



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL  
THE PRESIDENT**

**Rostov-on Don, 1 June 2010  
PCE 111/10**

**Remarks by Herman Van Rompuy,  
President of the European Council,  
at the EU-Russia Summit  
on the Israeli military operation against the Flotilla**

First of all, I would like to express my shock and grave concern by the tragic events that took place yesterday, with the so called “Freedom Flotilla” sailing to Gaza.

The ensuing loss of life is inexplicable. I would like to extend my sincere condolences to the families of the victims.

Today we have a joint statement by High Representative Ashton and Foreign Minister Lavrov. I lend my full support behind these statements also on behalf of the EU, we regret the loss of life, condemn the use of violence, and demand an immediate, full, and impartial investigation.

I follow the development of the situation with great attention. Above all, I appeal for a durable solution to be found to the situation of Gaza. I would also like to recall yesterday’s statement, and point out that the continued policy of closure is unacceptable and counterproductive.

Finally, I would like to underline that peace in the Middle East must remain our ultimate goal.

It is of particular importance, although the situation is more tense, that recently launched proximity talks continue.

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**P R E S S**

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