

EPP ENDORSES DRAFT 2002 PAPER + ACCEPTS TWO NEW MEMBERS

Brussels, December 6, 2001



The EPP Political Bureau today endorsed for discussion at the EPP Summit in Meise on December 13 a draft position on reform of the European institutions. *A Constitution for a Europe that Works* was presented by EPP President Wilfried MARTENS (*left*) and the leading German CDU figure Wolfgang SCHÄUBLE, who co-chaired the EPP's European Policy committee.

The EPP is the first trans-European party to reach basic agreement on institutional reform ahead of the December 14/15 EU Summit at Laeken.

There has to be a clear definition of what European institutions do, and what Member States do," Schäuble told a press conference in the European Parliament.

The paper outlines the EPP's vision of a European constitution laying down a much clearer distribution of competencies, more transparent and democratic institutions, and integrating the Charter of Fundamental Rights. One of the paper's more radical proposals is for the Commission President to be elected by the European Parliament, then confirmed by majority vote in the European Council.

After further debate between member parties, the paper will become the basic document for the EPP Congress next October.

The same meeting voted to accept applications for membership by the French Gaullist *Rassemblement pour la République* (RPR) and the Italian *Partito l'Unione Democratica per l'Europa* (UDEUR). The RPR's five deputies, and the UD EUR's one MEP, already sit with the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament.

Margie SUDRE MEP, leader of the French delegation in the Group said: "I am truly delighted that the RPR has joined the EPP. It will allow our movement, and our RPR deputies, to make their voices fully heard, and to defend our vision of the future of Europe in the European Parliament."