



twitter.epp.eu



facebook.epp.eu



flickr.epp.eu



youtube.epp.eu



myepp.eu



myepp.tv

■ press release

■ www.epp.eu

EPP Headquarters | Press and Communication Department | 10, rue du Commerce | B-1000 Brussels  
 Phone: +32-(0)2-285 41 47 | Fax: +32-(0)2-300 80 13 | E-mail: [press@epp.eu](mailto:press@epp.eu)

## EPP welcomes European Council conclusions; Roma issue should not be exploited

Brussels, 16 September 2010



The President of the European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried MARTENS**, welcomed the conclusions of the European Council and underlined the preparatory role of last night's Party Summit in Meise ([see photos here](#)):

"I welcome the conclusions of the European Council and I am particularly pleased that they largely reflect our own conclusions from last night's discussions at the EPP Summit: the importance of EU's strategic partners for a concerted response in world affairs, the need for added momentum in European governance, and much more," said the EPP President.

"Also the Roma issue was discussed at the EPP Summit and all parties involved were able to air their differences in a positive and constructive manner. It is very unfortunate that our political opponents tried – unsuccessfully – to exploit this delicate issue and to use it as a weapon against us. Actually, it is ironic that only the EPP Prime Ministers met prior to the European Council and tackled these issues; the Socialists cancelled their meeting – due to 'logistical reasons' – and the Liberals didn't even try to meet," the EPP President added.

Last night's EPP Summit hosted **Angela MERKEL** (Germany), **Francois FILLON** (France), **Viktor ORBAN** (Hungary), **Traian BASESCU** (Romania), **Jan-Peter BALKENENDE** (the Netherlands), **Yves LETERME** (Belgium), **Valdis DOMBROVSKIS** (Latvia), **Boyko BORISOV**, (Bulgaria), **Iveta RADICOVA** (Slovakia), and the Presidents of the European Council, the European Commission, and the European Parliament - **Herman VAN ROMPUY**, **Jose Manuel BARROSO**, and **Jerzy BUZEK**. **Jyrki KATAINEN**, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Finland and EPP Vice President, **Karel SCHWARZENBERG** Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Czech Republic, and **Carl BILD**, Foreign Minister of Sweden, also attended the Party Summit. EPP Secretary General **Antonio LOPEZ-ISTURIZ** and the members of the EPP Presidency, as well as **Joseph DAUL**, Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament, attended the Meise meeting.

Also, heads of state and government of non-EU countries participated at the Summit - **Jadranka KOSOR** (Croatia), **Nikola GRUEVSKI** (FYROM), **Sali BERISHA** (Albania), **Mikheil SAAKASHVILI** (Georgia), **Vlad FILAT** (Moldova) - as well as **Mladjan DINKIC**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Economy of Serbia. In addition, the Party Summit hosted opposition leaders **Enda KENNY**, (Fine Gael, Ireland) and EPP Vice President, **Janez JANSI** (SDS, Slovenia), **Nicos ANASTASIADIS** (DR, Cyprus), **Pedro PASSOS COELHO** (PSD, Portugal), **Mart LAAR** (IRL, Estonia) and **Yulia TYMOSHENKO** (Batkivshchyna, Ukraine).

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, 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.

For more information:

Kostas Sasmatzoglou, Spokesman, Tel: +32-2-2854147

Javier Jimenez, Press Officer, Tel: +32-475480446

This message sent to by **press@epp.eu**  
EPP Headquarters - 10, rue du Commerce, B-1000 Brussels  
Press and Communication Department  
Kostas Sasmatzoglou, Spokesman (Tel: +32-2-2854174)  
Javier Jimenez, Press Officer (Tel: +32-475480446)  
[Unsubscribe](#) | [Forward To A Friend](#)

