



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL
THE PRESIDENT**



Brussels, 7 April 2012
EUCO 65/12
PRESSE 161
PR PCE 57

**Joint statement by President of the European Council
Herman van Rompuy
and President of the European Commission
José Manuel Barroso
on the death of President Mutharika of Malawi]**

On behalf of the European Union, we wish to express our deepest condolences to Vice-President Joyce Banda and the people of Malawi for the sudden passing of President Bingu wa Mutharika.

President Mutharika will be remembered as a champion of food security in Africa and for his success in achieving national food security in Malawi.

On this sad day, our thoughts are with the people of Malawi and the family of the President as they mourn their loss.

Malawi has in the past 20 years become an example of democracy with its peaceful transitions of power and respect for the constitution and the outcome of elections. We express our hope that this tradition will be respected and that there will be a calm and peaceful transition of power in full respect of the provisions of the Constitution.

P R E S S

Dirk De Backer - Spokesperson of the President - ☎ +32 (0)2 281 9768 - +32 (0)497 59 99 19
Jesús Carmona - Deputy Spokesperson of the President - ☎ +32 (0)2 281 9548 / 5150 - +32 (0)475 65 32 15
press.president@consilium.europa.eu <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/>

EUCO 65/12

1
EN