

MARTENS ON LISBON TREATY: "A NEW ERA FOR THE EU HAS BEGUN WITH EPP AT THE HELM"

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The President of the European People's Party (EPP) **Wilfried Martens** has made the following statement on the celebration of the Lisbon Treaty, which entered into force today:

*"After years of difficult negotiations and political hurdles, the Lisbon Treaty has finally entered into force. Europe has come a long way since the time of its founding founders and the dream is now becoming a reality. We now have ambitious political instruments and capabilities to function more effectively, transparently, democratically. We have new leadership; we have the capacity to promote our foreign relations; we have a simplified decision-making process. And at the start of the new Lisbon era, the EPP is at the helm with Commission President **Jose Manuel Barroso**, Council President **Herman Van Rompuy** and Parliament President **Jerzy Buzek**.*

But with high ambitions come high expectations. Our 500 million citizens are facing today manifold challenges and look to Europe for solutions. We, the EPP, have the responsibility to bring Europe closer to the people and we are committed to do so in the Lisbon era. We have the leadership, the vision, and the programme to make Europe a reality for the people."

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