



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION Audiovisual Services

### Official opening ceremony of the Danish EU Presidency: extracts from the speeches

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On 11/01/2012, José Manuel Barroso, President of the EC, went to Copenhagen in Denmark, to attend the Official Opening Ceremony of the Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, along with Donald Tusk, Polish Prime Minister, Helle Thorning-Schmidt, Danish Prime Minister and President in office of the Council of the EU, and Jerzy Buzek, President of the EP, before the Concert given by the Danish National Symphony Orchestra and the Danish National Girls' Choir, in the Copenhagen Concert Hall. They gave speeches on this occasion.

[Only the original language version is authentic and it prevails in the event of its differing from the translated versions.](#)

TIME	DESCRIPTION	DURATION
10:00:00	Tilte	00:00:05
10:00:05	General view of the Concert Hall in Copenhagen in Denmark	00:00:06
10:00:11	Close up of the Danish opening ceremony programme	00:00:05
10:00:16	Soundbite (in ENGLISH) by Donald Tusk, Polish Prime Minister: Denmark takes over the leadership in the EU Council in a difficult time. From my own experiences I know that no matter what the plans are, the crisis defines the agenda of the Presidency. There is not however a single more important task for the EU than to resolve the crisis and prevent it for happening again. History of the European integration showed that each crisis has pushed the European project forward. My deepest hopes are that in the end the current crisis will also stimulate us to do better, try harder. Europe is the solution to the crisis. Those that still believe that The Nation States in Europe can be self sufficient and resolve all their problems are making a mistake.	00:00:51
10:01:07	Cutaway of the audience	00:00:05
10:01:12	Soundbite (in ENGLISH) by Helle Thorning-Schmidt, Danish Prime Minister: the year 2011 tested our result and placed new demands on all of us. All the Member States and certainly all our citizens. For too many Europeans citizens, 2011 became the year when they lost their jobs, when they had to close their business and they saw their monthly paycheck get reduced. In 2012 the	00:00:38

	can then meaning pay more get reduced in 2012, the European citizens expect us to act and of course they do. They have right to expect us to act.	
10:01:50	Cutaway of the audience	00:00:05
10:01:55	Soundbite (in ENGLISH) by Jerzy Buzek, President of the EP: in such hard times, the role of the rotating presidencies has proven to be crucial. I can tell you on behalf of my colleagues of the European Parliament. You said the tone and give us direction. Fortunately when these hard times came, we ordered to have new tools given by the Lisbon Treaty. Without them, I believe the crisis would have been much worst.	00:00:38
10:02:34	General view of the ceremony room	00:00:05
10:02:39	Soundbite (in ENGLISH) by José Manuel Barroso, President of the EC: Denmark will have done a truly opportunity to put this kind of enthousiasm, this kind of commitment to our European project. Project that is based on very important values: development of democracy, of freedom and solidarity. Also the opportunity to profile Denmark's world is enlarge the European Union and opportunity to make a significant contribution in shaping European Union policies for the future, and ensuring that our 27 Member States continue to move forward together, united and determined. We have to avoid any kind of fragmentation and we have to keep Europe united.	00:00:46
10:03:25	Audience clapping	00:00:06