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Extracts from the joint press statements by Herman VAN ROMPUY, President of the European Council, and Shimon PERES, President of Israel following their meeting in the European Council

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



TIME	DESCRIPTION	DURATION
00:00:00	Herman Van Rompuy and Shimon Peres shaking hands and leaving the press room	10:00:00
10:00:00	Title	00:00:05
10:00:05	Arrival of the speakers	00:00:10
10:00:15	SOUNDBITE by Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council (In English) saying that: The European Union is following these events closely. They affect directly our security and our interests. And we want to contribute as best we can to the stabilisation, democratisation and development of the region. We are convinced that Israel can play a key role in this regard. And we wish to increase our	00:00:29

	<p>...to increase our dialogue on these issues.</p>	
10:00:44	<p>SOUNDBITE by Herman Van Rompuy (In English) saying that: At the same time, I have explained to President Peres the clear positions taken by the Council as regards the Middle East Peace Process and the European Union's conviction that bold and concrete steps need to be taken now. The parties have to engage in direct and substantial negotiations. There will be no sustainable peace until the Palestinian's aspirations for statehood and sovereignty and those of Israelis for security are fulfilled through a comprehensive and negotiated peace based on the two-State solution. For these reasons, I have recalled the opposition of the European Union to the illegal expansion of settlements.</p>	00:00:46
10:01:30	<p>SOUNDBITE by Shimon Peres, President of Israel (In English) saying that: I don't think the opportunity to make peace is over, on the contrary. I think that after the elections in the US and the elections in Israel, there is a new chance to reopen the</p>	00:00:38

	to reopen the negotiations and we don't intend to govern the Palestinians, it stand against everything that we stand for, we weren't born to govern other people, we don't have this sort of ambition at all.	
10:02:08	SOUNDBITE by Shimon Peres (In English) saying that: I do believe that we should learn from you and I do hope that the time will come when the Middle East will become a peaceful, united region like you. We are connected geographically, we are connected historically; you are already playing an important role in the peace process and I wish you continue to play it.	00:00:51
10:02:59	End	00:00:00