

◆ FORUM FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES ◆ DEBATED ON THE CHALLENGES OF EUROPE

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The Forum for European Studies (FES) organized on 12th of April 2007 its second panel discussion "Europe, a challenge - vision and reality" on the main topics of the Union's current presidency, featuring Bavarian Minister President **Dr. Edmund Stoiber**; **Joseph Daul**, the leader of the EPP-ED-group in the European Parliament; **Viktor Orbán**, the former Prime Minister of Hungary, as well as the president of the foundation "Forum for European Studies", **Dr. Ingo Friedrich MEP**.

"Member countries which want to stop or even turn back the European integration process should think about the question of whether they should not leave the EU", **Dr. Edmund Stoiber** claimed given the missing commitment to further European integration of some member states of the EU during the discussion event of the foundation of the EPP "Forum for European Studies" which he was hosting together with the president of the foundation, **Dr. Ingo Friedrich MEP**, in the Bavarian Representation to the EU in Brussels.

The discussion under the moderation of **Udo van Kampen**, the head of the ZDF (Second German Television) studio in Brussels, focussed on the question of which would be the best answer to the challenges of the 21st century like climate change and globalisation.

Together with **Joseph Daul**, the leader of the EPP-ED-group in the European Parliament, and **Viktor Orbán**, the former Prime Minister of Hungary there was consensus that Europe must take on a leading role in the fostering of global standards in economics as well as social and environment policy.

"We must use climate technology in order to assure a leading role for Europe in this area", **Dr. Edmund Stoiber** declared.

A common energy policy would be a basic prerequisite for a secure energy supply and the independence of instable supply regions in the world, **Ingo Friedrich** stated. **Joseph Daul** also stated that nuclear energy would have to be discussed on a European level.

Relating to the European Constitution, the common opinion was that any new developments can only be expected after the second tour of the French presidential elections in May. *"We need courage and visions of Europe which really appeal to the hearts of the people"*, **Edmund Stoiber** declared. The provision of the Constitution which foresees early consultation of the national parliaments was an important step towards a more transparent and less bureaucratic European Union.

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