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## **EPP President Wilfried Martens saddened by the passing away of Paolo Barbi**

*Brussels, 16 June 2011*

The President of the European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried Martens**, has expressed his deep sorrow for the passing away of **Paolo Barbi**, former Italian MEP and Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament (1982-1984):

"I am very saddened by the passing away of my good friend and colleague Paulo Barbi. Barbi played a central role in building our political movement in Europe. As leader of our EPP Group in the European Parliament and as an ever-present figure in the work and activities of the European People's Party, Barbi had a catalytic role in making our political movement the largest in Europe," Martens stated.

"Paulo Barbi's strong leadership and ground-breaking Christian democratic ideas, will always remain an important source of inspiration for the EPP," Martens concluded.

### Note to editors:

The EPP is the largest and most influential European-level political party of the centre right, which currently includes 75 member-parties from 39 countries, the Presidents of the Commission, Council, and Parliament, 15 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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