MINISTER-PRESIDENT

H.E. Mr Herman Van Rompuy
President of the European Council
Brussels

No.: 3102332

The Hague, 4 April 2011

Dear Mr Van Rompuy,

The approval of the comprehensive package of measures marks a significant step towards safeguarding financial and economic stability in the European Union.

Under the Euro Plus Pact, the Netherlands will, as agreed, take national measures in the fields of competitiveness, employment, sustainability of public finances, and financial stability. These measures will be addressed, among other ways, by including these measures in the Dutch National Reform Programme under the Europe 2020 Strategy and the Dutch Stability and Convergence Programme under the Stability and Growth Pact.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Rutte
Prime Minister of the Kingdom
of the Netherlands

c.c. H.E. Mr José Manuel Barroso,
President of the European Commission
c.c. The members of the European Council

Dutch measures under the Euro Plus Pact

In the framework of the Euro Plus Pact, the Netherlands undertakes to implement the following four specific measures:

1. Fostering competitiveness

The introduction of a new business policy, comprising a sectoral, more business-driven approach, with fewer specific-purpose grants, more generic tax cuts and more scope for enterprise. The sectoral approach covers nine key areas in which the Netherlands is particular strong, largely due to its location and history: water, agri-food, horticulture and starting materials, high-tech materials and systems, life sciences, chemicals, energy, logistics and creative industry.

2. Fostering employment

Making the social security system more activating and reducing benefit dependence by introducing a scheme for the lower end of the labour market that reforms existing benefit schemes.

3. Contributing further to the sustainability of public finances

The introduction of a new Act anchoring the agreements in the Stability and Growth Pact in Dutch law. Alongside the European agreements, the new bill will also meet the Dutch parliament's wish for budgetary rules to be enshrined in law.

4. Reinforcing financial stability

The introduction of an Act that provides more scope for interventions regarding financial institutions than existing statutory instruments. The bill will add two new categories of powers to the existing range of intervention measures, allowing deposits, assets or liabilities, or shares of a financial institution in difficulties to be transferred to another institution or legal person. The first category relates to individual problem institutions and is designed to allow banks and insurers to be wound up in a timely and orderly fashion if they face insuperable problems. The second category serves a more far-reaching goal and provides for ways of safeguarding the stability of the financial system as a whole, if that stability is ever threatened.