

MARTENS SUPPORTS PARTIDO POPULAR IN MADRID

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The President of the European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried Martens**, declared his support to the Spanish **Partido Popular** and its leader, **Mariano Rajoy**, during a "Convención", held last weekend in Madrid that was open to the public and to journalists.

"2005 was a difficult year for the European Union due to the results of the referenda on the Constitutional Treaty in France and the Netherlands; but the Partido Popular supported the European interests instead of partisan interests", Martens stated during his speech in the plenary session.

"The Partido Popular has a very good political project, a very good team of men and women and a prominent leader, Mariano Rajoy. You are the party of the citizens and this is the key to win the next Spanish elections," President Martens declared.

In the closing speech of the "Convención", Mariano Rajoy thanked Wilfried Martens for attending the meeting. The leaders of the UMP (France), **Nicolas Sarkozy**, and the PSD (Portugal), **Luis Marques Mendes**, also attended the "Convención".

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