

EPP VISIT TO WASHINGTON ENDS WITH SUCCESS

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The five-day visit of EPP President **Wilfried Martens** to Washington DC ended with great success, following a series of meetings with high-level officials from the US Administration, members of US think-thanks and foundations, Ambassadors and representatives from the European Union (EU). The visit was hosted by the International Republican Institute (IRI - [click here for IRI press release](#)).

On Thursday, 1 February 2006, the President Martens attended the 55th National Prayer Breakfast, hosted by US President **George W. Bush**.

"I am particularly pleased with the results of this visit - our contacts have now become substantial and contribute significantly to the strengthening of transatlantic relations," stated the EPP President.

The EPP President also met with **Barry Jackson**, Deputy Assistant to the US President, **Kurt Volker**, Principal Deputy Secretary of State, **Jeff Krilla**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, **Julienne Nelson**, President of the European Institute, **Michael Novak** from the American Enterprise Institute, **George Weigel** from the Ethics and Public Policy Center, **Kenneth Weinstein** and **Hillel Fradkin** from the Hudson Institute, **Tim Kane** and **Bridgett Wagner** from the Heritage Foundation, **Norbert Wagner**, Head of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, **Lorne Craner**, President of IRI, EU Ambassador **John Bruton**, and many others.

President Martens - who was accompanied by **Kostas Sasmatzoglou**, EPP Secretary of External Relations - also had the opportunity to meet in Washington with EU Commissioner for External Relations **Benita Ferrero-Waldner** and the EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy **Javier Solana**.

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