



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL  
THE PRESIDENT**



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**Press statement by the President of the European Council,  
Herman Van Rompuy,  
following the 7th EU-Brazil Summit**

It is a great pleasure to welcome President Rousseff for the 7th EU-Brazil Summit.

Brazil is an important economic and political partner for the European Union, a strategic partner, with whom we share democratic values and enjoy close ties. We both support strong multilateral institutions and a strong United Nations.

At today's Summit, we focused our attention on three areas: first, how to accelerate economic growth and job creation; second, how to tackle global challenges, such as climate change and cyber security; and third, how to cooperate more effectively on foreign and security policy issues.

I explained President Rousseff the robust actions the EU has taken to strengthen its Economic and Monetary Union and to promote growth, competitiveness and jobs. Growth is positive almost all over the Union, even if it is uneven. But the worst of this crisis is well behind us. The existential threat on the eurozone is over.

The risks for the global economy are still multiple but the outlook for the global economy is positive.

I am confident that Brazil will sustain its path of growth in the coming years. Macroeconomic policies, competition and reforms will further facilitate business and stimulate investment.

**P R E S S**

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In our discussions with the President Rousseff, we underlined the pivotal importance of trade and investment in boosting growth and job creation. Free trade is, and will always be the best answer to economic challenges. We welcomed the important advances in the EU-MERCOSUR negotiations, which will lead to the crucial phase of exchanging market access offers. These negotiations - when concluded - should trigger significant economic growth on both sides and ensure that the EU remains Brazil's largest trade and investment partner also in the future.

The EU's bilateral relations with Brazil have deepened considerably since the establishment of the Strategic Partnership in 2007. Our cooperation extends to 30 different areas - from human rights to peace and security; from economic, social and environmental issues to science, technology and innovation; from regional cooperation to people-to-people contacts and cultural exchanges.

At this year's Summit, we were able to welcome the first-ever dialogue meetings on drug matters and on international peace and security. We highlighted the importance of a comprehensive approach on the global drug problem and agreed to extend our dialogue to also cover the fight against corruption, money laundering and drug trafficking.

In addition, we agreed to launch a new EU-Brazil dialogue on international cyber policy and hope that the first meeting take place on the occasion of the conference on Internet governance, which Brazil will host in Sao Paulo on 23-24 April. We share the common interest of protecting a free and open Internet, which has spurred tremendous economic and social progress. At the same time, we will continue to enhance data protection and global privacy standards. A new fibre-optic submarine cable – connecting Latin America directly with Europe – would make an important contribution to these efforts.

With regard to foreign policy, we exchanged views on Ukraine, where people paid a high prize for freedom. I salute the will of the Ukrainian people to live in a free, independent and united country with strong ties to the EU. We stand ready to sign the Association Agreement and support Ukraine in these difficult times. We are following the situation very closely. Our High Representative is in Kiev and the EU will remain engaged.

In the wider Middle East, we have achieved, after many years of mutual suspicion, a positive start of negotiations with Iran, while in Syria the horrendous tragedy of civil war continues. The EU and Brazil are urging for peace in the Middle East.

I have just returned from Africa, where I visited Mali, Niger and Benin. I will explain to President Rousseff the concern we have over the Sahel region and the importance of mobilising international support for security and stability, development and democratic transition.

In this context, I will invite Brazil to join the EU's comprehensive efforts in support of African countries. Brazil is an important security provider in Latin America and has a solid record in UN peacekeeping. We will explore further possibilities for security and defence cooperation, drawing on each other's vast experiences.

I will express to President Rousseff the EU's desire to advance our cooperation in the Latin American region. Brazil can take a leading role in promoting the bi-regional strategic partnership between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean. The EU is following with concern the situation in Venezuela and urges all sides for restraint. Freedom of expression and the right to participate in peaceful demonstrations must be respected.

Madam President,

Let me conclude by thanking you and the Brazilian ministers for coming to Brussels today. All eyes will be soon focusing on Brazil as the FIFA World Cup will be staged in your country. I wish you and the Brazilian people the best of luck in meeting the challenges and the great opportunities that these events represent for the country.

Thank you.

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