



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL  
THE PRESIDENT**

**Toronto, 26 June 2010  
PCE 140/10**

**Remarks by  
Herman VAN ROMPUY  
President of the European Council  
at the press conference before  
the G20 Summit  
Allstream Centre, Toronto**

Let me start with the international discussions that we had yesterday and today at our G8 meeting in Muskoka. I found our discussions very open and constructive, reflecting a high degree of convergence of views among all the Members.

We discussed International Peace and Security. In this context, all G8 Leaders were deeply concerned about the Iranian nuclear programme. I explained to them the guidance that the European Council gave on additional measures against Iran.

As for the situation in the Middle East, we welcomed the start of the proximity talks between the Palestinians and Israel. We deeply regret the loss of life and the injuries suffered in Gaza. The current arrangements must change and in this respect we saw a positive development in Israeli's Government announcement of a new policy towards Gaza.

We deplored the attack that caused the sinking of the Republic of Korea's naval vessel, the Cheonan, resulting in tragic loss of lives. We support the Republic of Korea in its effort to seek accountability for this incident.

We had an open discussion on the so called world governance. The G8 leaders reaffirmed the role of the G8 to address a number of international issues and the role of the G20 as a major forum for economic policy in the broad sense. The members of the G20 have to take up responsibility for the global challenges. Recent developments are going further in the right direction.

Yesterday we started our discussion with economic recovery. On this point, all leaders converged on how to recover from the economic crisis. We, the President of the European Commission and myself, expressed the EU's position: there is no contradiction between a gradual growth friendly, differentiated fiscal consolidation and economic growth. It can even restore confidence in the sustainability of budgetary policy. Confidence is key for economic growth. This is also the way to restore confidence in the stability of the euro. And the stability is a major contribution to worldwide economic growth.

## **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: [www.european-council.europa.eu/vanrompuy](http://www.european-council.europa.eu/vanrompuy)

**EN**

Focusing now on the G20, I will briefly comment some issues in the agenda.

We fully support the role of the G20 to coordinate economic policies at the global level, through the G20 framework for growth. All major economies need to do their part in contributing to balanced and sustainable growth. This requires a set of policies both in advanced countries and emerging economies. When we acted in a coordinated way in the height of the crisis it served us well. We must continue in that direction if we want to ensure a strong, a sustainable and a balanced growth.

In the area of globalisation only a coordinated approach at the global level will allow to tackle the challenges we face. This is why we will strongly plead to preserve the momentum and keep the level of ambition in the G20.

I will only comment on the reform of financial institutions. No major breakthrough to be expected for this meeting. We will welcome the agreement reached for the reform of the World Bank and recapitalisation of multilateral development banks, in line with our previous commitments and we want to give a strong push to complete the reform of the IMF by our next Summit in Seoul. What is important for us is to have a comprehensive package covering all elements of governance reforms.

Finally, we will support Mexico's efforts in putting the climate negotiations back on track. President Calderón will participate in our lunch discussion.

Europe is ready to engage. We want green growth and a global and comprehensive legal agreement post 2012. We are ready to deliver on the fast start financing and to act domestically to reach the 2 degrees Celsius objective. We will seek for a balanced result in Cancun. Let's hope that Cancun is one step further in the policy on climate change.

---