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Joke Schauvliege chairs first EPP Environment Ministers meeting

Luxembourg, 14 October 2010



Eight Ministers participated this morning in the first EPP Environment Ministers' Meeting to discuss the key topics of the Council agenda such as biodiversity, preparation of the Cancún meeting on climate change and the European Commission proposal on GMOs. The meeting was chaired by the EU President of the Environment Council, Belgium's Flemish Minister for Environment, Nature and Culture, **Joke Schauvliege**, who took the initiative together with EPP President **Wilfried Martens**.

The EPP Ministers of Environment agreed to meet on a regular basis before every meeting of the Environment Council:

"Coordination and cooperation within our political family is an important step to reach conclusions on the Council level. The policy area of environment and especially progress on fighting climate change is and will remain essential for the EPP," Schauvliege underlined.

During the meeting, the Hungarian Minister **Sandór Fazekas**, condemned the catastrophic incident in the Ajkai Timfoldgyar alumina refinery (160 kilometres southwest of Budapest) and gave an update on the situation.

The EPP Environment Ministers' Meeting is part of a series of EPP Ministerial meetings such as Foreign Affairs, EcoFin, Energy, Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, Defense, Justice and Home Affairs, Agriculture and Transport, organised and coordinated by the Party from its Brussels headquarters. The EPP Ministerial meetings underpin the horizontal activity of the Party with all the main EU institutions including the Council.

Note to editors:

The EPP is the largest and most influential European-level political party of the centre-right, which currently includes 73 member-parties from 39 countries, the Presidents of the Commission, Council, and Parliament, 14 EU and 5 non-EU heads of state and government, 13 members of the European Commission and the largest Group in the European Parliament.

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