



EUROPEAN COUNCIL
THE PRESIDENT

Brussels, 28 February 2012

&addressee

Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to invite you to the meeting of the European Council on 1 and 2 March 2012 in Brussels.

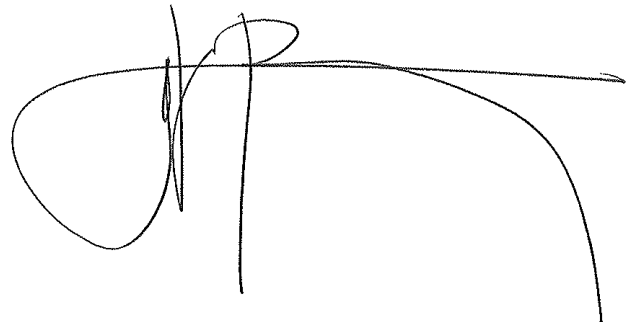
After the traditional meeting with the President of the European Parliament and the family photo, Helle Thorning-Schmidt will chair at 18h45 a short meeting on the election of the President of the European Council for the period from 1 June 2012 to 30 November 2014. Jean-Claude Juncker will then propose to designate the President of the Euro Summit.

We will begin our working dinner at 19h30, starting with economic issues. This European Council will conclude the first phase of the "European semester", by providing guidance for Member States' economic and budgetary policies. We have in the past agreed a strategy - Europe 2020 - and we have agreed on targets; the real challenge lies at the level of implementation, as outlined in President Barroso's letter on growth. This meeting of the European Council must serve to identify the priorities Member States should focus on at the national level. To stimulate our discussion, I will send you a paper aimed at illustrating some of the key challenges facing us. Jean-Claude Juncker will then debrief on latest developments in the euro area. Afterwards, we will revert to Serbia as a follow-up to our December 2011 conclusions. Finally, still over dinner, we will revert to the issue of the enlargement of the Schengen area.

On Friday, the Treaty on stability, coordination and governance in the EMU will be signed at 9h00.

The European Council will resume at 9h15 with an exchange of views on latest events in Syria and more globally the situation in the wider region one year after the start of the "Arab Spring". I will also use this opportunity to share with you my assessment of the recent summits with China and India. We will very briefly take stock of preparations for the forthcoming G8 summit, G20 summit and UN "Rio+20" Conference. Finally, we will approve our conclusions. I intend to finish the meeting by 11h15.

&salutations

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop on the left, followed by a vertical line, and a long horizontal stroke that curves downwards on the right.

H. VAN ROMPUY