



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL
THE PRESIDENT**



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**President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy
and President of the European Commission
José Manuel Barroso met today with Philippine Vice-President
Jejomar Binay in Seoul, in the margins
of the Nuclear Security Summit.**

The meeting between the Presidents of two European Union institutions and the Vice-President of the Philippines underscores the very good bilateral relations the two sides enjoy.

Both sides took stock of the healthy EU-Philippine relationship and agreed to cooperate to strengthen them further. The European Union is already a top investor in the Philippines and a major market for its exports and both sides agreed that there is considerable potential to expand economic exchange even further.

The EU-Philippines Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, which is ready for signature, will provide the structures for deeper exchanges across on priority issues for both sides from security and trade to human rights and migration.

The European Union commended the Philippines Government for its commitment to the peace process in Mindanao and for the progress achieved so far. The European Union confirmed its readiness to continue supporting the process both politically and through development assistance aimed at facilitating a resolution to the conflict.

Developments in Southeast Asia region were also discussed including issue of South China Sea (West Philippine Sea). The European Union re-iterated its support for a peaceful resolution of the dispute on the basis of international law in particular the United Nations Convention on the law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

P R E S S

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Both sides agreed that the President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy and the President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso will meet President of the Philippines Benigno S. Aquino III in November 2012 in Vientiane in the margins of the ASEM 10 Summit to reaffirm good bilateral relations between the European Union and the Philippines.
