

## **GAS CRISIS AND THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION: THE CENTRE-RIGHT WANTS A STRONG EUROPE, SAYS JOSEPH DAUL**

07-01-2009



Offering his season's greetings to the European press, **Joseph Daul** MEP, Chairman of the EPP-ED Group (centre-right), the biggest and most influential group in the European Parliament, emphasised the importance of *"a strong Europe in a European Union which uses its influence"* to play the role of mediator, be it for the situation in the Middle East or for the energy crisis which has hit Europe.

*"The 288 centre-right Members of the European Parliament expect the Czech Presidency to act with the same determination and energy as the previous Presidency, in close cooperation with the European Commission to demand the restoration of the gas supply to European countries and their neighbours, to get the conflicting parties to the negotiating table and to reach a speedy agreement."*

*"Europe must also rise to the challenges in respect of the tragedy in the Middle East by providing victims with short-term humanitarian aid and by exerting strong political pressure to reach a lasting solution"*, declared Joseph Daul who was accompanied at the press meeting by the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament, **Jacek Saryusz-Wolski** MEP.

The Chairman of the EPP-ED Group also highlighted the necessity to continue the efforts begun in 2008 to resolve the economic and social crisis, caused by the financial crisis, by imposing and implementing rules. Joseph Daul said: *"Contrary to what our political opponents declare, it is not the free market which is at fault, but the absence of rules of control. This is what Europe needs to change globally."*

*"The best model is the one we have always defended; the social market economy. The Socialists, who want social progress without economic growth, have still not learned any lessons from the fall of the Berlin Wall 20 years ago"*, concluded the Chairman of the EPP-ED Group.

The centre-right is working on winning the European elections in June this year and ensuring that the next European Commission has a President and political priorities in accordance with its values and ideals, widely held in Europe.

For further information:

Joseph Daul MEP, Tel: +32-2-2847525  
Antoine Ripoll , Chairman's Spokesman, Tel: +32-475-856290

---

 [Print](#)