



European Council
The President

PRESS
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**Statement by the spokesperson
of the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy**

The President is concerned about renewed tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean. It is essential that all parties respect the sovereignty of others and are willing to settle disputes peacefully in accordance with international law.

The European Union has repeatedly stressed the need to respect the sovereignty of EU Member States over their territorial sea. The sovereign rights of EU Member States include the right to enter into bilateral agreements and to explore and exploit their natural resources in accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The President expects Turkey to show restraint and act in accordance with international law. All parties must do their utmost to ensure a positive climate in order to continue negotiations aimed at reaching a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus issue.
