

## EPP PRESIDENT RESPONDS TO SCHULZ LETTER

13-03-2006



Following the publication in the Greek press of the 9<sup>th</sup> of March letter of PSE Group Chairman **Martin Schulz**, addressed to [EPP Prime Ministers](#) and regarding their attendance at the [XVII triennial EPP Congress](#) in Rome, EPP President **Wilfried Martens** declared it *totally unacceptable for the European People's Party*. Here is the full statement of President Martens:

*The letter of 9 March 2006 by Mr Martin Schulz, Chairman of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament, addressed to EPP Prime Ministers and regarding their attendance at the XVII triennial EPP Congress, is totally unacceptable for the European People's Party (EPP), a party that has championed democratic values for 30 years. The EPP, as the political successor of the European founding fathers, has a deeply rooted democratic tradition, which is endorsed by our 71 member-parties in 36 countries.*

*The unprecedented intervention of Mr Schulz in the internal affairs of the EPP is totally unfounded in EU political practices. Apparently, it seems that Mr Schulz has acted on his own initiative - without the consent of the Party of European Socialists (PES) - and by doing so, threatens to jeopardize any working relations among European-level parties.*

*It is truly astonishing how Mr Schulz dares to challenge our leaders and member-parties, using as a pretext an issue which was actually discussed in the 2002 Italian elections. At the same time, Mr Schulz is not in a position to criticize the democratic credentials of our member-parties. I hope that Mr Schulz is in a position to confirm the democratic credentials of all members of the Socialist Group.*

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