

EPP PRESIDENT CALLS ON SOCIALISTS TO SUPPORT BARROSO'S 'GROWTH & JOBS' STRATEGY

03-02-2005



EPP President Wilfried Martens has endorsed the *Growth and Jobs* Strategy that was announced yesterday by Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso. The new strategy is in the spirit of the longstanding EPP proposals for the revitalization of the Lisbon strategy, which were recently presented at the November EPP Conference *The Future of the Lisbon Strategy - Committing Europe for Growth* that included President Barroso as the keynote speaker.

This new strategy is particularly reassuring since it brings to the forefront the core issues, namely growth and jobs, which are the necessary tools to achieve Europe's goals states President Martens.

I am confident that this strategy will succeed. Needless to say, the EPP will offer its undivided support to President Barroso and our Group in the European Parliament has already given its backing. I would also like to encourage the Party of European Socialists to abandon their expressed reservations and to help achieve our common European goals. If we all work together, Europe is destined to become an economic powerhouse with a unique social consciousness, Martens concludes.

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