

EPP LEADERS CALL FOR RATIFICATION OF THE LISBON TREATY BEFORE JUNE 2009

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Brussels, 13 December

The EPP leaders today agreed that the new EU Treaty should be ratified and enter into force before the European elections of June 2009.

After signing the Treaty in Lisbon the EPP Heads of Government and opposition met today in Brussels prior to the European Council meeting of tomorrow.

The leaders agreed to unite their efforts to ensure the Treaty is ratified by all EU members States before June 2009.

"The EU needs the new Treaty in order to end the political crisis suffered over the last two years, and to focus on what is really important: the daily concerns of the citizens, such as the economy, the environment and the security", the President of the EPP, **Wilfried Martens**, stated after the meeting.

"The EPP has played a decisive role in the preparation, debate and adoption of the new Treaty. Now we are also going to lead the final implementation of the text", he added.

Nine EU Heads of Government -including the newly elected Polish PM, **Donald Tusk**, participated in today's EPP meeting.

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