

## EPP PRESIDENT: « MORE EUROPE IS NEEDED, NOT LESS » FOR TACKLING ECONOMIC CRISIS

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EPP President, **Wilfried Martens**, today reminded that the way for facing the current challenges, mainly the economic crisis, is "more Europe, not less".

Speaking in the Congress of [Unione di Centro \(UDC\)](#), a member party of the EPP, Martens said that "in such difficult times, the EPP believes in restoring a society based on individual freedom, social solidarity and cohesion and on a regulated and responsible free market economy. In short, in a sustainable Social Market Economy".

"The values of the EPP are the more valid today. This crisis is not the result of a collapse of the capitalist model or the free market as such. On the contrary, it was due to the deviation of some parts of the financial system which wrongly believed that they could operate without clear rules and in the absence of any national or European supervision. The absence of regulation, not over-regulation has been the culprit of this crisis", he added.

President Martens also underlined the key role played by the Christian Democrats for founding a "strong and cohesive Europe".

"The success of Christian Democracy can be attributed to its fundamental values, which have molded the economic, political and cultural life of Europe over the last century", he pointed out.

"Our member parties have been at the forefront of improving and successively expanding the Union. While others have talked, we have acted! While others have risen nationalistic flags and aroused euro-sceptic feelings in Europe, the UDC and our whole political family have always worked for the integration, security and well-being of all our citizens in Europe"

EPP President pointed out "our common political objectives give us the strength and courage to face the new challenges ahead, such as those posed by the European elections in June 2009. It is our aim to continue to play a pivotal role in the shaping of the Europe of tomorrow, a more citizen-friendly, sustainable and democratic Europe".

In this context, President Martens reminded that all the EPP leaders will participate in the Congress to be held in Warsaw on 29 and 30 April. He also congratulated **Pier Ferdinando Casini** and **Lorenzo Cesa** for their work as leader and Secretary General of the UDC.

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