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## Croatia: EPP & CES President Wilfried Martens visits Osijek

Osijek, 17 November 2010



**Wilfried Martens**, President of the European People's Party (EPP) and the Centre for European Studies (CES) is in Osijek, Croatia to participate in the conference on "Croatia in the EU", organized by the Croatian Statehood Foundation and the CES. President Martens expressed his great pleasure in visiting a country, which will soon become the 28th Member State of the European Union, and underlined his full support to PM **Jadranka Kosor**

and the HDZ, an EPP member-party:

"It is my pleasure to be here in Osijek today and express once again my full support to Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor and her HDZ-led government, whose impressive efforts has brought Croatia closer than ever to the EU.

Croatia has made considerable progress in recent years, in completing all the requirements for becoming a full member of the EU. The path for membership has not been easy and there are still many challenges ahead. However, I am confident that PM Kosor will, firmly and swiftly, lead Croatia to the successful completion of accession negotiations," Martens underlined.

"Last week the European Commission issued a report on Croatia which recognizes PM Kosor's major reforms which have brought Croatia at the doorstep of the EU. That's why I would like to congratulate PM Kosor for her hard work, especially in the fight against corruption. And I am sure that she will continue to show her determination in the implementation of all the necessary reforms.

I hope that next year, during the Hungarian Presidency of the European Council, Croatia will sign the Accession Treaty. There is no doubt in my mind that PM Kosor will be the first Prime Minister - an EPP Prime Minister - to represent Croatia in the EU as a full member," Martens added.

### 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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