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Brussels, 15 April

The President of the European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried Martens**, has congratulated the leader of the centre-right coalition Silvio Berlusconi, for his landslide victory in the Italian elections.

Mr. Berlusconi's party, Forza Italia, has become the main political factor in Italy.

"I really hope that this result will allow Italy to embark in the necessary structural and institutional reforms needed", said President Martens.

"I am confident that the victory of PdL alliance will strengthen the values of the EPP political family in Italy. This is a landmark victory both for Mr. Berlusconi and for Italy", he added.

"After winning the elections for the third time, Silvio Berlusconi will again successfully lead the Italian government. I am looking forward to working with him as Italian Prime Minister", EPP President concluded.

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