

DAUL: EPP-ED GROUP SUPPORTS THE PRIORITIES OF THE FRENCH PRESIDENCY

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During the debate today in the European Parliament with the French President, **Nicolas Sarkozy**, the Chairman of the EPP-ED Group, **Joseph Daul** MEP, welcomed the ambitious programme of the French Presidency of the Council of Europe which aims at finding solutions to the numerous problems faced by European citizens, bearing in mind that we have to work fast to implement the Lisbon Treaty.

"With the French Presidency, the EPP Members of my Group wish that those Member States who have not yet ratified the Treaty, do it soon.

We are hoping that, on reflection, like France and the Netherlands when they rejected the Constitutional Treaty, Ireland will offer its 26 partners a way out of the current impasse. We ask each Member State to avoid any negative escalation and show a spirit of responsibility. Our Group would like to put an end to this institutional debate and is confident in the French Presidency to work towards this goal", said Daul.

According to the Chairman of the most influential group in the European Parliament, European citizens' problems are accumulating and getting worse at a time when the European Union is devoting its energy policy to developing a better decision-making instrument.

"This same energy could be put into creating employment, defending our interests, promoting our social model and our European specificity. Also, it is essential that we work to address the priorities of the French Presidency as laid out by President Sarkozy. There is an urgent need for action, be it on climate and energy, migration, food security or defence", said Daul.

"Our Group supports the willingness of the French Presidency to push forward and make courageous proposals to its partners in the upcoming six months."

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