



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL
THE PRESIDENT**



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**Joint statement by President Herman Van Rompuy and
President José Manuel Barroso
on the completion of the ratification process for the enhanced
European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF)**

Today the enhanced European Financial Stability Facility is fully operational after Slovakia's ratification.

The EFSF provides us with a stronger, more flexible tool to defend the financial stability of the euro area. This is in the clear interest of every one of the 17 Member States directly concerned, as well as for the wider European Union.

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