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EPP President welcomes comprehensive measures of the European Council to strengthen the economy

Brussels, 25 March 2011



The President of the European People's Party (EPP) **Wilfried MARTENS** welcomed today's decisions on economic measures, taken by the European Council. The basis of these decisions were discussed at yesterday's EPP Summit in Meise ([click here for photos](#)) and also at the EPP Summit in Helsinki earlier this month:

"I welcome the comprehensive pack of decisions on economic measures made by the European Council. I congratulate the European Council for reaching such a broad agreement and I particularly thank the EPP Heads of State and Government for their essential contribution.

"As the EPP originally proposed in its **5-point plan on 4 March in Helsinki**, the European Council has formulated a comprehensive response to put an end to the insecurity regarding Europe's economic situation. In the 5-point plan, the EPP leaders proposed two types of measures:

- **Measures to safeguard the financial stability in the Euro Area** and assure financial markets of our commitment towards the Euro. These included the improvement of the EFSF and the establishment of the ESM.
- **Preventive long-term measures** to improve our economic governance and enhance budgetary discipline and macroeconomic imbalances. These have now been included in the agreed 'Euro Plus Pact'.

"We also asked for non-Euro area Member States to be invited to participate in all the measures on a voluntary basis. This is exactly what happened and I am very happy that six non-Euro countries have announced that they will participate.

"I am convinced that now we have all the right tools for kick-starting economic growth and creating employment opportunities across Europe," underlined the EPP President.

Finally, EPP President Wilfried Martens also welcomed the position of the European Council on Libya:

"I am very pleased with the fact that the European Council has reiterated its commitment to remain firmly on the side of the people of Libya. The time has come for Kadhafi to go" the EPP President stressed.

The Presidents of the European Council, European Commission and European Parliament - **Herman VAN ROMPUY**, **José Manuel BAROSSO** and **Jerzy BUZEK** - and **Viktor ORBÁN** (Hungary – EU Council Presidency), **Angela MERKEL** (Germany), **François FILLON** (France), **Jean-Claude JUNCKER** (Luxembourg), **Traian BĂSESCU** (Romania), **Fredrik REINFELDT** (Sweden), **Yves LETERME** (Belgium), **Enda KENNY** (Ireland), **Donald TUSK** (Poland), **Valdis DOMBROVSKIS** (Latvia),

Boyko BORISOV (Bulgaria), and **Iveta RADIČOVÁ** (Slovakia), attended yesterday's EPP Summit.

Moreover, Deputy Prime Minister **Karel SCHWARZENBERG** (Czech Republic), and opposition leaders **Pedro PASSOS COELHO** (Portugal), **Mariano RAJOY** (Spain), **Antonis SAMARAS** (Greece), **Nikos ANASTASIADES** (Cyprus) and **Janez JANŠA** (Slovenia) also attended.

Non-EU heads of state and government **Jadranka KOSOR** (Croatia), **Nikola GRUEVSKI** (FYROM), **Sali BERISHA** (Albania), **Mikheil SAKASHVILI** (Georgia) and **Vlad FILAT** (Moldova) attended the Party Summit. In addition, **Mladen DINKIC** (Serbia), President of G17 Plus and opposition leaders **Erna SOLBERG** (Norway), **Yulia TYMOSHENKO** (Ukraine), and **Alaksandar MILINKIEVIC** (Belarus) also attended.

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.

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