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## EPP VP Jyrki Katainen welcomes 'European Semester' kick-off

*Helsinki, 12 January 2011*



The Vice President of the European People's Party (EPP) and Finnish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance **Jyrki Katainen** welcomed today the launch of the 'European Semester', which will coordinate economic and budgetary policies across the EU:

"I welcome the start of the European Semester because it's the first tangible step to real economic governance in the EU. It is also the very first tangible result of the Task Force led by European Council

President **Herman Van Rompuy**, who worked tirelessly during last year to increase political consensus and policy coordination among EU governments," Katainen underlined.

"This cycle of reinforced ex-ante coordination at European level will help us to correct imbalances and prevent deviations in due time, when Member States prepare their national budgets and national reform programs. If we manage to coordinate our efforts through this new process, the EU will become stronger and more resilient to potential pressures from the world markets," the Finnish Finance Minister and EPP Vice-President stressed.

Next week, Jyrki Katainen will chair in Brussels the regular EPP EcoFin Ministerial meeting, which will review the current economic situation in the EU, the Single Market Act, and the G20 agenda.

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### 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 6 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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