

Resolution of the Heads of Government and Party Leaders of the EPP (Brussels, 13 April 1991)

Caption: On the occasion of the Conference of Heads of Government and Party Leaders of the European People's Party (EPP), held in Brussels on 13 April 1991, the EPP announces that it is prepared to admit the people's parties of the Scandinavian and Central European countries to its organisation and welcomes the contacts which have brought the British Conservatives closer to the policies of the EPP, with a view to forming a 'Community of Groups' in the European Parliament.

Source: Historical Archives of the European Union, Florence, Villa Il Poggiolo. Deposits, DEP. Emanuele Gazzo, EG. Groupes politiques, EG.B.A-03.01. Populaires et conservateurs au Parlement européen, EG-68.

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Resolution adopted unanimously by the Conference of Heads of Government and Party Leaders of EPP (Brussels, 13 April 1991)

In the context of a federal and democratic European Union and its future enlargement to the Scandinavian countries and the countries of Central Europe, in conjunction with the increasing importance of the European Parliament, which parallels these developments, the Heads of Government and Party Leaders of the EPP declare:

The European People's Party

1. considers itself to be a force of the centre of Christian Democratic inspiration. The development of the European Community into a federal political Union, represents for the EPP its foremost objective. In this context, the EPP will take an initiative to develop a European Constitution and a basic programme;
2. will make special efforts for the safeguarding and the development of its Christian Democratic identity and its policy programme to face the challenges of the future. To this end, an Institute (possibly within the framework of the Robert Schuman Foundation, which was established by the EPP in 1977) must be created in order to coordinate and organise the necessary actions to this end and give substance to its identity. This Institute will be founded upon the activities, the experiences and the structures of the existing Foundations and Institutes linked to member parties;
3. will work in the long term in close cooperation with those People's Parties who, in their countries, are following social policies, comparable with and sharing the objectives of the European policy of the EPP. Responding to its vocation as a leading force it is basically disposed to accept these people's parties into its organisation if they ask for admission and only if they accept the principles, basic programme and statutes of the EPP. A Christian-democratic Education and Training Center, to support the present efforts in the countries concerned, and for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe is very important.
4. welcomes the contacts which have brought the British Conservatives closer to the European and social policies of the EPP, as confirmed by the letters of 5th of April from Sir Christopher Prout and of the 11th of April from Mr. Chris Patten. This confirms the strength and attractiveness of the EPP. Has noted with much satisfaction that over the course of the last two years, following intensive dialogue and constructive cooperation, the MEPs belonging to the EDG accept not only the main policies of the EPP Group but also the fundamental programme of the EPP adopted in Luxembourg Programme ("On the People's Side") and of the document of the Dublin Congress ("For a Federal Constitution for a United Europe");
5. recommends to its Group to establish, without delay, with the European Democratic Group, a "Consultation Committee" which will have responsibility, for the carrying out of the following tasks
 - a) to consult:
 - on matters of common policy based on the programme and the documents of the EPP Dublin and Luxembourg Congresses;
 - on parliamentary work;
 - with a view to the elections of the new authorities of the European Parliament for the second half of this legislature (January 1992 - June 1994);
 - on the establishment of a common structure for the future;
 - on the clarification of eight crucial political questions:
 - agricultural policy,
 - social policy,

- family policy, Christian identity of men and its political implications,
- federal Europe,
- environmental policy,
- security policy,
- monetary policy.

b) on this hypothesis during the first quarter of 1992 to reach an agreement in principal with the European Democratic Group on the formation of a 'Federation of Groups' to be composed of members of the EPP (Christian Democrats) and of the European Democratic Group (Conservatives);

6. assumes that this type of close and organised cooperation, if accepted by the EPP Group, will lead the British Conservatives to a policy which is even closer to the EPP. At the end of the present legislature (June 1994) the EPP will reexamine, in the light of the experiences and of the electoral programme, the usefulness of continuing or of developing this decision.