

# Republic of Korea-EU Summit, Seoul, 23 May 2009

## JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

The Fourth Summit Meeting between the Republic of Korea and the European Union was held in Seoul, 23 May 2009. The Republic of Korea (ROK) was represented by President Lee Myung-bak. The European Union (EU) was represented by Mr Václav Klaus, President of the Czech Republic and by Mr José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission

### ***Strengthening the bilateral relationship***

1. Summit Leaders noted with satisfaction the dynamic development of cooperation since the 3<sup>rd</sup> EU-ROK summit held in Helsinki on 9 September 2006 and held in-depth discussions on the future aims and vision of ROK-EU relations. Reaffirming that both sides share fundamental values – in particular, commitment to democracy, human rights, the rule of law and the market economy – they expressed determination to step up joint efforts to respond to global challenges and to further strengthen cooperation.
2. Summit Leaders welcomed in particular the considerable progress in negotiations on the revision of the ROK-EU Framework Agreement for Trade and Cooperation signed in 1996 and on an ambitious ROK-EU Free Trade Agreement. They looked forward to an early conclusion of negotiations on both agreements. Together, these agreements will provide an important framework for strengthening and upgrading relations. Summit Leaders expressed their wish to elevate ROK-EU relations into a strategic partnership, based on these two agreements.
3. Summit Leaders also witnessed the signing of an agreement on cooperation in the field of competition policy. They emphasised the value of such sectoral agreements for the overall development of ROK-EU relations, and their importance in fostering concrete cooperation between the two sides. In this regard, Summit Leaders also reviewed progress in implementing the agreement on Scientific & Technological Cooperation.
4. Summit Leaders also agreed that it is important to enhance cooperation in the areas of education and culture in order to foster a deeper mutual understanding between the peoples of each region and to promote

exchanges between them. In this respect, they welcomed the operation of EU centres in Korean universities and the pursuit of EU-Korea pilot projects for higher education.

### ***Regional Issues***

5. Summit Leaders reiterated the importance of an early resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue in a peaceful manner through the Six-Party Talks. Expressing serious concern over recent actions and announcements by North Korea, they urged North Korea to return to the Six-Party Talks as soon as possible and to resume cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, in conformity with Resolution 1718 of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and the UNSC Presidential Statement of April 13. They reaffirmed that the test launch by North Korea on April 5 was in contravention of Resolution 1718 and undermined peace and stability in the region and beyond. President Lee briefed the EU side on the ROK's efforts to advance inter-Korean relations through dialogue and cooperation, and on its contribution for a peaceful resolution of the nuclear issue.
6. The EU explained its policies and initiatives to promote stability in its neighbourhood, including the Eastern Partnership.
7. Summit leaders underlined the importance of intensified international support for the Afghan government's efforts to achieve peace and stability for its people as well as for the upcoming electoral process. Summit leaders also underlined their continued support for democracy, good governance and the rule of law in Pakistan. They stressed that the challenges faced by Pakistan and Afghanistan could not be tackled in isolation and that cooperative relations in the wider region must be strengthened.

### ***Global Issues***

8. Summit leaders restated that the stabilisation of financial markets and the recovery of the global economy remained a key priority for both the ROK and the EU. In order to overcome the current global economic crisis and restore confidence, they shared the view that it is essential to have an open world economy based on market principles, effective regulation and supervision, and strong global institutions. They pledged to act together to fulfil their commitments made in G20 Summit Meetings. In particular,

Summit Leaders agreed to continue working closely together and with other international partners in rapidly implementing the monetary, fiscal and financial policy measures aimed at restoring growth and jobs globally. Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to continue cooperating closely in strengthening and reforming international financial institutions, including through larger IMF resources and a substantial increase in Multilateral Development Bank lending.

9. Summit Leaders also reaffirmed the need to resist protectionism, and to promote global trade and investment. They shared the view that a successful conclusion of the WTO Doha Development Agenda would be strongly beneficial for the world economy as a whole, including for developing countries, and stressed the importance of moving towards an ambitious, balanced and comprehensive outcome in all negotiating areas, based on the progress already made, including with regard to modalities. Summit leaders reaffirmed their commitment made at the Washington Summit and extended at the London Summit to refrain, until the end of 2010, from raising new barriers to trade and investment, imposing new export restrictions, or implementing WTO inconsistent measures to stimulate exports. Also, they reaffirmed their commitment to rectify promptly any such measures and underlined their commitment to cooperate in addressing such measures wherever they may occur. Both sides will continue their cooperation in fulfilling these commitments. Summit Leaders expressed confidence that successful conclusion of the Korea-EU FTA would also bring substantial benefits to both economies.
10. Summit Leaders reiterated their determination to reach, by the end of 2009 in Copenhagen, an ambitious, comprehensive and effective post-2012 agreement on climate change, pursuant to the Bali Action Plan, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Such a framework should set out a roadmap to a low-carbon economy and contain binding commitments for all Annex 1 countries and nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing countries. OECD member and candidate countries should take action to reduce emissions, commensurate with their responsibilities, capabilities and national circumstances. The Summit Leaders also agreed on the necessity to adopt a shared vision for long-term cooperative action, including a long-term global goal for emission reductions in order to achieve the ultimate objective of stabilising concentrations of global

greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, in line with the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Accordingly, they supported the objective of reducing global emissions by at least 50% by 2050 and committed to strengthen their bilateral cooperation on climate change, including on issues such as emission trading.

11. They underlined the importance of bilateral and multilateral cooperation to secure energy and resources, in a stable, sustainable and diverse way. They agreed to work closely on energy technologies and energy efficiency, particularly within multilateral frameworks such as the International Energy Agency and the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC), initiated at the meeting of G8, China, India and ROK Energy Ministers in June 2008 and looked forward to the imminent launch of its operational phase.
12. Summit Leaders underlined their commitment to multilateralism as a guidance principle of international relations. They agreed to continue close cooperation within the United Nations and stressed the importance of implementing the reforms of the UN system adopted at the 2005 UN Summit in order to strengthen the UN's capacity to effectively address global challenges.
13. Summit leaders agreed to share information and experience of participation in peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations and to seek ways to cooperate in such areas in the future. They agreed on the important role of the UN in maintaining international peace and security, including through its peacekeeping operations. The Korean side outlined its intentions to consider further possibilities to participate actively in UN peacekeeping operations in the future.
14. Leaders reiterated their full support for the International Criminal Court, and its key role in ensuring accountability for the most serious international crimes.
15. The Leaders condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and shared the view that the international community should enhance collective efforts to counter terrorism, particularly through international

and regional fora. They also agreed to continue to strengthen their bilateral cooperation to counter terrorism.

16. Underlining that poverty alleviation and sustainable development are essential to build a more stable, peaceful, prosperous and equitable world, Summit Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to further enhance mutual cooperation in the development field. The ROK and the EU will continue to actively participate in the concerted efforts of the international community to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to help developing countries to cope with the effects of the global economic crisis and climate change. The EU welcomed the ROK's application for membership on the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD and expressed its full support for the ROK's DAC membership process.

### ***Follow-up Measures***

17. The Leaders affirmed that the Summit had been productive in terms of reaffirming common values and views on key international issues, outlining a common future partnership vision and making commitment to take actions in order to achieve their shared common goals.
18. The future strategic partnership envisaged by the Leaders is expected to contribute greatly not only to Korea-EU bilateral relations but also to the peace and development of the regional and international community. To implement it and to ensure fruitful outcomes from the agreements reached at the summit, Summit Leaders agreed to make full use of channels for bilateral discussions, including political dialogue, and to hold future Summits on an annual or biennial basis alternating between the ROK and the EU.