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Turkey: EPP President congratulates PM Erdoğan and AKP for 3rd consecutive win

Brussels, 13 June 2011



The President of the European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried Martens**, congratulated today Turkish Prime Minister **Recep Tayyip Erdoğan** for the AK Party's 3rd consecutive victory in Turkey's parliamentary elections. The AKP, an observer member of the EPP, received 49,81% of the votes and 326 seats.

"On behalf of the EPP, I congratulate Prime Minister Erdoğan and the AK Party for this impressive electoral victory. Voters have backed the manifold reforms of the AKP government which delivered, among others, strong economic growth and significant unemployment reduction," President Martens stated.

"Constitutional reform will one of the biggest challenges for PM Erdoğan's new government and, in this respect, I welcome the Prime Minister's call to seek consensus with the opposition parties and with civil society, in order to build the country's new constitution. Needless to say, we hope that this new process will bring Turkey closer to the European Union," the EPP President added.

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, 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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