

EPP WELCOMES EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT 'YES' TO BULGARIA AND ROMANIA

13-04-2005



European People's Party President, Wilfried Martens, welcomed today the European Parliament's vote in favor of the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the European Union, which should be signed on April 25th.

◆The EPP fully supports that Bulgaria and Romania join the EU in 2007. Today's vote is a positive signal, but at the same time, it is an encouragement for the Governments of these two countries to continue with reforms in order to be successful in their EU integration◆, said Martens.

Martens also welcomed the agreement reached between the Council and the Parliament before the vote in order to meet EPP-ED Group's requirements. The Group had decided yesterday evening to request a postponement of the vote because the budgetary arrangement in the Treaties of Accession did not protect the powers and rights of the European Parliament.

◆This last-minute agreement proves once more the influence of the largest Group in the European Parliament◆, said Martens, who congratulated EPP-ED Group Chairman, Hans-Gert Poettering, for this success.

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