



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL
THE PRESIDENT**

**Brussels, 29 January 2010
PCE 19/10**

**Remarks by
Herman VAN ROMPUY,
President of the European Council
following the meeting with Jan FISCHER,
Prime Minister of the Czech Republic**

Herman Van ROMPUY, President of the European Council, visited Prague today to meet Jan FISCHER, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic. The following is a summary of his remarks made to journalists at the end of the meeting:

"Prime Minister Fischer and I had very interesting discussions. We talked about the most urgent issues on the EU agenda: 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. And I am glad that I can count on the support of your Prime Minister who recently chaired the European Council himself and who did so with great skill and excellent results.

The meeting of EU Heads of State or Government I convened for 11 February will allow for a substantial discussion of the future economic strategy of the EU. We have to overcome the short term challenges linked to the crisis, while at the same time pressing ahead with the structural changes necessary to sustain future economic growth and sufficient job creation. Europe has a unique social model. But let me be clear: if we want to preserve that way of life, we need a higher growth rate in the EU and we have to keep up with the other major economies in the world. I am convinced that we can do so, provided we recognize the magnitude of the challenge and are ready to take decisive action. And to do so under the guidance of those who have the highest responsibilities in their countries, i.e. the members of the European Council.

We will also devote some of the time available to discussing the lessons from the Copenhagen conference on climate change. The outcome of the Copenhagen Conference was rather disappointing for the EU, which had invested a lot in the preparations for the event. But we should not be too downbeat. There are elements we can build on to achieve a better result at the end. There is a need to add new dynamics in the process

P R E S S

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Given the magnitude of the crisis in Haiti, we will also briefly look at where we are in terms of helping the Haitian population cope with the effects of this tragedy. All of us have been deeply moved by the plight of Haiti and its people. The EU and its Member States have responded with determination, in order to alleviate suffering and restore minimum conditions for the population. Reconstruction will take a lot of time, and the international conference for the reconstruction of Haiti will be central to these future efforts. We will talk about how we can contribute to that."

You can watch the video in full here (available from 16.00): <http://vloghvr.consilium.europa.eu>

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