

EPP PRESIDENT CONGRATULATES FINNISH FINANCE MINISTER JYRKI KATAINEN FOR RATING EUROPE'S NR. 1 FINANCE MINISTER

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EPP President **Wilfried Martens** expressed deep satisfaction following today's result of the recent [Financial Times \(FT\) survey on Europe's Finance Minister](#), as the top nr.1 rank was awarded to **Jyrki Katainen**, Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of Finland, and already Vice-President of the European People's Party (EPP).

"I sincerely congratulate Katainen for this excellent result which shows his commitment, strong leadership quality and outstanding work as Finland's Finance Minister, especially during these difficult times marred by deep economic unrest and financial crisis in Europe.", he stated.

The President of the EPP reminded that Mr. Katainen is also successfully leading the group of Finance and Economic Ministers which belong to the EPP political family, in a common effort to better coordinate economic policies around Europe. *"In a moment of looming economic recession in Europe, we welcome the result of this survey as it underscores also the hard work done by Mr. Katainen in bringing together the EPP Finance Ministers. This shows his constant commitment also to the ideals of European integration and cooperation, in addition to his proven capacity of steering the Finnish economy into the right track."*

Underlining the role played by Mr. Katainen during the latest communal elections in Finland, President Martens reminded also that due to the strong electoral victory of the centre-right Kokoomus party - a member of the EPP since 1995- the Socialists had been ousted from power for the first time in years, thus placing Katainen as a future front-runner for Prime Minister in Finland. *"I am convinced that Katainen's excellent political skills, sound knowledge and sharp intellectual qualities will pave the way for him to a brilliant political career in his country"*, Martens declared.

Finally, Mr. Martens announced that the EPP is carefully reviewing its economic and financial proposals in view of the forthcoming European elections. "I intend to closely consult our election program with our Finance and Economic Ministers in the forthcoming months, in order to better respond to our citizens who increasingly demand from their politicians straightforward and concrete answers to this economic slowdown in Europe."

FT Video interview with Mr. Katainen [available here](#)

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