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European Union

José Manuel Barroso

José Manuel Barroso became president of the European Commission in November 2004. He was prime minister of Portugal from 2002-04 and president of the Social Democratic Party from 1999-2004. Before entering politics Barroso was an academic. Born in Lisbon on 23 March 1956, he studied law at the University of Lisbon and holds a master's degree in political science from the University of Geneva. He is married to Margarida Sousa Uva and has three children. He has attended every G8 summit since 2005.



JASON RANSOM

Canada

Stephen Harper

Stephen Harper was elected prime minister of Canada in January 2006, and was re-elected in October 2008 and again in May 2011. He was first elected as a member of parliament in 1993. Harper served as leader of the opposition for several years before becoming prime minister. Born in Toronto, Ontario, on 30 April 1959, he studied at the University of Toronto and the University of Calgary, earning a master's degree in economics in 1991. He and his wife, Laureen, have two children. Harper has attended every G8 summit since St Petersburg in 2006, and hosted the 2010 Muskoka Summit.

Sherpa: Peter Boehm

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RAYMOND DEPARDON

France

François Hollande

François Hollande was elected president of France on 6 May 2012. He served as first secretary of the Socialist Party from 1997-2008. He was the deputy for Corrèze in the National Assembly of France from 1988-93 and again from 1997-2012. He was also the mayor of Tulle from 2001-08. Hollande joined the Socialist Party in 1979, and was an economic adviser to François Mitterrand. Born in Rouen on 12 August 1954, Hollande holds degrees from the École nationale d'administration (ENA) and the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po). He has four children with his former partner, Ségolène Royal. Hollande's first G8 summit was Camp David in 2012.

Sherpa: Paul Jean-Ortiz



ARMIN LINNARTZ/WWW.DUCSU.DE

Germany

Angela Merkel

Angela Merkel became chancellor of Germany in November 2005. Merkel was first elected to the Bundestag in 1990 and has held the cabinet portfolios for women and youth, environment, nature conservation and nuclear safety. Before she entered politics, Merkel worked as a researcher and physicist. Born in Hamburg on 17 July 1954, Merkel received her doctorate in physics from the University of Leipzig in 1978. She is married to Joachim Sauer and has no children. Merkel has attended every G8 summit since hosting Heiligendamm in 2007.

Sherpa: Lars-Hendrik Röller



ELISABETTA VILLA/GETTY IMAGES

Italy

Matteo Renzi

Matteo Renzi became prime minister of Italy on 22 February 2014 after the resignation of Enrico Letta. He became the secretary of the Democratic Party on 15 December 2013. In 2004 he was elected president of the Province of Florence. In 2009, having joined the Democratic Party, he won the election for mayor of Florence, a position he held until March 2014. Before entering politics, Renzi worked in his family business and was very active in the Boy Scouts. Born on 11 January 1975 in Florence, he graduated from the University of Florence in 1999 with a degree in law. He and his wife, Agnese Landini, have three children. Brussels will be his first G7/8 summit.

Sherpa: Armando Varricchio



THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Herman Van Rompuy

Herman Van Rompuy was elected the first full-time president of the European Council on 19 November 2009. He was previously prime minister of Belgium from 2008 to 2009. Before entering politics, Van Rompuy was a lecturer. Born in Etterbeek, Belgium, on 31 October 1947, he holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy and a master's degree in applied economics from Katholieke Universiteit Leuven. He is married to Geertrui Windels and has four children. Brussels is Van Rompuy's fifth G7/8 summit.

Sherpa: *Didier Seeuws*



ISSEI KATO/AP/PA IMAGES

Japan Shinzo Abe

Shinzo Abe was elected prime minister of Japan on 28 December 2012, having previously served from September 2006 to September 2007. He has been president of the Liberal Democratic Party since 2006. He was elected to the first district of Yamaguchi Prefecture in 1993. In 1999, he became the Social Affairs Division director and served in the cabinets of Yoshiro Mori and Junichiro Koizumi before becoming LDP secretary general. In 2005, Abe was nominated chief cabinet secretary in Koizumi's cabinet. Born on 21 September 1954 in Nagato, Abe studied political science at Seikei University and public policy at the University of Southern California. He is married to Akie Abe. Abe attended the 2007 Heiligendamm Summit and the 2013 Lough Erne Summit.

Sherpa: *Yasumasa Nagamine*



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United Kingdom David Cameron

David Cameron became prime minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in May 2010. He was first elected to parliament in 2001 as the representative for Witney, and has served as party leader since 2005. Before becoming a politician, Cameron worked for the Conservative Research Department and served as a political strategist and adviser to the Conservative Party. Born in London, England, on 9 October 1966, he received a bachelor's degree in philosophy, politics and economics at the University of Oxford. He is married to Samantha and has three children; a fourth child died in 2009. Brussels will be Cameron's fourth G7/8 summit, having hosted the 2013 Lough Erne Summit.

Sherpa: *Tom Scholar*



THE WHITE HOUSE

United States of America Barack Obama

Barack Obama was re-elected president of the United States in November 2012, having been elected for his first term as president in November 2008. In 2005, Obama was elected to the Senate, after previously working as a community organiser, a civil rights lawyer and a state legislator for Illinois. He was born on 4 August 1961 in Honolulu, Hawaii, to a Kenyan father and an American mother. He received his bachelor's degree from Columbia University in 1983 and a law degree from Harvard University in 1991. He is married to Michelle and they have two children. Obama has attended every G8 summit since 2009, and hosted the 2012 Camp David Summit.

Sherpa: *Caroline Atkinson*