

## EPP PREPARES BROAD DISCUSSION ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

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Following the recent problems with the ratification of the Constitutional Treaty, the European People's Party is preparing a broad debate on the future of Europe. An EPP Working Group decided on June 6 to prepare a document on how to set clearer priorities for the European Union, taking into account the worries of the citizens expressed in the recent referenda.

The document will be prepared in a Working Group co-chaired by EPP President Wilfried Martens and EPP Vice-President Peter Hintze. It will include an action plan for the EPP and its Member Parties, as well as proposals for a more transparent functioning of EU institutions. It will be prepared in close consultation with all EPP Member Parties and the EPP Heads of government.

*◆I am aware of the fact that in the referendum debates lots of issues were raised which had nothing to do with the Constitutional Treaty. But on the other hand, there is no doubt that many citizens associate Europe with something negative. Now we have to concentrate on what our citizens expect from the European Union,◆ Martens said. ◆The EPP has always called for a European Union which is not responsible for everything but concentrates on the areas where common action brings an added value. Now it is the point of time to make this clear again,◆ said the EPP President.*

The document will be prepared by the Working Group after summer and be decided on the upcoming EPP Congress in spring 2006 in Rome.

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