



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL  
THE PRESIDENT**

**Brussels, 26 January 2010  
PCE 17/10**

**Remarks by  
Herman VAN ROMPUY,  
President of the European Council  
following the meeting with Donald TUSK,  
Prime Minister of Poland**

Herman Van ROMPUY, President of the European Council, visited Warsaw today to meet Donald TUSK, Prime Minister of Poland. The following is a summary of his remarks made to journalists at the end of the meeting:

*"Let me first of all tell you how pleased I am to be here in Warsaw. Poland contributed so much to the reunification of the continent, which paved the way to allow us to discuss together, to live together, to travel without barriers and which plays such an important role in this part of the Union and in the Union as a whole.*

*I have had a very good discussion with Donald Tusk, who recently was designated the recipient for the Charlemagne prize. We discussed the main challenges ahead of us: securing economic recovery and taking the international climate change negotiations forward. Both issues will require the full engagement of the EU at the highest political level. We also discussed the Polish preparations for the Presidency of the Council in the second half of 2011. I was happy to hear that the preparations are so advanced. I assured Prime Minister Tusk of my full desire to cooperate with him during the Presidency and offered all my help in its preparation.*

*As you might know I took the initiative to convene a meeting of EU Heads of State or Government, on 11 February, to examine the economic strategy and climate change. Given the magnitude of the crisis in Haiti, I have also decided to bring this up at the 11 February informal meeting to see how - after the emergency help - we can give support to reconstruction and how we can create eventually a structural vehicle for immediate humanitarian aid. In all of these three issues it is clear that after recent experiences, more Europe is needed .*

**P R E S S**

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*First, as regards the crisis: we need to see how we can quickly overcome the short term challenges linked to the crisis, and how at the same time we can press ahead with the structural changes necessary to sustain future economic growth and sufficient job creation. One thing is already now clear: we need a much higher growth rate in the EU in order to preserve our social model, our 'way of life' as well as to keep up with the other major economies in the world. I know that in your country, you continue to enjoy a positive growth rate, we need to ensure that this is the case in whole EU.*

*The second important issue to be discussed at our informal meeting is combating climate change. The outcome of the Copenhagen Conference was certainly insufficient. However there are elements which we can build on in order to achieve more positive results in the near future.*

*All of us have been deeply moved by the plight of Haiti and its people. I am deeply grateful to you for the help you offered and you continue to offer. I particularly appreciate the spontaneous reaction of the Polish people who once again have shown that the spirit of solidarity is their way of thinking. The EU and its Member States have responded quickly, in order to alleviate suffering and restore minimum conditions for the population. Furthermore, the international conference for the reconstruction of Haiti will be central to possible future efforts."*

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