



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL  
THE PRESIDENT**



Brussels, 21 January 2013  
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**Statement by Herman Van Rompuy  
President of the European Council  
on the election of a new president of the Eurogroup**

It is my pleasure to congratulate Jeroen Dijsselbloem following his election as president of the Eurogroup. After having met the Dutch Minister of Finance on 7 January this year, I am confident that he is the right choice and I wish him every success in his work and look forward to cooperating closely with him. Having called and met all 17 heads of state and government of the euro area, I am convinced that he has broad support.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the outgoing president of the Eurogroup. I know Jean-Claude Juncker for 25 years already. He is the most experienced of us all. Jean-Claude Juncker deserves our gratitude. Not only was he the very first president of the Eurogroup but he also led it during the most difficult period - and even with a smile and sense of humour.

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**P R E S S**

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