

**SOCIALIST MEETING IN BERLIN ♦ A HUGE FLOP ♦ ♦ PES PRESIDENT ♦ DESPERATE ♦**

26-03-2007



With the conclusion of the 50th anniversary festivities in Berlin, EPP President **Wilfried Martens** responded this morning to Saturday's unprecedented attack of PES President **Poul Nyrup Rasmussen** against the EPP and its Summit meeting in Berlin.

Specifically, the EPP President stated that "obviously Mr. Rasmussen was desperate to find something to say in order to cover-up the flop that his meeting was. The PES meeting managed to bring together only 2 EU Prime Ministers. Thus, if - according to Mr Rasmussen - the EPP is an 'unlikely grouping incapable of agreeing', why then was the

*EPP Summit such a huge success and the PES meeting such a huge flop? It's not the EPP's fault that Mr Rasmussen cannot get his own people to sit around the same table."*

*"Finally, I think that Mr Rasmussen's choice to attack us in the middle of the celebrations in Berlin shows poor taste and shallow political judgement,"* Martens concluded.

Over 60 participants - 9 Heads of Government, the Presidents of EPP member parties, the President of the European Parliament, **Hans-Gert Poettering**, the Vice President of the European Commission Franco Frattini, and many others - participated at the EPP Summit, which was hosted by German Chancellor **Angela Merkel** and chaired by EPP President Wilfried Martens.

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