

## EPP VICE-PRESIDENT KARAMANLIS, FUTURE GREEK PRIME MINISTER

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EPP President Wilfried Martens congratulated his Vice-President Kostas Karamanlis for the great success in the Greek parliamentary elections on Sunday. The EPP Member Party Nea Demokratia managed to get 45,51 % of the votes whereas the Pan Hellenic Socialist Party (PASOK) ended at 40,58%.

EPP President Martens said: "After almost 20 years of socialist government this is a great opportunity for Greece for a new, reform orientated policy in order to create more jobs and prosperity."

The conservative victory, which Karamanlis described as a victory for "a new policy in a new era," redrew the Greek political map after the socialists had governed since 1993 and had only been out of power for three years since 1981.

Provisional estimates say New Democracy will end up with 170 of parliament's 300 seats.

Karamanlis, a U.S.-educated lawyer who is Greece's first prime minister born after World War II, takes power just five months before the August Olympic Games, a massive security and logistical operation for which preparations are behind schedule. Mr Karamanlis promised his new government would work hard and be humble, yet daring and efficient. "The Olympic Games will be the best and safest and Greece will show its modern face," Mr Karamanlis said.

The new Greek government will be announced tomorrow and sworn in on Wednesday.