



Herman Van Rompuy

European Council President

1947 - Born in Brussels, Belgium.

1972 - Worked for National Bank of Belgium

1993- 1998 - Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Budget. *He set Belgium on course to join the euro.*

2008 -2009 - Prime Minister of Belgium
Mr Rompuy took office when Yves Leterme was forced to resign as Belgium's Prime Minister.

2009 - Appointed President of the European Council (until May 2010)
(Position created by the EU's Lisbon Treaty [2007])



Role in the EU:

- Represent the EU on the world stage
- Chair the European Council - facilitating cohesion and consensus
- Work in cooperation with the President of the EU Commission
- Report to the EU Parliament after each Council meeting.
- Van Rompuy is the first person to hold the post of European Council President.
- Each President serves a 2½ year term, which can be extended to 5 years.
- The post-holder cannot hold a national office at the same time as being President.

Quotes:

"Turkey is not a part of Europe, and never will be a part of Europe." (Van Rompuy, Council of Europe meeting, 2004).

"I have had important jobs by I am not important". (2009)

Trivia:

Van Rompuy's brother (Eric Van Rompuy) is a Flemish MP and his son (Peter Van Rompuy) works in the Belgian Defence Cabinet. Herman Van Rompuy reads philosophy and has published Japanese poetry (Haikus).

Website: <http://www.european-council.europa.eu/the-president.aspx>