



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL
THE PRESIDENT**

**Brussels, 16 June 2010
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**Remarks by
Herman VAN ROMPUY,
President of the European Council,
following his meeting with
Prime Minister of Norway Jens STOLTENBERG**

I am very pleased to have had the opportunity to meet Prime Minister Stoltenberg in view of the close relations between the European Union and Norway. It was our first meeting in my capacity as President of the European Council.

Norway is a constructive partner to the EU, not just as part of our internal market through the Agreement on the European Economic Area, and as part of Schengen area. The EU and Norway are also important trade partners and work closely together in many international contexts.

We have covered quite a lot of ground today. On a general note, I have had the opportunity to thank Prime Minister Stoltenberg for Norway's generally very positive approach in support of EU policy priorities, in particular our EU-2020 Strategy, which is now being implemented and I explained the Prime Minister the EU response to the financial crisis.

More specifically, today we have chosen to focus on some specific issues, where the EU and Norway share many objectives and have many common interests.

We have discussed various regional issues, in particular the High North, Arctic Co-operation and our respective relations with Russia.

The EU and Norway work closely together in many different contexts to promote a pro-active co-operation on issues concerning the Arctic. It is appropriate to pay much attention to all the challenges and opportunities that we face in the High North. This includes for example climate change, energy issues, marine resources and environment. The Arctic also has great strategic importance.

I was glad on this occasion to be able to congratulate Prime Minister Stoltenberg on the important agreement that Norway and Russia had reached on the delimitation of the waters in the Barents and Arctic Seas. This is a major achievement and means that a long-standing dispute can be put to rest.

I gave the Prime Minister a brief overview of the recent EU-Russia summit, which took place in a positive business-like atmosphere. It confirmed the rather positive momentum which has developed in EU - Russia relations over the past year.

Norway is a key and close partner, we face common challenges and we can do even more together in the future. The EU and Norway have strong and stable relations in a changing world.

P R E S S

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