

## MARTENS MEETS CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER ♦ CONCLUDES NORTH AMERICAN VISIT

06-05-2006



EPP President **Wilfried Martens** met on Friday 5 May with the recently-elected Canadian Prime Minister and Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada **Stephen Harper**, concluding a week of high-level meetings in Washington and Ottawa.

♦*My meeting with the Prime Minister was very cordial but also very substantive. We reviewed the importance of Canada in the transatlantic partnership and the common interests and values Europe and Canada share. **Stephen Harper** is a strong leader and is emerging as a powerful voice in our global center-right political family,*♦ Martens stated.

The EPP President also met with Canadian Minister of Health **Tony Clement**, a leading figure of the new CPC government, as well as with the EU Ambassador to Canada **Eric Hayes**.

In Washington, President Martens, together with EPP Secretary General **Antonio Lopez-Isturiz**, MEP, held a series of meetings at the White House, Capital Hill, State Department and at think-tanks, organized by the International Republican Institute (IRI): **Barry Jackson**, Deputy Assistant to the US President, Congressman **Paul Ryan** (R-WI), Congressman **Mark Souter** (R-IN), **Scott Carpenter**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, **Michael Novak** and **Joshua Muravchik** from the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), **Ken Weinstein**, CEO of the Hudson Institute, **Grover G. Norquist**, President of Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), and others.

The EPP delegation also met with IRI President **Lorne Craner**, who thanked him for organizing the meetings:

♦*In less than a year, the EPP and the IRI made together great progress in our cooperation. Just last week, we jointly organized a very successful event in Brussels with US Senator and IRI Chairman **John McCain** and a few days later the EPP was able to have excellent meetings in Washington. Without a doubt, this partnership has great potential because it ♦s founded on our common transatlantic values,*♦ Martens stated.

Finally, the EU Ambassador to the US **John Bruton** hosted a luncheon at his residence, in honor of Wilfried Martens and his delegation, which included a number of distinguished guests.

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