

## EPP LEADERS MEET IN ATHENS FOCUSED ON EU CONSTITUTION

19-02-2004

Several Prime Ministers will participate in the EPP Presidency meeting that will take place in Athens on February 19th to evaluate the work of the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) and to prepare the European Summit in Brussels on 25th March.

The debate will be focused on the future European Constitution and the coming European elections.

The meeting, proposed by the EPP President, Wilfried MARTENS, and the leader of Nea Demokratia, Kostas KARAMANLIS, will take place at The Byzantine Estate, from 13:30 to 16:30h.

◆ The future European Constitution depends on the agreement of European Prime Ministers. The European People's Party, as the biggest political party in the EU, has the responsibility towards the European citizens to reach a consensus in this issue. This meeting is the opportunity to try to approach our different positions and reflect our ideals ◆, MARTENS said.

◆ The European People ◆ s Party represents today the majority of EU governments. We will exchange views on major issues, such as the agreement on a European constitutional Treaty and the creation of more solidarity-based and job-generating economies, in view of next March ◆ s European Council. A month before the Greek and Spanish parliamentary elections and three months before the European elections, the EPP manifests once again its willingness to move forward ◆ for the benefit of all our citizens ◆, KARAMANLIS said.

### EPP Summit

Date: 19th February

Venue: The Byzantine Estate

Spata-Attiki. Athens. GREECE

Time: 13.30h

NOTE TO THE PRESS:

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The Byzantine Estate is located 7 km off Attiki Odos, the highway that connects Athens airport with the centre of Athens (12km in total from the Athens International Airport).

Wilfried MARTENS and Kostas KARAMANLIS will pronounce a joint statement at the end of the meeting.

Photo and TV camera opportunities will be during the meeting. Sound registration is not allowed.

A small press center will be available.