

EPP "PARTY FOR ALL EUROPEANS"

03-02-2004

Announcing the publication of the Congress paper for the XVI EPP Congress paper, party President Wilfried MARTENS said today:

"We will soon - together - be campaigning in the first Continent-wide elections. I should say 'not-quite Continent-wide' - elections, because soon enough, I hope, we will also be welcoming deputies from Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania, and perhaps further east too.

"One way or another, the parliament in which we are meeting will play an everincreasing part in the affairs of the New Europe. That is really the subject of our XVI Congress here in Brussels. Our slogan is 'Your Majority in Europe'. I believe it is more than an idle boast, and that our 65 parties can unite behind this policy document, and win a convincing majority in the June European elections.

"We are not a faction, representing the interests of one or another class among Europeans - workers, or business, or pensioners. We represent civil society - all of this continent's varied people and peoples. Today more than 450 million citizens. "Are we still - as we were at the dawn of modern Europe half a century ago - able and ready for this task? This paper, in preparation for more than a year, provides a convincing answer. Only the EPP can make a decisive contribution to this great new Union of 25 and the challenges it faces".