



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL
THE PRESIDENT**



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**"A recognition for the work of generations"
Comments by President Van Rompuy
following the announcement of the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize**

Speaking at 12:50 today at a joint press conference in Helsinki with Prime Minister Katainen, President Van Rompuy said:

"We are all very proud that we receive this Nobel Prize – and we, that means not only the European leaders, but all European citizens from this generation and the former generations. It is a recognition of the work of the European Union as a peacemaker. We were at war during centuries; we had two world wars, that in fact were European civil wars. We put an end to this, and with the European Union wars of that kind cannot happen again anymore.

So the European Union is really the biggest peacemaking institution ever created in world history, and we have still a mission of promoting peace, democracy, human rights – in the rest of the world. So this is a recognition for the work of our predecessors and of all our citizens during the last six decades, and it is the responsibility of European leaders to pursue this work, so that future generations can still enjoy all the benefits of the European Union.

So we are very grateful today that we receive this Nobel Prize, not on our behalf but on behalf of our predecessors, and for what they did. The citizens in all our countries can be proud to be Europeans."

[Video of the statement](#)

P R E S S

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