



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL  
THE PRESIDENT**



Brussels, 13 February 2012  
EUCO 26/12  
PRESSE 46  
PR PCE 22

## **14th EU-China Summit holds promise for a strengthened cooperation**

European Council President Herman Van Rompuy and European Commission President Barroso will travel to Beijing for the 14th EU-China Summit with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on 14 February 2012.

The Summit provides an important opportunity to engage with an EU strategic partner, and - against the backdrop of the current world's economic uncertainties - send a signal of shared confidence to contribute to global recovery and stability.

The EU and China have come a long way since the launch of their strategic partnership in 2003. The EU is China's biggest trading partner and China is getting close to becoming the EU's largest trading partner as well. The growing and robust economic bonds and increasing interdependence form a solid foundation on which to enhance and diversify EU-China cooperation and dialogue. The Summit will therefore aim at further strengthening the EU-China partnership through new initiatives in areas such as people-to-people exchanges, innovation, energy and urbanisation, to name just a few.

"The EU and China, as two major economic partners, share a responsibility for addressing the challenges of our time. By working more closely together, the EU and China can make a difference and reap mutual benefits for our economies and address the needs of our peoples. I am looking forward to having in-depth discussion with Prime Minister Wen on our bilateral cooperation and on global and international issues on which we need to engage actively with each other", President Van Rompuy said.

# **P R E S S**

---

Dirk De Backer - Spokesperson of the President - ☎ +32 (0)2 281 9768 - +32 (0)497 59 99 19  
Jesús Carmona - Deputy Spokesperson of the President - ☎ +32 (0)2 281 9548 / 5150 - +32 (0)475 65 32 15  
[press.president@consilium.europa.eu](mailto:press.president@consilium.europa.eu) <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/>

EUCO 26/12

1  
**EN**

President Barroso said: "The foundations of our relationship are tried and tested but our common wish is to take it even further. We face common challenges and the world needs cooperative and responsible partnerships to overcome them. It is now, more than ever that we must act together. I believe that a forward-looking and growing EU-China partnership can represent an important pillar for global stability and prosperity."

President Van Rompuy and President Barroso will also have meetings with President Hu Jintao and Vice-Premier Li Keqiang. They will address the Business Summit, bringing together business leaders from both the EU and China, which will be held in the margins of the EU-China Summit.

---