

EPP ENVOY SET TO REUNITE HDZ BiH AND HDZ 1990

04-12-2007



Former EPP Vice-President, **Wim van Velzen**, has been given the mandate by EPP President, **Wilfried Martens**, to assist in negotiations to reunite the HDZ BiH and HDZ 1990, the two main Croatian political forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The two parties, both ideologically linked with the EPP, have agreed to start negotiations with the aim of forming a renewed party, inspired by the values and principles of the EPP.

"This is a necessary step in the political process of Bosnia and Herzegovina – the Croatian community needs a strong party that can offer their country a European future," stated the EPP envoy for BiH.

"I look forward to assisting in this challenging and politically fruitful process hopefully leading to a strong, united Croatian political force in BiH," Mr. van Velzen added.

Mr. van Velzen will be visiting Bosnia and Herzegovina later in December for the first round of consultations with the two parties - he will be accompanied by EPP Secretary of External Relations, **Kostas Sasmatzoglou**.

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