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Durban: EPP wants lasting solutions to combat climate change

Brussels, 1 December 2011



The President of the European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried Martens**, expressed today his expectations for the UN Conference on Climate Change in Durban:

"Although we are currently trying to build a more sustainable system for our financial markets to make the Euro stable again, we must not neglect the issue of sustainability when it comes to the preservation of our planet. Therefore, the negotiations at Durban, South Africa and their outcome are of utmost importance and concern for our EU citizens."

Karl-Heinz Florenz, EPP Member of the European Parliament and Chairman of the ad-hoc EPP Working Group on Climate Change, who is the Vice President of the European Parliament's delegation to the UN conference in Durban added:

"On the global stage, we realise and feel the limits of growth. Only with a green economy and investment in new technologies we will also be able to guarantee prosperity and jobs in the future. The EPP feels that it is most important to find new levers for the negotiations, new ways of getting other countries 'on board'. We need, therefore, a true 'Climate Diplomacy' and strategic partnerships and alliances with those countries that are willing to commit."

Europe needs to remain the frontrunner in developing more efficiency in all areas of energy consumption. Likewise, we need to use all the elements necessary to achieve the highest possible reduction in greenhouse gases from now until 2020 of 25 to 40% of use in comparison to 1990. The EPP demands, moreover, a binding agreement for after expiration of the Kyoto-Protocol in 2012.

We need to be ambitious, not only for the sake of preserving creation, but also in order to generate incentives for the European industry to make the most modern and efficient products in the world.

Note to editors:

The EPP is the largest and most influential European-level political party of the centre-right, which currently includes 74 member-parties from 39 countries, the Presidents of the European Commission, European Council, and European Parliament, 17 EU and 6 non-EU heads of state and government, 13 members of the European Commission and the largest Group in the European Parliament.

For more information on the Congress and Summit:

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