

Citizens 'no longer trust the European Left'

Brussels, June 6, 2002



At the EPP Political Bureau held today in the European Parliament, EPP President Wilfried MARTENS welcomed the latest electoral results in Europe and congratulated EPP member parties in the Netherlands and Portugal for their recent political successes.

He pointed out that the polls for coming elections in France as well as in Germany are also extremely positive.

Martens stressed that the left in the European Union no longer enjoys the trust of the citizens. 'By the end of September' he said 'a broad majority of the European Council will belong to our political family'.

EPP President said that the last political events and the failure of the left in Europe to have a coherent political project show that after September the 11 some subjects have to be discussed 'carefully, but with no fear'. 'There is no longer place for the sterile political correctness of the left' he added.

He also announced that asylum and immigration will be top issues in the agenda of the European Council to be held in Seville, June 21 2002.

Concerning the works of the Convention on the future of Europe, Martens said that the reunification of Europe to come in the following years is 'more than a traditional enlargement'. He appealed to a wide consensus on the EPP and the EPP-ED Group on the draft document 'A Constitution for a strong Europe' that will become the basic document for the EPP Congress next October in Estoril, Portugal.

'In the past we also remained united and showed solidarity around the main pillars of EPP Programme. I call upon you to unite so that our Congress will be a great success for our political family as well as for the European Union'.

The paper outlines the EPP's vision of a European Constitution laying down a much clearer distribution of competences, more transparency and democratic institutions, and integrating the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

The same meeting voted to accept application for observer status by SKDU party from the Slovak Republic and application for associate Membership by EVP party from Switzerland and accepted a resolution on the situation in Rumania presented by PNTCD.

[pictured left: EPP President Wilfried MARTENS and EPP Secretary General Antonio LOPEZ ISTURIZ at the Political Bureau this afternoon]