

Statement by President Barroso following the confidence vote in the Parliament on the new Greek Government

"Tonight's vote in the Greek Parliament removes an element of uncertainty from an already very difficult situation. That is good news for Greece and for the European Union as a whole.

Prime Minister Papandreou and his government can now focus all their efforts on building support in parliament for the ambitious series of fiscal measures and privatisations agreed with the troika.

The approval of these measures next week will not only enable a rapid disbursement of the next tranche of financial assistance for Greece; it will also mark a big step in Greece's journey back towards sustainable public finances and a return to growth."