



## PRESS RELEASE

Baku, 03 July 2012

### **The President of the European Council visits Azerbaijan**

**The President of the European Council Mr. Herman Van Rompuy will travel to Azerbaijan on 4-5 July. In Baku he will hold meetings with President Ilham Aliyev, Minister of Foreign Affairs Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister of Energy and Industry Natig Aliyev, Speaker of the Parliament Ogtay Asadov and other officials. During the visit President Van Rompuy is expected to deliver a public speech at the University of Foreign Languages.**

*"The visit of the European Council President to Azerbaijan is another illustration of the deepening relations between the EU and Azerbaijan. We have a wide agenda on the table, ranging from discussion of the progress on the Association Agreement, mobility, energy and economic cooperation as well as issues related to the regional and international security, which will provide a strong foundation to advance our cooperation even further,"* said the EU Ambassador to Azerbaijan Roland Kobia on the eve of the President's visit to Azerbaijan.

The European Council defines the general political direction and priorities of the European Union. It consists of the 27 Heads of State or Government of the Member States, its President, Mr Van Rompuy, and the President of the Commission. With the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon on 1 December 2009, the European Council became an EU institution.



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"The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of more than 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders".