



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL
THE PRESIDENT**



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**President of the European Council
Herman Van Rompuy
congratulates Prime Minister Matteo Renzi
on the formation of the new Italian government**

On behalf of the European Union, I would like to congratulate Prime Minister Matteo Renzi on the formation of the new Italian government.

I am confident that under his leadership Italy will carry out further reforms necessary to create jobs, sustainable growth and maintain confidence and hope in the future.

The Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of this year will be an opportunity for Italy as a founding father to continue its long-standing tradition of driving Europe forward.

I would also like to express my full appreciation to former Prime Minister Enrico Letta, who led the country during a difficult phase and with whom I had good cooperation.

I look forward to welcoming Prime Minister Matteo Renzi at the next European Council in March.

P R E S S

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