



EUROPEAN COUNCIL



WHO 27 Heads of Member States. President: **Herman Van Rompuy**, 2010-2014, Belgium.

WHAT Defines the “general political directions and priorities” of the EU. Deals with foreign policy, and ratifies important documents and treaties. Only entity in the EU that can suspend membership rights of any state. Can overrule a vote in the Council of Ministers with the consent of the European Parliament. Appoints its own president, the president of the European Commission (currently Jose Manuel Barroso, Portugal), the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (currently Catherine Ashton, UK) and the president of the European Central Bank (currently Mario Draghi, Italy).

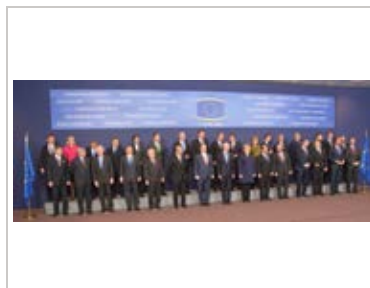
WHEN Twice every six months (four times a year).

WHERE Justus Lipsius Building in Brussels; see below.

HOME PAGE www.european-council.europa.eu



Justus Lipsius Building © EU 2013



Extended EU Council © EU 2013



Herman Van Rompuy, European Council President © EU 2013



1977 Demonstration for universal suffrage and single currency © EU 2013

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