



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL  
THE PRESIDENT**

**PCE 100/10**

**Remarks by Herman Van Rompuy,  
President of the European Council,  
at EU-Central America Summit  
Madrid, 19 May 2010**

I am pleased that today we can announce the conclusion of an association agreement with Central America: this is the first ever region-to-region agreement of the EU covering at the same time political dialogue, cooperation and trade in Latin America. I am convinced that this agreement will bring our economies and what is very important, our people closer. It will create more prosperity and less poverty in Central America.

We also discussed the security situation in some of our countries. Central American countries share common security challenges that have a regional dimension, and that is why we welcomed the comprehensive regional security strategy. We are committed to bilateral as well as extended regional cooperation to improve the security situation of Central America.

We also talked about climate change. We all agree that the meeting in Cancun is an opportunity we cannot miss. President Calderon's words during our lunch yesterday gives us reasons to be optimistic. We need to re-establish confidence, understand the positions of all parties and work for an agreement that all parties can accept. As I said before the key words are: restoration of trust, ambition, realism and concrete results.

To conclude, I would like to congratulate President Chinchilla on the appointment of Cristina Figueres as Executive Secretary of the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). I wish her all the success, and I hope this will commit Central America even more on the climate issue.

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**P R E S S**

**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: <http://www.european-council.europa.eu/the-president/>