



VINCENT VAN PETEGHEM

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Budget,
responsible for Administrative Simplification

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To the Members of the Eurogroup

Dear colleagues,

The euro area stands at a pivotal moment. Our economies are being reshaped by profound geopolitical tensions, rapid technological change, and intensifying global competition. These shifts challenge the foundations of our long-term growth model and remind us how important close cooperation is for the resilience of our Economic and Monetary Union. Ensuring fiscal sustainability, enabling the investments needed for our strategic future, deepening and integrating our Single Market, strengthening our financial architecture, and safeguarding the international role of the euro, all call for shared commitment and steady leadership.

Our forum has always drawn its strength from its capacity for open dialogue, mutual understanding, and coordinated action. In the years ahead, these qualities will matter even more. But to address these challenges, the Eurogroup must continue to evolve.

My vision for the Eurogroup builds on this foundation and centres on three priorities.

First, we must reinforce fiscal and economic policy coordination. With the revised economic governance framework now in place, consistent and credible implementation will be key to maintaining market confidence, safeguarding debt sustainability, and creating space for reforms and growth-enhancing investment. The Eurogroup should guide this process decisively and ensure that our collective fiscal stance remains coherent and responsible.

Second, we must strengthen the euro area's long-term competitiveness and deepen our Economic and Monetary Union. Advancing the Savings and Investment Union, and removing structural obstacles to financing - particularly for SMEs and innovative start-ups, are crucial to mobilise private investment. Building on the CMDI agreement, we should be able to shape the next steps for the Banking Union, enhancing competitiveness while maintaining financial stability.

Third, we must secure the euro's international and digital future. Reducing reliance on non-European payment systems, reinforcing the euro's role in global markets, and closely monitoring developments in crypto-assets and stablecoins are central to Europe's strategic autonomy. Close cooperation with the Commission and the ECB will remain vital in this context.

At a moment that demands reliable leadership, experience, and the ability to build unity, I wish to step forward as a candidate for the Presidency of the Eurogroup. I believe I can translate this agenda into concrete results.

My years within the Eurogroup have given me deep understanding of its processes, dynamics, and dossiers. As Chair of the Ecofin Council during the Belgian Presidency, I successfully steered the complex and sensitive negotiations on the economic governance review to conclusion. I brought together diverse positions by fostering constructive engagement, relying on thorough knowledge, and focusing on solutions that respected and connected different perspectives.

As Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Budget in a multi-party coalition, I am accustomed to navigating diverse views and building balanced, workable agreements. I would bring the same commitment to inclusiveness, and transparency to the Eurogroup. Every Member State - large or small, from every part of our Union, would continue to receive my full respect and attention. At the same time, I believe that clear priorities, focused discussions, and close coordination with the Ecofin Council will help the Eurogroup operate with maximum impact.

If entrusted with this responsibility, I will represent the Eurogroup externally with dedication, strengthening our ties with international partners, and ensuring that our shared interests are recognized and understood. Above all, I will work to ensure that the euro area remains a force for stability, competitiveness, and unity in a rapidly changing world.

I am convinced that our close relationship and strong cooperation can form the basis for a solid and constructive path forward.

I would be honoured to serve as your President. I am sincerely grateful for your consideration and would appreciate your support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'V' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

Vincent Van Peteghem