

## EPP PAYS TRIBUTE TO HANS-AUGUST LÖCKER

21-02-2005



On the occasion of the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Hans-August Löcker, one of the founding fathers of the EPP, President Martens made the following statement:

*When studying the rich Cv of Hans-August Löcker, one of the many highlights is, clearly, his Chairmanship of the Group of the Christian Democrats of the European Parliament, from 1969 to 1975. During this dynamic period, a new generation of Christian democrats was in the process of preparing what eventually became the European People's Party.*

*As political pioneers, we all had a great interest in the promotion of political cooperation at the European level. Needless to say, Hans-August played a catalytic role in this process. We would often meet in the seat of the European Union of Christian Democrats (EUCD), which coordinated the cooperation of the Christian democratic parties of the six member-states, together with parties from candidate countries.*

*As Chairman of the Group in the European Parliament, Hans-August Löcker launched the idea that the Group should be guided in its daily political activities by a transnational political organization, with common values and long-term goals. "We will not succeed," he said "unless we create a European democratic party". As a result, he became the Rapporteur and I the Chairman of the committee that prepared the draft of the **Basic Programme**. Soon after, **on April 29, 1976**, the European People's Party was founded.*

*Since then, his engagement in European politics was total, full of motivation and authority. Today, we are all experiencing the fruits of his efforts, thanks to his inspiration and foresighted vision. As a founding father of the EPP, Hans-August Löcker will always be a guiding light for all of us.*

*On behalf of the entire EPP family, I would like to thank you for your immeasurable contribution and wish you a very happy birthday!!*

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