



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL  
THE PRESIDENT**



Brussels, 9 December 2011  
EUCO 157/11  
PRESSE 488  
PR PCE 117

**Remarks of Herman Van Rompuy,  
President of the European Council,  
following the meeting of the European Council**

Yesterday evening and this night we dealt with the euro crisis. We took major decisions to safeguard the Eurozone, both short-term and medium-term.

This morning we started by wrapping up that debate. The 17 Member States of the Eurozone and already many others are committed to a new "fiscal compact". A new European fiscal rule, to be transposed in national legislation. It is about more fiscal discipline; more automatic sanctions; stricter surveillance.

An intergovernmental Treaty will make this agreement binding. In combination with secondary legislation and the firm political commitments, this will give the Fiscal Compact its full force. Moreover, this Treaty will be open to non-eurozone countries. Except for one, all are considering participating.

Of course, the European Parliament will be associated in this process. The objective remains to incorporate these provisions into the EU Treaties as soon as possible.

As regards the calendar, I see two steps.

Rather rapidly, following consultations with national parliaments, we should know the number of participating states. I am optimistic because I know that it is going to be very close to 27. In fact, 26 leaders are in favour of joining this effort. They recognise the euro is a common good.

Then, early March at the latest, this Fiscal Compact Treaty will be signed but, it could be earlier also.

**P R E S S**

---

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 / 5150 - +32 (0)475 65 32 15  
[press.president@consilium.europa.eu](mailto:press.president@consilium.europa.eu) <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/>

EUCO 157/11

1  
**EN**

The ESM Treaty, will be finalised in the coming days. It will integrate yesterday's important decision that we change the approach to the Private Sector Involvement, bringing it fully in line with IMF principles and practices. The aim is for the ESM Treaty to be ratified by mid-2012.

We also discussed other important issues this morning.

We had a good debate on enlargement. As you know, we officially started the day by signing the Accession Treaty with Croatia.

In this context, I should like to congratulate Prime Minister Tusk and the Polish Presidency for their excellent steering. You have paved the way for a day of celebration for Croatia and for the Union as a whole.

We reconfirmed also the European perspective of the Western Balkans. Not only did we officially open the door for the Croatians, but we also made clear that this door will not close behind them.

Serbia has made considerable progress. It has taken bold steps to bring Europe's most-wanted war criminals to international justice. The Belgrade-Pristina dialogue has brought about first results and the implementation of those agreements is moving forward.

We encourage Serbia to build on that dialogue and to improve relations with Pristina for the sake of regional stability and Serbia's own interests. We will continue to assess the situation and Serbia's commitment to shared objectives, with the clear aim to grant Serbia the status of candidate country in February 2012 by the Council, to be confirmed by the European Council in the beginning of March 2012.

As regards Montenegro, it received candidate status a year ago. It has undertaken many domestic reforms, which now need to be fully implemented. We will continue to assess Montenegro's progress, especially in the area of rule of law. We are aiming to opening the accession negotiations in June 2012.

A quick word on some of the other issues we discussed. (You will find our decisions in more detail in the conclusions.)

In order to stimulate growth, we stressed the need to swiftly adopt those measures that do most to boost growth and jobs.

As regards Iran, we reaffirm our concern. We call on the Foreign Ministers to complete work on new sanctions next month. And, following the recent events in Teheran, we declare our full solidarity with the United Kingdom.

Not only the euro is a common good, so are the interest and the values of the Union's Member States in the world.