



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL
THE PRESIDENT**



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**Introductory remarks by Herman Van Rompuy
at the 7th EU-Brazil Summit**

A warm welcome to you, Madam President, dear Ministers and members of the Brazilian delegation. We have the honour to host you today for the 7th EU-Brazil Summit.

2014 is an important year, not only because of elections on both sides of the Atlantic. In June, Brazil will host the FIFA World Cup and all eyes will be on your nation. I am pretty confident that Brazil and one of the European teams - maybe even Belgium? - will have a high chance of meeting at the Cup's final. The World Cup will be a fantastic opportunity to put modern Brazil in the limelight and present the impressive economic and social progress that has been made in the last decade. In this context, I would like to salute your efforts, Madam President, for lifting more than 30 million citizens out of poverty.

Today's Summit will provide a good opportunity to reinforce EU-Brazil ties and bring our ambitious agenda of cooperation forward. Together we can demonstrate that Europe and Brazil are not only good in football, but in tackling global challenges and opportunities, such as climate change and the post-2015 agenda.

Our Strategic Partnership has come a long way since the 2007 Lisbon Summit. We are important trade and investment partners and increasingly also political partners. We have established cooperation in 30 sectors and are extending it in new areas, like the important dialogue on cyber policy will show.

P R E S S

Dirk De Backer - Spokesperson of the President - ☎ +32 (0)2 281 9768 - +32 (0)497 59 99 19
Preben Aamann - Deputy Spokesperson of the President - ☎ +32 (0)2 281 2060 - +32 (0)476 85 05 43
press.president@consilium.europa.eu <http://www.european-council.europa.eu/the-president>

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On all these issues, we can do more. Especially on trade and in the cyberspace. That's why we attach great importance to the negotiations with MERCOSUR. As far as cyber is concerned we share a common interest in a right balance between privacy and openness on the Internet.

Both Brazil and the EU have had to adapt to the changing global economic landscape. The financial crisis took its toll on all of us. Reforms are needed everywhere in the world to increase our structural economic growth and we are undertaking them.

Internationally, the EU will not shy away from the responsibility to promote peace and security, protect human rights and contribute to development, also on our own continent. We salute these days the will of the Ukrainian people to live in a free, independent and united country with strong ties to the EU and well connected with its neighbours. Ukrainians paid a high price for freedom.

At today's Summit, we will explore possibilities for further cooperation in the area of peace and security, in particular in the African continent. 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.

Madam President,

We are ready to put our weight behind today's Summit and encourage further progress on pending issues. Let us make our Strategic Partnership stronger and deliver on our shared values and interests - for global good, and for the good of the EU and of Brazil.

Once again, welcome to Brussels!
