

EPP PRESIDENT CONGRATULATES CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER STEPHEN HARPER FOR ELECTION VICTORY

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The President of the European People's Party (EPP) **Wilfried Martens** has congratulated today Canadian Prime Minister and leader of the Conservative Party of Canada (CPC) **Stephen Harper** for his election victory in the country's parliamentary elections. Harper's Conservatives returned to power with a stronger, broadly based minority government. The EPP and the Canadian Conservatives have established in recent years close bilateral relations.

"I would like to congratulate Prime Minister Stephen Harper for winning yesterday's elections and securing a stronger mandate. Stephen Harper has once again proven that he is a strong leader, capable of bringing his country forward even at a moment of global economic crisis," Martens stated.

"From my many personal contacts with Stephen Harper, I know that he is a warm supporter of transatlantic relations – I, therefore, look forward to continuing our political dialogue in order to address our common global challenges," the EPP President added.

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