

Brussels/Nice, 29 January 2018

COMMUNIQUÉ

**Herman VAN ROMPUY, former President of the European Council, is elected CIFE's new President.**

**Former President of the European Council** and Belgian Minister of State, **Herman Van Rompuy**, was elected President of the Centre international de formation européenne (CIFE), on 26 January 2018. He succeeds Philippe Maystadt, appointed in January 2015 (deceased in December 2017), and Jean-Claude Juncker, President of CIFE from 2005 until his election as President of the European Commission in 2014.

*"It is an honour for me to become President of CIFE, which for more than 60 years has been promoting the values of Europe, European integration and governance, multilingualism and student mobility through its European and international higher education programmes. I am pleased to be able to contribute to the next stage in the development of this academic institution", said Herman Van Rompuy at the time of his election.*

The new President of CIFE has enjoyed a brilliant career in both Belgian and European politics. A former economist at the National Bank of Belgium, **Herman Van Rompuy** began his political career in 1973 as national vice president of his party's youth movement. He has held various posts within his party and in the Belgian Parliament, serving in turn as Senator (1988-1995) and Member of Parliament (1995-2009). He has also served in Belgium as Speaker of the House of Representatives (2007-2008) and in several government positions, including that of Deputy Minister and Budget Minister (1993-1999), Minister of State (2004) and Secretary of State for Finance and Small Businesses (1988). Herman Van Rompuy was Prime Minister of Belgium when he was elected first permanent President of the European Council in November 2009; he took office when the Lisbon Treaty came into force on 1 December 2009. In 2012, he was re-elected for a second term, starting on 1 June 2012 and running until 30 November 2014. Today, Herman Van Rompuy also chairs the European Policy Centre (EPC) and the Francqui Foundation and is a visiting professor at several universities.

The **CIFE**, founded in 1954, is a private higher education and research institution in the field of interdisciplinary European integration studies and international relations. It operates from its headquarters in Nice and its offices in Berlin, Brussels and Istanbul. CIFE is one of the six institutions of excellence to receive an operating grant from the European Union within the framework of the 'Jean Monnet Activities'.

CIFE first Vice President Jean-Antoine Giansily, former Vice President of the European Parliament's Committee on Budgets, said: *"We are proud and delighted to have, once again, a dedicated European as our new President. Herman Van Rompuy will be a stimulating source of support and advice for CIFE."*

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