



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE VERBALE

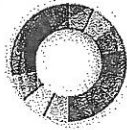
The General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union presents its compliments to the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the European Union and has the honour to forward herewith the letter of Mr Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council and Mr José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, addressed to H.E. Mr Enda KENNY, The Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of Ireland.

In this context the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union - Protocol Service - would appreciate if the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the European Union could forward the attached letter to its highest destination.

The General Secretariat of the Council of the European Council - Protocol service - avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the European Union the Assurance of its highest consideration.

Brussels, 19 December 2013

Permanent Representation of Ireland
to the European Union



EU-Africa Summit
Sommet UE-Afrique
Bruxelles 2014 Brussels

SGS13/14555

Brussels, 19 December 2013

Excellency,

It is with great pleasure that we invite you for the fourth EU-Africa Summit which will take place in Brussels on 2-3 April 2014. It has been agreed that the theme of the Summit will be "Investing in People, Prosperity and Peace."

The partnership between the European Union and Africa has evolved substantively since the 2007 Summit in Lisbon which agreed the Joint Africa-EU Strategy, and the Tripoli Summit of 2010. As a partnership of equals, we have worked together to foster good relations between the peoples of our continents, to tackle bilateral and global issues, and to provide support to each other in times of need.

We intend next year's Summit to mark a further significant step forward for our partnership in all three areas identified by the theme.

First of all, people are at the heart of our partnership. We must do all we can to foster their potential, through education, training and creating the right conditions for more people to people contacts. The Summit will consider what more we can do in this regard to enhance our efforts, individually and collectively.

H.E. Mr Enda KENNY
The Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of Ireland

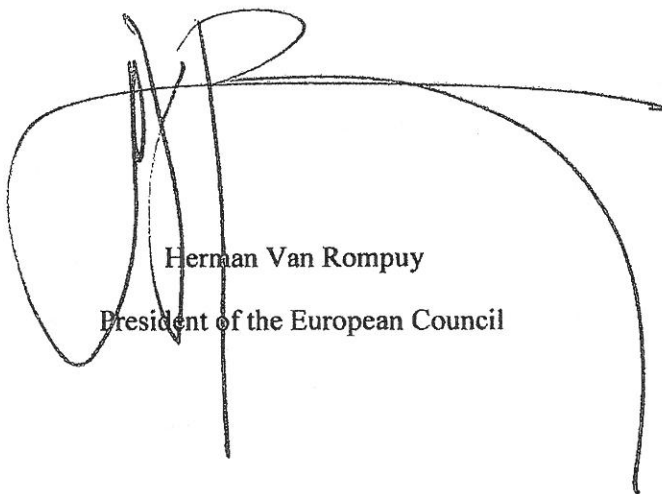
Investing in prosperity is equally vital for both of us. Our trade and investment relations are highly developed. In both Europe and Africa we need to find ways of stimulating growth that will create jobs, in particular for young people, unlocking their productive and entrepreneurial potential. This is why we are inviting top business people, as well as representative small businesses, from both continents to a Business Forum on the eve of the Summit. I hope you will consider participating in this Forum yourself.

Finally, investing in peace and security is vital to both of us, as a precursor for development and protection for our people. Our cooperation is achieving good success in a number of regions – the Horn and the Sahel for example – and we want to look at ways of enhancing EU support for African capacities to manage security on the continent.

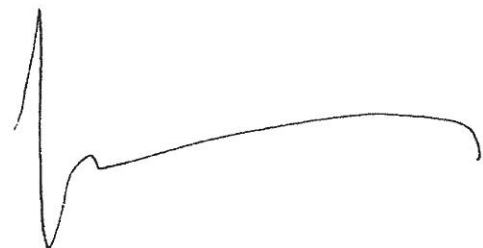
The Summit itself will be a critical opportunity to demonstrate to our people that this partnership is about more than documents and declarations. It is about making changes happen and bringing people together. For this reason, we hope we can count on your engagement and participation.

We look forward to welcoming you to Brussels next April.

Yours faithfully,



Herman Van Rompuy
President of the European Council



José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission