

POETTERING CONGRATULATES ANGELA MERKEL

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The Chairman of the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament, Hans-Gert Poettering, has congratulated the new German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, on her election.

In his letter of congratulations, Poettering emphasised his conviction that the new German Chancellor will continue the policy of European unification in the tradition of Konrad Adenauer and Helmut Kohl. The EPP-ED Group hopes that Mrs Merkel will succeed, within the framework of the next German Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the first half of 2007, in providing direction in European Policy.

The Chairman of the largest parliamentary group in the European Parliament said he hoped that Germany would provide a stronger economic performance to the advantage of all European countries. *"Europe needs a successful Germany"*, declared Poettering in his letter.

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