<u>President Juncker expresses</u> <u>condolences on the passing away of</u> <u>Eberhard van der Laan, Mayor of</u> Amsterdam

I am deeply saddened by the passing away of Eberhard van der Laan, the Mayor of Amsterdam and my close friend. He was a great friend of Europe and a very popular mayor of his beloved Amsterdam.

During the Dutch Presidency of the EU, Eberhard van der Laan made sure his city was not only a superb host to the countless politicians and officials that came to Amsterdam but also supported cultural and societal activities.

My thoughts are with the people of Amsterdam and the Netherlands, and above all, with those who were close to him. He will be greatly missed.