



EUROPEAN COUNCIL  
THE PRESIDENT

Brussels, 25 June 2013

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It is my pleasure to invite you to the meeting of the European Council on 27 and 28 June 2013 in Brussels.

Over those two days, our aim should be above all to agree on tangible measures to bring down the high unemployment levels that our countries are facing, especially for young people. I have already laid out to you in my letter of 24 May some avenues that could generate immediate impact: as a matter of priority we should speed up the Youth Employment Initiative, set up Youth Guarantee schemes, mobilise all available resources in support of youth employment, and increase youth mobility, all of this with the full involvement of social partners.

Furthermore, considering the urgent need to restore credit flows in the economy, we should launch a new "Investment action plan", with measures to support SMEs and boost the financing of the economy, as stated in the Compact for Growth and Jobs which we adopted last year. The background against which we shall take these decisions is one of improved financial stability, but where restoring sound public finances, improving our competitiveness and pursuing structural reforms remains a high priority. With this in mind, we will conclude our yearly cycle of economic policy coordination, the 2013 European semester, during this European Council.

We will begin our meeting at 16.30 with an exchange of views with the European social partners. After the traditional exchange of views with the President of the European Parliament and the family photo we will begin our first working session at 18.15, to discuss the two main issues on our agenda - youth employment and financing of the economy. The President of the European Investment Bank and the President of the Commission will present their joint report on the financing of the economy. The President of the European Central Bank will also join us for this point.

After this, at around 20.30, we will begin our working dinner, which will be devoted to the European semester and the country-specific recommendations, also in the presence of the President of the ECB.

The conclusions relating to these issues discussed on Thursday will be adopted over dinner.

We will resume on Friday morning at 10.00. I will give a state of play of our work on the deepening of the Economic and Monetary Union, after which we will adopt the remainder of our conclusions, including on enlargement. To conclude our June meeting, I would briefly like to share some views on relations with our global strategic partners.

We meet at a moment when the stakes are high and decisive action is needed, not only on issues which are on our June agenda: this week, important decisions should also be taken on the next Multi-annual Financial Framework. I would like to use this opportunity to call on all involved to take their responsibility and successfully conclude the negotiations. Indeed, our seven year budget is indispensable to fulfil our shared objective: to foster growth and much-needed jobs across Europe.

&salutations

H. VAN ROMPUY