



EUROPEAN COUNCIL
THE PRESIDENT

Brussels, 11 December 2012

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It is my pleasure to invite you to the meeting of the European Council on 13 and 14 December 2012 in Brussels.

The main purpose of this meeting will be for us to discuss a "specific and timebound roadmap" for the completion of the Economic and Monetary Union. It is indeed crucial that, in order to boost confidence in the long term viability of the EMU, we set out the milestones that will ensure we close the gaps in the EMU architecture which were revealed by the crisis. As requested last June, I have put forward a background report, prepared together with Presidents Barroso, Draghi and Juncker. This paper builds on the interim report presented last October and takes account of the important input provided by the Commission in its "Blueprint" and by the European Parliament. I have also put forward draft conclusions, which set out the elements we must agree on this week, both in terms of the urgent decisions required now and in terms of perspectives for the future.

After our traditional meeting with the President of the European Parliament, I intend to use our first working session to give the occasion to each of us to present his/her views on the future of the EMU. I foresee a speaking time of 4 minutes. The President of the ECB will join us for this discussion as well as for the dinner.

Over dinner, we should look more specifically at our draft conclusions on the EMU. My intention is that we adopt these already on Thursday evening.

On Friday morning, we will proceed with the adoption of the rest of the conclusions. These will help give momentum to the preparatory work for our future meetings - both for the discussion foreseen in March 2013 on the Annual Growth Survey and for the discussion in December 2013 on defence.

&salutations

H. VAN ROMPUY