

## EPP CALLS FOR A RESPONSIBLE MODEL FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH TO REDUCE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

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### Congress on Climate Change in Ioannina (Greece): EPP CALLS FOR A RESPONSIBLE MODEL FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH TO REDUCE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE – APLAUDS NEA DEMOKRATIA'S CONTRIBUTIONS

The President of the European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried Martens**, defended today that the European Union (EU) should introduce an environmentally and socially responsible model of economic growth for reducing the effects of the climate change, which is one of the main challenges that the world is currently

facing.

"Let us not loose out on this great opportunity, but collectively strengthen our cooperation and efforts in the fight against climate change in Europe", he added.

Speaking in a **Congress organized by Nea Demokratia (ND) on the Environment on 1st July 2007 in Ioannina**, President Martens said that *"the EPP aims to reconcile economics and ecology in the concept of sustainable development, combining security of energy supply with alternative ways to power our economy without increasing greenhouse gases above critical levels. In this respect, we want to encourage the use of new environmentally-friendly technologies in Europe, and at the same time highlight the job creation potential that such technologies will have for our citizens"*.

The President of EPP congratulated Prime Minister **Kostas Karamanlis** for his initiative to host the opening of the EPP's European Dialogue on Climate Change in the city of Ioannina, in northwest Greece.

The Greek PM, opening the Congress, stated that the action against environmental degradation and the fight against Climate Change is one of the main priorities of Nea Demokratia. During the period ND is on the government substantial steps towards environmental protection, involving all citizens, have been made.

President Martens concluded that ND's important initiatives on the environmental policy have made Greece one of the leading countries that are in full compliance with the Kyoto obligations. Nea Demokratia's environmental policy has made Greece a trusted and respected partner in Europe and the world. This is the reason, he continued, why Greeks have high confidence in Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis and they will re-elect Nea Demokratia for another 4-year term.

Before ND's Congress on the Environment, representatives of EPP Member Parties and Nea Demokratia debated on the European Policy on Climate Change, during a meeting organized in 29-30 June 2007, under the chairmanship of President Martens. Experts on climate change from the academic world and the EU institutions also contributed in the discussion.

Among the participants in the meeting in Ioannina were **Mr Stavros Kalogiannis**, Greek Deputy Minister for the Environment, **Mrs Eija-Riitta Korhola**, Member of the European Parliament, **Mr Georgios Papastamkos**, Member of the European Parliament, **Mrs Christiana Kalogirou**, Member of the Special Committee on Environment Protection of the Hellenic Parliament, **Mr Antonios Fousas**, Member of the Hellenic Parliament, **Mr Konstantinos Tasoulas**, Member of the Hellenic Parliament, **Mr Evagellos Baltas**, Secretary General of Environment in the Greek Ministry of Environment, **Mr Staffan Jerneck**, Director of Corporate Relations (Centre for European Policy Studies), **Mrs Pilar del Castillo**, Member of the European Parliament Temporary Committee on Climate Change ([speech here](#)) and **Mr. Stavros Papastavrou**, International Secretary of ND.

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