"Transatlantic cooperation is not an aim in itself, it has to deliver"

Video message- Herman Van Rompuy

Tomorrow I will meet Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State of the United States. Europe is attached to a strong partnership with the United States. We share history, we were allies in our battle for freedom. We share values: democracy, human rights, respect for rule of law. And we both want a more prosperous, a more secure and a healthier future. Not only for our 800 million citizens on both sides of the Atlantic, but also for the rest of the world.

We face new challenges: the economic crisis, global security, the environment, …. We have to tackle them together.

Economy is key. We are both recovering from a terrible economical crisis. Growth and jobs are on top of our agendas. Together we account for over half of the world GDP. Our companies are world leaders. We are in the drivers’ seat of innovation and technology. We must work jointly to repair damage.

But also in international institutions and global governance, we can increase our impact if we join forces. We can be a strong bilateral force in multilateral talks such as in the upcoming G20 meeting in Seoul. In the Doha negotiations on trade, we have to proceed together. We have to avoid currency wars and protectionism.

On global security, we share a large experience on foreign policy and crisis-management. The NATO-summit in Lisbon will define a New Strategic Concept. This gives a ground to cooperate on modern defense issues, such as cyber defense.

Climate change is a global threat. Tackling this has to be our common objective. We have to safeguard the balance of the Copenhagen Accord. And we both have to do efforts to put steps forward in the Cancun meeting.

Transatlantic cooperation is not an aim in itself, but it has to deliver. It is a means to make us both stronger.

In November, I will discuss these issues further with the President of the United States at the EU-US Summit in Lisbon.

Watch the video message