

THIRTEEN PRIME MINISTERS IN THE EPP CONGRESS IN BRUSSELS

04-02-2004

The Sixteenth Congress of the European People's Party will take place in Brussels on 4 and 5 February 2004. Delegates from 64 political Parties, including 12 Prime Ministers, opposition leaders, regional authorities, several European Commissioners and other personalities, will participate in the Congress.

The Congress slogan will be "The EPP: Your majority in Europe", reflecting the fact that the EPP is Europe's largest political party.

In order to prepare the European Elections, 10 to 13 June, participants will decide on the Action Programme 2004-2009 and the Electoral Manifesto of the EPP. They will vote also on amendments to the Party Statutes and on several resolutions on topical and urgent issues.

"The EPP as the party of the European common interest celebrates this XVI Congress at a time of great importance for the coming years. This meeting is crucial to prepare our political family to become again in June the biggest European political party and continue working in favour of European citizens' interests", said EPP President, Wilfried MARTENS

"As our Action Programme stresses, the state is at the service of the citizens, not the other way around. What underlies the authority and legitimacy of the state is its ability to serve or promote the common good of the citizens. When Member States are no longer capable of fully performing this function, then it is legitimate to call upon the Union to protect and serve the general interest of the people", MARTENS added.

Joëlle Milquet, CDH President and Yves Leterme, CD&V President will open the EPP Congress.

XVI EPP CONGRESS
BRUSSELS, European Parliament, 4-5 FEBRUARY 2004
The EPP: Your Majority in Europe
Wednesday, 4 February 2004
15.00 ♦ 15.30hrs: First Plenary Session
Welcome address: CDH President Joëlle Milquet
CD&V President Yves Leterme
Speech: EPP President Wilfried Martens
15.30 ♦ 19.00hrs: Action programme 2004-2009 and Electoral Manifesto
Working Group A: Introduction
Chapter I: A dynamic, competitive, solidarity-based and jobgenerating
economy
Chapter II: Responding to European citizens ♦ growing need for
security and safety
Chapter III: Sustainable Development
Working Group B: Chapter IV: European Youth Policy
Chapter V: Europe and its place in the world
Chapter VI: A good European Governance
Electoral Manifesto
Thursday, 5 February 2004

9.30 ♦ 13.00hrs: Second Plenary Session

Report: EPP Secretary General Antonio López-Istúriz,

Report: President of the EPP-ED Group in the EP, Hans-Gert Poettering

Speeches: EPP Heads of Government

Statements

13.00hrs: Lunch at the invitation of Hans-Gert Poettering, President of the EPPED
Group in the EP

15.00 ♦ 18.00hrs: Third Plenary Session

Reports of the EPP recognized Associations

Vote on Amendments to the Statutes

Vote on Resolutions and on Emergency Resolutions

Adoption of the Action Programme 2004-2009 and the Electoral Manifesto

Closing speech by EPP President Wilfried Martens.

For further information:

Beatriz Toribio

EPP Press Service

67, rue d'Arlon. B-1040 Brussels

Tel: + 32 2 285 41 56 /GSM: + 32 4 754 80 446

Fax: + 32 2 285 41 41

btoribio@evppe.be

<http://www.epp.eu/ssspagina.php?hoofdmenuID=5&submenuID=51&subsubmenuID=89&sssmenuID=118>