



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL
THE PRESIDENT**



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Invitation letter by President Herman Van Rompuy to the European Council

It is my pleasure to invite you to the meeting of the European Council on 14 and 15 March 2013 in Brussels.

Our Spring European Council is the traditional moment to look carefully at the economic situation and outlook in order to set policy orientations. Since the beginning of the crisis, restoring financial stability, addressing the root causes of the crisis and laying the ground for a return to growth and jobs has been our utmost concern, and we have done much in that regard. In view of the recession in 2012 and the relative stagnation of economic activity today, it is vital that we all remain fully mobilised. We must continue to pursue our efforts to maintain stability, translate all decisions taken to promote growth and competitiveness into concrete action and results, and give absolute priority to supporting youth employment.

This will be the main point on our agenda on Thursday, that we will take up in the afternoon after the exchange of views with the President of the European Parliament. As an important step in the framework of the European semester, we should give guidance for national economic policies with a view to implementing our Europe 2020 Strategy. The discussion will be introduced by the President of the Commission, who will be making a presentation focusing on these issues, especially on jobs and competitiveness.

P R E S S

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For my part, I will briefly inform you of where we stand with regard to the work launched last December on deepening Economic and Monetary Union. I expect the discussion to continue during our dinner. At the end I will propose that we adopt our draft conclusions, after which the rules for the organisation of the proceedings of euro summits will also be adopted.

After the dinner, a euro summit will take place to take stock of the economic situation in the euro area, on the basis of a presentation by the President of the ECB and in the presence of the new Eurogroup President.

On Friday morning, Prime Minister David Cameron will briefly update us on the preparations for the G8 summit in June, before we then turn our attention to the EU's relations with Russia, in the context of the regular exchange of views on our strategic partners. This will be an open discussion, without formal conclusions.
