

EPP DELIGHTED WITH RE-ELECTION OF BARROSO - COMMISSION PRESIDENT HAS A STRONG MANDATE FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

16-09-2009



The President and the Secretary General of the European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried Martens** and **Antonio Lopez-Isturiz**, expressed today their delight with the re-election of **Jose Manuel Barroso** as European Commission President. They underlined the "strong mandate" that Barroso has and the "new impetus" he will give to Europe.

Jose Manuel Barroso was endorsed for the second time by the EPP as its candidate for a second term as President of the European Commission during the campaign for the European elections. After EPP's resounding election victory in June 2009, all 27 EU heads of state and government nominated Barroso for a second term. Barroso received 382 votes out of 718 MEPs who participated in the vote. Martens personally congratulated Barroso for his re-election.

"I am delighted with the result President Barroso received in the European Parliament today. President Barroso has a strong mandate to lead the European Commission for the next five years and to deal with the manifold challenges of the EU such as the economic and financial crisis. Needless to say, Barroso will have the full backing of the EPP in his new mandate," stated President Martens.

"Today's vote reflects once again that the EPP is the leading political force in Europe – we have the largest Group in the European Parliament, the majority of the 27 heads of state and government in the European Council and now the Presidency of the European Commission. Sadly, various leading figures from other political families acted irresponsibly over the last weeks in an effort to block Barroso's re-election, to de-stabilize the EU institutions, and to undermine the democratic verdict of the June elections", Lopez-Isturiz added.

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