

EPP & EIN DISCUSS CHALLENGES & STRATEGIES FOR POLICY-MAKING

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On 9-11 March, Policy Directors from the EPP Member Parties participated in a meeting on Challenges and Strategies for Centre-Right Policy-Making in Europe, which was jointly organized by the EPP, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the European Ideas

Network, in Cadenabbia, Italy.

The aim of the meeting was to discuss some of the fundamental challenges facing our societies and economies in the next two decades. The participants discussed the issue of demographic change and possible solutions for sustainable social security systems in ageing societies. In a second panel, representatives of Member Parties, as well as business experts, discussed the challenges of competitiveness and economic reform, with special regard to the future of the labour market and research and development. In third panel, former EU Commissioner for Transport and Energy, Loyola de Palacio presented ideas about a sustainable energy policy in the light of the recent rise in oil and gas prices and the future of carbon-free energy sources (such as renewables and nuclear energy). EPP President Wilfried Martens contributed to the discussion by presenting his ideas on European identity and the geographic limits of Europe.

The meeting showed that EPP Member Parties have a strong interest in discussing the challenges which will be especially important to future generations. EPP President Wilfried Martens stressed that the EPP wants to be the Party which provides a sustainable approach to policy-making. We cannot and should not build our societies at the expense of future generations. Our children and grand-children want jobs, a prosperous economy and social security systems which are able to provide for them in 50 years. This is why we face up to the need for reform.

The Chairman of the European Ideas Network, James Elles MEP, said that the European Ideas Network is happy to provide a platform for the centre-right political family in Europe to exchange ideas and compare best practice, so we can develop modern policy-making in a long-term perspective. Michael Borchard of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung added: "This seminar was a model of its kind: creative thinking was put at the disposal of good policy-making. The KAS was delighted to have hosted this important initiative."