

MARTENS: SCHRÖDER AND EICHEL IN BREACH OF EUROPEAN LAW



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EPP President Wilfried Martens, while addressing the CDU Congress in Düsseldorf, sharply criticized the socialist-led government of Chancellor G. Schröder.

Referring to the uncontrollable rise of public debt and unemployment, he declared that Germany is a characteristic example of a country led by an incompetent government. The fact that Chancellor Schröder knows nothing about European policy, has now become common knowledge, he stated.

Martens stressed that the Maastricht Stability and Growth Pact provides the necessary framework for a stable European currency, yet today, it's really a shame to see how the socialist-green government put the Stability Pact in jeopardy.

Thus, the EPP President called for an increase in the EU Commission's competences, in order to urge member-states to fulfill the deficit criteria of three percent. Otherwise, nobody would take this limit serious anymore.

Schröder and Eichel are in breach of European law, Wilfried Martens continued. Not only have they betrayed their people; they have endangered the future of the common currency.

In this context, the EPP President urged the CDU to utilize the remaining 22 months before federal national elections, for the preparation of the next CDU/CSU government. The situation in Germany is critical, Martens said. The only way forward, is a CDU/CSU government that will implement courageous reforms.

Finally, President Martens took the opportunity to thank CDU President Angela Merkel for her continuous and active support of the EPP, and congratulated her landslide re-election victory.