

## MARTENS AND LOPEZ-ISTURIZ MEET WITH LOCAL EU JOURNALISTS

11-06-2008



The President and Secretary General of the EPP, **Wilfried Martens** and **Antonio López-Istúriz**, participated in the "Summer University", a meeting with local journalists from all EU Member States, co-organized by the EPP and the EPP Group in the Committee of the Regions. This year the meeting was dedicated to intercultural and interfaith dialogue.

Addressing the university's participants in the opening session, President Martens said, *"one of the main achievements of the European project is the consolidation of peace in Europe, and increased interfaith dialogue in our regions and cities will certainly help to promote this*

*basic common value."*

*"This is why,"* added Martens, *"activities in potentially sensitive areas, and amongst target populations, should be strongly promoted through effective communication and education whereby different groups of society can learn to live together respectful of each other's differences."*

*"Migration, as well as the open market through the reduction of barriers, and the free movement of citizens in the EU have created new kinds of diversities in Europe. We have to invest, more than ever, in the dialogue between religions and cultures on all levels; the EPP promotes a society which emphasizes the importance of every single person,"* said the EPP President.

In a general speech, Secretary General Antonio López-Istúriz insisted on the need to reduce *"the gap between the political class and the European citizens,"* and underlined the role of local journalists in achieving this goal.

*"The EPP is committed to finding practical, concrete and realistic solutions, and wishes to propose these in a comprehensive electoral program for the elections to the European Parliament in 2009,"* he said.

*"The EPP is striving for a Europe which is better understood, and ever closer to the citizens, a Europe which is safer and more prosperous,"* concluded the Secretary General.

Participants in the meeting included **Isidoro Gottardo**, President of the EPP Group in the Committee of the Regions, and **Jan Figel**, EU Commissioner for Education and Training, as well as industry experts.

---

 [Print](#)