

Mr Herman Van Rompuy Prime Minister of Belgium 16 rue de la Loi B – 1000 Brussels BELGIUM

20 November 2009

Dear Prime Minister,

I would like to congratulate you on the decision taken by the European Council yesterday to appoint you as new – and first ever – permanent President of the European Council.

You will play a pivotal role in leading the European Union's Council and making Europe's voice heard in the world. I am convinced that your position will increase the efficiency of the European Union's decision-making process.

The European Union now has to focus on putting Europe back on the way to growth and employment. There can be no lasting economic recovery without successful companies. We therefore count on you to put companies at the heart of your policy agenda.

I wish you every success in your important task ahead.

Juiger Christian

Yours sincerely,

Jürgen R. Thumann

SECRETARIAT DU CONSEIL DE L'UNION EUROPÉENNE DE L'UNION EUROPÉENNE DES MPRIERMAN VAN ROMPUY DEST. COF.

THE CONFEDERATION OF EUROPEAN BUSINESS a.i.s.b.l.