

EPP PRESIDENT: «ENLARGEMENT, A SUCCESS FOR THE WHOLE OF EUROPE »

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The EPP President, **Wilfried Martens**, has welcomed today's European Commission report on the 2004 and 2007 enlargements of the European Union (EU).

"It confirms that the accession of 12 new countries since 2004 has been an enormous success both from an economical and political point of view. It marked the end of a divided Europe and inaugurated a new era of peace, prosperity and stability in the continent," said Martens.

"The accession of these new countries has been positive for the whole united EU, its 27 Member States and citizens who are the EPP's main priority. I am convinced that today's EU is not only bigger but stronger and better able to deal with the challenges that we are facing in a globalised world," he added.

President Martens pointed out, *"I am especially proud that the EPP family has also expanded in a simultaneous way to the new countries in the EU. Parties from the 12 new countries are today full members of the EPP and in some cases - Romania, Poland, Lithuania, Malta - they are even in government. As a symbol of this new era the EPP will celebrate its next Congress in Warsaw, Poland, on 29 and 30 April"*.

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