



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL
THE PRESIDENT**



The Hague, 25 March 2014
EUCO 75/14

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**Joint declaration by President Van Rompuy, President Barroso
and Prime Minister Key on deepening the partnership
between New Zealand and the European Union**

In our meeting today in The Hague, we have resolved to deepen our relations further across all aspects of our relationship including in the political and security sphere, science and innovation, and trade and investment.

We reaffirmed our commitment to transform our existing 2007 Joint Declaration into a new agreement to strengthen our cooperation and relations. We reviewed progress on the negotiation of this new Partnership Agreement on Relations and Cooperation and asked chief negotiators to resume their efforts with a view to concluding the Agreement in the near future.

We agreed to reflect on options to progress the trade and economic relationship, including the parameters for the possible opening of negotiations to further liberalise trade and investment between the EU and New Zealand. We have decided that the two sides will take stock in 2015 and decide on next steps.

On the eve of the 100th anniversary of the commencement of the First World War, we recalled our shared commitment to international peace and security. We reaffirmed our deep and abiding commitment to the United Nations and the intention to strengthen our dialogue on security issues through regular senior officials' consultations.

P R E S S

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We reiterated our common position that the solution to the crisis in Ukraine must be based on the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine, in the framework of the Ukrainian Constitution as well as the strict adherence to international norms. Only working together through diplomatic processes, including direct discussions between the Governments of Ukraine and Russia, can we find a solution to the crisis.

In light of the Framework Participation Agreement signed in 2012, the European Union welcomed New Zealand's offer to make a Royal New Zealand Air Force plane available for the EU's counter-piracy operation ATALANTA.

We reaffirmed the close partnership between New Zealand and the European Union in the Pacific region as demonstrated by the successful Pacific Energy Summit that New Zealand and the European Union co-hosted in Auckland last year.

We will continue effective cooperation on key sustainable development challenges at the 3rd International UN Conference on Small Island Developing States to be held in Apia, Samoa, 1-4 September 2014.

Welcoming the recent fruitful visit to Fiji by the Pacific Islands Forum Ministerial Contact Group, we noted the significant progress in Fiji. We resolved to continue to work together to support Fiji's progress towards elections. We acknowledged that international observers will be important in assuring the people of Fiji and international partners of the legitimacy of the election outcome.

We resolved to continue our efforts to work together to achieve a comprehensive global climate change agreement.

Noting that it had been ten years since the European Union established a diplomatic presence in Wellington, New Zealand welcomed the intention of the European Union to upgrade its presence to a full delegation with a resident Ambassador.
