robbert is responsible for coordination of environmental research and innovation in his Ministry. The department develops in particular the Netherlands' policies on resource efficiency and the circular economy.

Robbert is also the work package leader for dissemination in the ERA-network ECO-INNOVERA on boosting eco-innovation through cooperation in research for a green circular economy. The mission of Eco-Innova is to provide a platform and network for strategy development, joint funding and sharing knowledge and experience for programme owners and policy makers. In this capacity, Robbert participated and contributed to the development of Eco-Innova's strategy for systemic innovation.

Since 2004, Robbert heads the Netherlands' delegation to the European Horizon2020 programme committee for the Societal Challenge climate action, environment and raw materials. He is also a member of the High-Level Working-Group of the Eco-Innovation Action Plan (EcoAP - COM(2011)899).