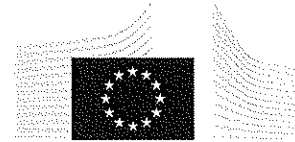




EUROPEAN COUNCIL
THE PRESIDENT



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
THE PRESIDENT

Brussels, 14 MARS 2013

86513/02488

Dear President Xi,

On behalf of the European Union, we would like to send you our congratulations for your appointment to the Presidency of the People's Republic of China and express our best wishes for your new position.

This year is particularly meaningful for the EU-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership which celebrates its 10th anniversary since its establishment in 2003. The EU is convinced of the importance of bringing forward our relationship in these challenging times and at an important juncture for China's development.

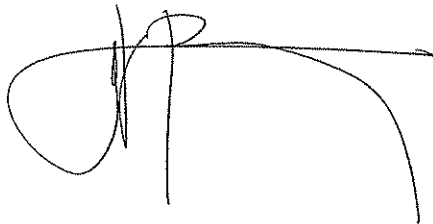
H. E. Mr Xi Jinping
President
People's Republic of China

We are confident that, under your leadership, the EU and China will continue to enhance their joint efforts to promote peace and security, strengthen their economic and trade partnership, address global challenges, encourage people-to-people exchanges and promote rule of law. The preparation of the next EU-China Summit foreseen in the autumn in China will provide us with the opportunity of reinforcing our cooperation in a forward-looking way.

We are looking forward to further exchanges with you on these subjects at the next opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

For the European Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'H' followed by a long horizontal line that curves downwards at the end.

H. VAN ROMPUY

For the European Commission

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a large 'J' and 'M' followed by a long horizontal line that ends with a small dot.

J.M. BARROSO