

Brussels

29 October 2010

Herman Van Rompuy
President of the European Council

Yves Leterme
President of the Council

At the European Council on 28 and 29 October, we are discussing how the European Union can strengthen the mechanisms we have for ensuring Member States' fiscal discipline.

It is important that the Union takes the necessary steps to ensure that we have robust systems that allow us to support the substantial deficit and debt reduction strategies now in place in Member States under the Stability and Growth Pact.

This discussion will take place against the backdrop of proposals from the Commission and the European Parliament for an increase in EU budget spending of around 6% in 2011. These proposals are especially unacceptable at a time when we are having to take difficult decisions at national level to control public expenditure.

The Council has proposed an increase in EU budget spending of 2.91% for 2011. We are clear that we cannot accept any more than this.

David Cameron, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

Angela Merkel, Federal Chancellor of Germany

Nicolas Sarkozy, President of the French Republic

Silvio Berlusconi, Prime Minister of Italy

Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of the Netherlands

Fredrik Reinfeldt, Prime Minister of Sweden

Petr Necas, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic

Lars Lokke Rasmussen, Prime Minister of Denmark

Werner Faymann, Chancellor of Austria

Mari Kiviniemi, Prime Minister of Finland

Borut Pahor, Prime Minister of Slovenia

Andrus Ansip, Prime Minister of Estonia

Lawrence Gonzi, Prime Minister of Malta