Remarks by
Herman VAN ROMPUY
following his meeting with Prime Minister of Ukraine
Mykola AZAROV

"I welcomed Prime Minister Azarov for the first time to Brussels. The regular discussions and meetings between the European Union and Ukraine are a sign of our strong and continuous collaboration.

Our dialogue today touched on a broad spectrum of issues, ranging from regional developments to the numerous reforms recently implemented in the economic, energy and financial spheres.

Furthermore, we had discussions on the recent decision of the Constitutional Court regarding the Ukrainian Constitution. The establishment of a democratic, effective and durable system of checks and balances should remain a priority. We also discussed the forthcoming local elections in Ukraine.

I assured Prime Minister Azarov that EU would continue to act as a proactive partner. We will support Ukraine's reform process and we will assist both with advice and financial resources.

Ukraine is a European country and the core values on which our societies are built remain the same. During our discussions today, we acknowledged the importance of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights, our basic principles that we share and strive to implement.

Finally, in our talks, we looked forward to the EU - Ukraine Summit of 22 November, which will be a good opportunity to review the progress in our relations."

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:
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 / 6319 - +32 (0)475 65 32 15
e-mail: press.president@consilium.europa.eu - internet: www.consilium.europa.eu/vanrompuy