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**press release**



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## Spain: EPP congratulates Partido Popular and Mariano Rajoy for historic victory in regional and local elections (EN+ES)

*Brussels, 23 March 2011*



The President and the Secretary General of the European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried Martens** and **Antonio López-Istúriz**, today congratulated Partido Popular (PP) and **Mariano Rajoy** for the "historical victory" in the regional and local elections held yesterday in Spain. The PP scored 37,5% votes versus 27,7% from the Socialist party.

"The PP has received the very strong support of citizens in regions where it was in power and also won in places traditionally under socialist governance," they stated.

"The results show that Spaniards are looking for a clear alternative from the failed policies of Zapatero's government, in view of the on-going economic crisis which is the main problem of the country. The political project of Mariano Rajoy and the Partido Popular is the best option to deal with this crisis and the many other challenges that Spain is facing. We are looking forward to congratulating him at next month's EPP Summit in Brussels," they concluded.

## El PPE felicita al Partido Popular y a Mariano Rajoy por su histórica victoria en las elecciones regionales y locales

*Bruselas, 23 de Mayo*

El Presidente y el Secretario General del Partido Popular Europeo (PPE), **Wilfried Martens** and **Antonio López-Istúriz**, han felicitado hoy al Partido Popular y a su Presidente, **Mariano Rajoy**, por la "histórica victoria" en las elecciones autonómicas y locales celebradas ayer en España. El PP obtuvo un 37,5% de los votos frente al 27,7% del Partido Socialista.

"El PP ha recibido un claro apoyo de los ciudadanos en comunidades autónomas y municipios donde ya gobernaba y ha ganado también en lugares donde tradicionalmente había gobiernos socialistas", aseguraron.

“El resultado demuestra que los españoles buscan una alternativa a las fallidas políticas del Gobierno de Zapatero dado que la crisis económica es el principal problema del país. El proyecto político de Mariano Rajoy y el Partido Popular es la mejor opción para gestionar la crisis y los otros desafíos que España debe afrontar. Esperamos felicitar personalmente a Rajoy en la Cumbre del PPE del próximo mes en Bruselas”, concluyeron.

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, 16 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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