EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Summary of press conference

95th plenary session of the Committee of the Regions: extracts from the debate on the economic situation and the agenda for growth with Herman van Rompuy

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SUMMARY

On 3 May 2012, Herman van Rompuy, President of the Euro Summit, Mercedes Bresso, President of the Committee of the Regions (CoR), and Catiuscia Marini, President of the Region of Umbria, participated in the 95th Plenary session of the Committee of the Regions.
On this occasion, they expressed their opinion on the future of cohesion policy the achievement of the Europe 2020 objectives. The confrontation among Member States at the last General Affairs Council confirms the worries of European regions and cities for the increasing popularity of short-sighted calls for cuts and austerity.

Only the original language version is authentic and it prevails in the event of its differing from the translated versions.

SHOTLIST

10:00:00	Title
10:00:05	Exteriors views of the Committee of the Regions (3 shots)
10:00:20	General atmosphere of the 95th plenary session of the Committee of the Regions (4 shots)
10:00:46	Soundbite (in FRENCH) by Mercedes Bresso, President of the Committee of the Regions (CoR) saying that austerity policies have major effects for regional and local authority because their finances have been severely damaged by the economical and financial crisis we have been suffering since 2008. There has been a decrease in social expenditure and investment. And these significant effects reverberate throughout the economy and the quality of live of our citizens.
10:01:10	Cutaway of the audience
10:01:16	Soundbite (in ENGLISH) by Herman van Rompuy, President of the Euro Summit: A huge effort by EU cities and regions is underway in virtually all policy fields related to Europe 2020. The flagship initiatives, second conclusion, our scene has been potentially helpful by local and regional authorities across the European Union. And third conclusion coming from your monitoring report, the 2012 European semester is seen by the Committee as an opportunity to rule local and regional authorities more firmly in the economical governance framework.
10:01:57	Cutaway of the audience
10:02:01	Soundbite (in ITALIAN) by Catiuscia Marini, President of the Region of Umbria, saying that by introducing this opinion she would like to say how important cohesion policy is. It's a fundamental instrument they need in order to overcome recession. They need to introduce the rules to discipline the implementation of the structural funds from 2014 to 2020. This is going to be an important period for their national states and their citizens as well as for local

	and regional authorities.
10:02:28	Cutaways of the audience (2 shots)
10:02:45	END

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