



**EUROPEAN COUNCIL
THE PRESIDENT**



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**Remarks by Herman Van Rompuy,
President of the European Council,
following the meeting with Raila Amollo Odinga,
Prime Minister of Kenya**

I am happy to welcome the Prime Minister of Kenya Mr Odinga this morning. The EU has very good relations with Kenya and we cooperate closely in many areas. Today, we discussed the situation in Somalia and the fight against piracy.

Kenya is an important partner for the EU in fostering peace, stability and development in the Horn of Africa. I welcome that Kenya has agreed to integrate its forces in Somalia into the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The EU will continue to support AMISOM with an additional 100 million euro until 2013. It is my hope that by combining our efforts we can contribute to greater security in Somalia and to restore peace and stability in this country.

We also discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in the fight against piracy. Last week, the EU decided to extend the EU Naval Force Operation ATALANTA for two years until December 2014. We will continue to seek transfer agreements with countries in the region to ensure that suspected pirates are brought to justice. Moreover, the EU is going to deploy a civilian crisis management mission to strengthen maritime capacities in the Horn of Africa and Western Indian Ocean region.

Domestically, the most important issue in Kenya are the upcoming elections, which shall take place this year or early next year. The EU supports the preparations of the elections and continues to follow progress closely. We very much hope that the Kenyan elections will be free, fair and peaceful. The EU would be pleased to dispatch an Electoral Observation Mission, should the Government of Kenya invite us to do so.

P R E S S

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Finally, I expressed strong support and encouragement to continue reforms in areas such as the judiciary and the fight against corruption, which will contribute to peace and stability and will have a positive bearing on economic and social developments of the country.
