

STATEMENT BY THE EPP PRESIDENT ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN ITALY

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The President of the EPP, **Wilfried Martens**, has made the following statement on the political situation in Italy:

"Following the dissolution of the Parliament and in the perspective of the elections of 13 and 14 April 2008, I invited the parties of the Centre-Right in Italy to unite in a common battle against the Centre-Left coalition.

According to Silvio Berlusconi, Forza Italia will form a common list together with other parties of which Alleanza Nazionale. At the same time he announced that he also would like to create a new party with them called "Popolo della Liberta". Nevertheless, negotiations are ongoing regarding the exact formation of both the single electoral list and the new party formation.

To be admitted in the EPP as member party this party will have to submit an application to the EPP. The acceptance and adherence to the Basic Programme of the EPP is an essential condition for membership. The Political Bureau of the EPP will decide on this by majority vote.

The recommendation of the EPP Heads of State and Government and the leaders of the EPP Member Parties will also be essential. They will meet next at the EPP Summit in Brussels on 13 March 2007"

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