

EPP PRESENTS ITS POLITICAL VISION AT THE U.S. REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

03-09-2008



St. Paul, 3 September 2008

On Tuesday, 2 September 2008, the European People's Party (EPP) hosted in St. Paul (U.S.) a public event with representatives of the Republican Party, international leaders, policy experts and business executives. More than 300 participants attended the event, which took place on the margins of the Convention that the Republican Party, which will be officially nominating Senator **John McCain** as its candidate for President of the United States.

The event presented the center-right values, activity and role of the EPP in the European political system and analyzed its commitment in strengthening the transatlantic partnership.

The keynote speakers of the event included EPP President **Wilfried Martens**, EPP Secretary General **Antonio Lopez-Isturiz**, the EU Ambassador to the United States and former Irish Prime Minister **John Bruton**, and the President of the International Republican Institute, **Lorne Craner**.

The EPP event also included a number of special guests such as Congressman **Pete Hoekstra** (MI), **Secretary Lawrence Eagleburger** (former Secretary of State), Secretary **Jim Nicholson** (former Secretary of Veterans Affairs), and Ambassador **Richard Burt**.

At the event, Wilfried Martens stressed that *"this is actually the first event ever to be organized by the EPP outside of Europe,"* and that in the past three years the EPP has now established *"a unique channel of center-right political communication and understanding between America and Europe."*

Martens also added that *"we now hope to reinforce this work and establish new synergies with the creation of a permanent hub in Washington DC."*

The EPP is participating for the first time in a Republican Convention with a large delegation of representatives from EPP member-parties.

Note to the editors: The EPP is the largest transnational political party in Europe with 72 member parties of the center-right in 38 countries.

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