



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL  
THE PRESIDENT**

**Brussels, 24 February 2011  
PCE 052/11**

**Statement by  
Herman Van Rompuy,  
President of the European Council,  
following his meeting with Prime Minister Vladimir Putin**

I appreciated the visit of Mr. Putin, Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, in a time when the European Union and Russia have taken important steps regarding their bilateral relations. I emphasised that Russia is a strategic partner for the EU.

I explained the latest developments in the Eurozone to Prime Minister Putin in particular the efforts to stabilise the Eurozone and underlining that the Euro is a strong currency with sound fundamentals.

I supported Russian accession to WTO, which is a major achievement from last December's EU/Russia summit. The G8/G20 cooperation between the EU and Russia is very good.

We shared common views on the situation in the Middle East. We are worried about the latest development in Libya. In this context we welcomed the joint declaration by EU High Representative Ashton and Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov on the situation in North Africa and the Middle East.

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**P R E S S**

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**FOR FURTHER DETAILS:**

**Dirk De Backer - Spokesperson of the President - ☎ +32 (0)2 281 9768 - +32 (0)497 59 99 19**  
**Jesús Carmona - Deputy Spokesperson of the President ☎ +32 (0)2 281 9548 / 6319 - +32 (0)475 65 32 15**  
**e-mail: [press.president@consilium.europa.eu](mailto:press.president@consilium.europa.eu) - internet: [www.consilium.europa.eu/vanrompuy](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/vanrompuy)**

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