EUROPEAN COMMISSION
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Special meeting of the European Council: all arrivals (day)

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The Heads of State or Government of the European Union gathered today in Brussels for a two-day special meeting of the European Council on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014 - 2020. Negotiations on the new budget were expected to be very tough, against the backdrop of economic crisis, and high tensions between the Member States who want to reduce EU spending and the others in favour of the European Commission's proposal. Eleven EU Leaders so far have threatened to veto the EU budget unless they get a better deal. Ahead of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, and José Manuel Barroso, President of the EC, held bilateral meetings all day long with several Member States to try to find an agreement.

HEURE	DESCRIPTION	DUREE
00:00:00	Title	00:00:05
00:00:05	Arrival of Demetris Christofias, President of Cyprus - roundtable with Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, and José Manuel Barroso, President of the EC	00:00:24
00:00:29	Arrival of David Cameron, British Prime Minister - SOUNDBITE (English) on the EU budget, saying that he is not happy at all with the latest budget' proposal. These are very important negotiations. At a time when there are very difficult decisions at home regarding public spending, it would be quite wrong to have proposals for increase extra spending in the EU. The UK is going to be negotiating very hard for a good deal for Britain's taxpayers and for the EU's taxpayers, and to keep the British rebate. - Roundtable with Herman Van Rompuy and José Manuel Barroso	00:01:18
00:01:47	Arrival of Elio Di Rupo, Belgian Prime Minister - SOUNDBITE (Dutch - French) on the EU budget, saying that Belgium and the EU need an ambitious budget with more solidarity between the Member States. Belgium wants active policies in agriculture field, for transition regions and regions which are in trouble like Limburg. Cutting spending would affect all these policies. - Roundtable with Herman Van Rompuy and José Manuel Barroso	00:03:43

00:05:30	Arrival of Traian Basescu, Romanian President - roundtable with Herman Van Rompuy and José Manuel Barroso	00:00:52
00:06:22	Arrival of Jean-Claude Juncker, Prime Minister of Luxembourg and President of the Eurogroup - SOUNDBITE (German) on the EU budget, saying that he expects really difficult negotiations. The poles are so apart that it will be difficult to agree. The EU doesn't really need so more money, neither less. Member States have to find a proper way to fund EU.	00:01:07
00:07:29	Arrival of Lawrence Gonzi, Maltese Prime Minister - roundtable with Herman Van Rompuy and José Manuel Barroso	00:00:51
00:08:20	Arrival of Valdis Dombrovskis, Latvian Prime Minister - SOUNDBITE (English) on the EU budget, saying that he hopes Member States be able to reach a deal during this summit. It is important that all the 27 countries come here willing to reach an agreement. If any country will just come and say: 'that is it and full stop',' it won't probably reach an agreement. Currently many proposals foresee less money to compare with the Commission's proposal. Most of the discussions will come with less money that the Commission has proposed and not with more money.	00:01:53
00:10:13	Arrival of Enda Kenny, Irish Prime Minister - roundtable with Herman Van Rompuy and José Manuel Barroso	00:00:59
00:11:12	Arrival of Mark Rutte, Dutch Prime Minister - SOUNDBITE (Dutch) on the EU budget, saying that he is poised for tough wrangling at this summit, warning a deal may not be reached this week. He also insisted the seven-year budget should be modern and sober. It should reflect budget cuts at home while supporting innovation and research. It will be a real fight. The French, Southern Europe, Northern Europe, the Brits have all demands. It's extremely complex, and not sure it will happen in one go. - roundtable with Herman Van Rompuy and José Manuel Barroso	00:03:30
00:14:42	Arrival of Petr Nečas, Czech Prime Minister - SOUNDBITE (Czech) on the EU budget - roundtable with Herman Van Rompuy and José Manuel Barroso	00:02:33
00:17:15	Arrival of Zoran Milanović, Croatian Prime Minister - roundtable with Herman Van Rompuy and José Manuel Barroso	00:01:05
00:18:20	Arrival of Antonis Samaras, Greek Prime Minister - SOUNDBITE (Greek) on the EU budget - roundtable with Herman Van Rompuy and José Manuel Barroso	00:01:31

00:19:51	Arrival of Frederik Reinfeldt, Swedish Prime Minister - SOUNDBITE (Swedish - English) on the EU budget, saying that the levels are still too high and the structure is not as modern as it should be. The EU has huge competitiveness problems and too much of the resources are directed to what Europe was, and not to what Europe should become. Saying he is not in a hurry and negotiations will take a long time. - roundtable with Herman Van Rompuy and José Manuel Barroso	00:01:46
00:21:37	Arrival of Dalia Grybauskaité, Lithuanian President - SOUNDBITE (English) on the EU budget, saying that she expects at least an agreement. Saying also that as former European Commissioner for Budget, she is for austerity. - roundtable with Herman Van Rompuy and José Manuel Barroso	00:01:11
00:22:48	Arrival of Helle Thorning-Schmidt, Danish Prime Minister - roundtable with Herman Van Rompuy and José Manuel Barroso	00:00:53
00:23:41	Arrival of Donald Tusk Polish Prime Minister - roundtable with Herman Van Rompuy and José Manuel Barroso	00:00:47
00:24:28	Arrival of Jyrki Katainen, Finnish Prime Minister - SOUNDBITE (English) on the EU budget, saying that he hopes to get an overall budget a little bit smaller than it is at the moment in the final proposal but the main target is to get a deal. More time will not make the things easier. Saying also he hopes to find a solution suitable also for UK because the objective is to build patterns for EU 27. There are some disagreements with the budgetary lines but all Member States must to be ready for compromise.	00:01:52
00:26:20	Arrival of Boyko Borissov, Bulgarian Prime Minister	00:00:30
00:26:50	Arrival of Mario Monti, Italian Prime Minister - SOUNDBITE (Italian) on the EU budget, saying that this is a very serious and difficult negotiation. At stake are the next seven years of the European Union. There are three key objectives which are equality, solidarity and effective use of resources. Italy has been disproportionately penalized. It is essential that Italy has the best results today as regards the Cohesion Fund, the fund for agriculture, and the sharing mechanism. It will not accept unacceptable solutions and will be willing to work in a constructive way.	00:02:24

00:29:14	Arrival of Andrus Ansip, Estonian Prime Minister - SOUNDBITE (English) on the EU budget, saying that he hopes the Council will be able to find a solution and that Europe will get the next budget. Saying also that according to his understanding, cuttings are possible but then there won't be European policies at all. This is not an option.	00:01:41
00:30:55	END	00:00:00

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