



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL
THE PRESIDENT**



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**Joint statement by President of the European Council
Herman van Rompuy
and President of the European Commission
José Manuel Barroso**

We strongly condemn recent violent attacks against a number of religious communities in Europe and outside Europe. Any form of persecution and violent acts against religious communities have no place in Europe and, indeed, in the world.

Europe has fought a long and painful battle to achieve freedom of thought, freedom of religion and belief and the respect for the individual. These human and fundamental rights form part of the Charter on fundamental rights which is at the heart of our European values; the EU will continue to foster these rights.

P R E S S

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