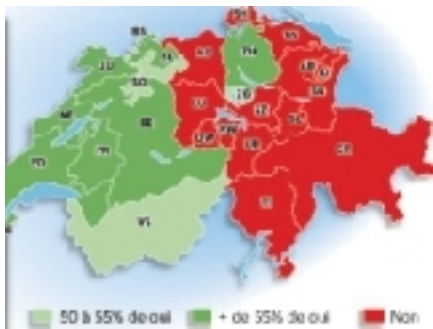


## SWISS REFERENDUM - A POSITIVE MESSAGE AT A DIFFICULT TIME



European People's Party President Wilfried Martens welcomed today the positive result of the Swiss referendum to join the Schengen passport free area. "It is a positive message for Europe at a difficult time, when Euroskeptics are trying to halt the EU integration process", he said.

"This result shows that even citizens outside the Union want Europe and what Europe stands for: more freedom, security and prosperity. This desire must encourage EU leaders to move forward with the necessary reforms and projects that are now needed" he added.

EPP President has called for Switzerland to continue with this positive approach towards the EU.

