



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL
THE PRESIDENT**

EN

Brussels, 17 December 2012
EUCO 238/12
PRESSE 539
PR PCE 201

**Joint statement by
the President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy
and the President of the European Commission
José Manuel Barroso
on the recent parliamentary elections in Japan**

On behalf of the European Union please accept our congratulations on your success on the occasion of the recent parliamentary elections.

We look forward to further strengthening relations between Japan and the European Union, in particular to the opening of negotiations on a deep and comprehensive Free Trade Agreement and Framework Agreement between the European Union and Japan, and to intensifying our cooperation on shared challenges, and returning the global economy to sustainable growth. Above all, we wish to affirm our continued friendship and solidarity with the people and government of Japan.
