

ITALIAN CENTRE-RIGHT FORCES MUST UNITE IN VIEW OF NEW ELECTIONS

06-02-2008



Following the dissolution of the Italian Parliament after an unsuccessful attempt last week by the speaker of the Italian Senate, **Franco Marini**, to form a new institutional government, early elections have been called upon for 13 and 14 April.

Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the EPP and Head of Forza Italia at the European Parliament, also mentioned yesterday during the EPP Political Bureau in Madrid that *"the highly fragmented centre-left government led by Romano Prodi has finally come to an end. We hope that new elections will produce a stronger and more stable government that will take on the institutional reforms needed in Italy"*, he continued. *"The centre-right coalition is in the strong position to win elections in Italy today and it will be a viable and powerful alternative to the centre-left coalition who, governing for less than two years, has demonstrated its inability to govern successfully"*, concluded Mr Tajani.

According to the EPP President, **Wilfried Martens**, *"this is a crucial moment for all parties pertaining to the centre-right coalition in Italy. We invite all parties of the centre-right coalition, La Casa delle Libertà, to present themselves united in the common battle against the centre-left coalition. By experience, we know that only if we coordinate our efforts and present ourselves in a common coalition we can prevail. We therefore invite all members of the EPP to coalesce and present themselves aligned in a strong campaign in view of the early election,"* concluded Mr Martens.

The European People's Party has currently three full members, Forza Italia (FI), L'Unione dei Cristiani Democratici (UDC) and UDEUR.

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