

THE EPP WILL REMAIN THE LARGEST EUROPEAN POLITICAL PARTY AFTER THE 2009 ELECTIONS



The President of the European People's Party (EPP), Wilfried Martens, has said that the EPP 'will remain the largest political force in the European Union' after the European elections in 2009.

Martens made this remark in Brussels following the presentation given by the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament on its priorities for the next European elections.

'There are a number of major challenges ahead. Combating climate change will certainly be the most important concern for future generations as well as Europe's demographic survival; a prosperous Europe through an economy with renewed vigor, better cohesion and chances for everybody; a safer Europe through combating terrorism and crime; and a powerful Europe on a global scale with a common voice and model for cooperation,' stated President Martens.

'Europe must hold the political power to engage with, and reap the benefits of, globalization, while respecting its cultural diversities. Especially in a globalized world we need to base our policies on values,' he added.

President Martens looked forward to the cooperation with the EPP-ED Group in order to defend the 'shared ideals of freedom and democracy, and the principles and values for the common good.'

The full speech of President Martens is available here. Other speakers included Joseph Daul, Chairman of the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament, Jaime Mayor Oreja, Vice-Chairman of the EPP-ED Group, Jos  Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission and Hans-Gert Poettering, President of the European Parliament.

More information on the EPP-ED Group's priorities is available at: http://www.epp-ed.eu/Press/peve08/eve015_en.asp.