

◆THE EPP: YOUR MAJORITY IN EUROPE◆, XVI EPP CONGRESS

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EU Prime Ministers, opposition leaders from the EPP◆s 64 member parties, regional presidents and members of the different European institutions, foundations and organizations are invited to the XVI European People◆s Party Congress on the 4th and 5th February in Brussels.

The Congress slogan will be ◆The EPP: Your majority in Europe◆

In order to prepare the European Elections on 13th June, participants will decide on the Action Programme 2004-2009 and the Electoral Manifesto of the EPP. They will vote also the amendments on the Party Statutes and several resolutions.

◆The EPP as the party of the European common good celebrates this XVI Congress of great importance for the coming years. This meeting is crucial for our family to become again in June the biggest European political party and continue working in favour of European citizens interest◆, said EPP President, Wilfried MARTENS

◆As our Action Programme stresses, the state is at the service of the citizens, not the other way around. What underlies the authority and legitimacy of the state is its ability to serve or promote the common good of the citizens. When Member States are no longer capable of fully performing this function, then it is legitimate to call upon the Union to protect and serve the general interest of the people◆, MARTENS added.

Jo◆lle Milquet, CDH President and Yves Leterme, CD&V President will open the EPP Congress.