

THE EPP CALLS FOR A **◆YES◆** VOTE IN FRANCE

09-05-2005



Party leaders from all over Europe, high profile members of the European Convention and Members of the European Parliament gave their full support to a **◆Yes◆** vote in the French referendum on the European Constitution during the European People's Party conference **◆The Constitution - our common project◆**, held in Paris on the 8th and 9th of May.

During these two days, EPP members expressed their commitment to the European Constitution and unanimously approved a declaration, which urges **◆all Europeans to rally behind the new Constitution to reaffirm their commitment to a peaceful, democratic and prosperous European future together◆**

The EPP stresses in this document the **◆significant progress◆** of the European Union towards **◆economic prosperity, social justice and sustainable development, safeguarding the European model of society◆**.

Therefore, the EPP welcomes the reforms included in the Constitution and supports its ratification **◆to protect and consolidate all that has been achieved since the Union's inception to build a common European home◆** and **◆to secure a stronger and more united Europe for the future◆**.

◆I am convinced that the French people will decide in favour of this Constitution. A great country like France has inspired European integration since the beginning. France needs ◆ like all our countries do - a strong Europe to defend our model of society in the world. I want a strong France in Europe, not one which is watching from the sidelines◆ EPP President Wilfried Martens said.

Speakers of the EPP Conference **◆The Constitution - our common project◆** included Michel Barnier, Minister of Foreign Affairs in France; Jean-Luc Dehaene, MEP, European Convention Vice-President; Hans-Gert Poettering, MEP, Chairman of the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament; Elmar Brok, MEP, former Chairman of the EPP Convention Group and representative of the European Parliament in the IGC; Pierre Lequiller, EPP Vice-President and Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs in the French National Assembly; Alain Lamassoure, MEP and National Secretary for European Affairs; Iñigo Méndez de Vigo, MEP and Member of the Presidium of the European Convention of the UMP, among others.

PARIS DECLARATION

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