

EPP PROMOTES THE DEBATE ON EUROPE'S ENERGY CHALLENGE

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The European People's Party (EPP) and the European Ideas Network (EIN) organized today a debate on "Europe's Energy Challenge" and focused on the supply of energy, climate change and new sources of energy.

More than 150 people participated in this seminar, including European Commissioners for Energy and for Environment - **Andris Piebalgs** and **Stavros Dimas** - as well as representatives from companies of the field of the energy and members of the European Parliament.

Mr. Piebalgs said that it is necessary more cooperation within the European Union (EU) in order to achieve agreements in the field of the energy but also a dialogue with third countries such as China and India. In this context, Commissioner Dimas announced that the European Commission will present in the second half of 2007 new proposals regarding the energy and the protection of the environment.

Speaking from the point of view of the companies, the Secretary General of BUSINESSEUROPE, **Philippe de Buck**, explained that the priorities of the EU should be to guarantee the energy supply, to reduce the energy dependence and to cooperate with non European partners, for example United States and Russia.

Other speakers in this event included **Wilfried Martens** (EPP President), **James Elles** (MEP and Chairman of the EIN), **Viktor Orban** (EPP Vice - President), **Joseph Daul** (Chairman of the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament) and **Arthouros Zevros** (President of the European Renewable Energy Council).

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