

## BERLIN WALL: "WE CHANGED THE HISTORY OF GERMANY, EUROPE & THE WORLD," SAYS WILFRIED MARTENS, EPP PRESIDENT AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER

09-11-2009



**Wilfried Martens**, President of the European People's Party (EPP) and Prime Minister of Belgium during the historic events of 1989, remembers the day of the fall of the Berlin Wall and its significance: (Watch video [here](#))

*"The fall of the Berlin Wall 20 years ago was a momentous event which I had the honor and privilege of experiencing as Prime Minister, together with my other western European colleagues and, of course, with Chancellor **Helmut Kohl**. The EPP in particular had, for many years, worked very hard for this moment since we were the political family that took the lead and fought openly against communist and Soviet oppression in central and eastern Europe. When the opportunity finally came in 1989, I was one of the first Prime Ministers in the European Council to give my full backing to Helmut Kohl and his efforts for the reunification of Germany. It was a moment where we changed the history of Germany, Europe and the world,"* Wilfried Martens underlined.

*"20 years later Europe is re-unified, free, democratic, prosperous and strong. 10 former communist countries of central and eastern Europe are now full members of the European Union and over 500 million European citizens are now living together in peace and freedom. But with this anniversary we must also remember that in Europe there is still work to be done: Belarus hosts the last dictatorship of Europe; democracy is still fragile in Ukraine and Moldova; there are still many unresolved problems in the Western Balkans. Therefore, we must continue to draw inspiration from the fall of the Berlin Wall and remember that freedom and democracy are fundamental European values which, at any moment and at any place, are worth fighting for,"* the EPP President added.

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