

## EPP INITIATIVE: LOCAL MEDIA MEETS EUROPE

12-06-2007



On 12 and 13 June, the **European People's Party (EPP) Group in the Committee of the Regions (CoR)** is organizing in Brussels, after great success of its first Summer University for local and regional media in September 2006, the second round of this initiative called "**Local Media Meets Europe - Europe Meets Local Media**".

There is a very high interest among local and regional media in this event, more than seventy journalists and press officers from different cities and regions across Europe have already registered.

*"The EPP wishes to bring Europe closer to citizens and involve them as much as possible in the creation of the European project. To achieve this crucial objective, the EU needs to act more locally and communicate with its citizens on a much more decentralized basis"*, states **Isidoro Gottardo**, President of the EPP/CoR Group.

Through the 2007 Summer University, the EPP/CoR Group aims to support the Commission's Plan D for Democracy, Dialogue and Debate with a concrete action which will provide local and regional journalists with an opportunity to be direct-actors in EU debates.

*"Local and regional media are the ideal conduit for transmitting the benefits arising from European integration to citizens in a comprehensible and attractive way as they have direct and everyday contacts with the local population and can put the European message across in the right context"*, stresses Isidoro Gottardo.

This year the political debates are dedicated to climate change and energy, security in Europe, and how to communicate these topics to citizens. Among the main speakers are **Wilfried Martens**, President of the EPP, **Joseph Daul**, President of the EPP-ED Group, **Carlos Coelho**, **Oldrich Vlasak**, **Eija-Riita Korhola**, Members of the European Parliament, **Luc Van den Brande**, 1st Vice-President of the CoR, **Nicole van Lipzig**, scientist from the Catholic University of Leuven, **Jean-Pascal van Ypersele**, Vice-Chair of Working Group on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, EPP/CoR members, and several distinguished guests.

Journalists will also have an opportunity to discuss effective communication tools with press departments of the European Commission, European Parliament, Committee of the Regions, and to participate in the weekly press conference of the European Commission.

On 13 June in the afternoon, the EPP Group will hold its extraordinary Group meeting to continue in debates on current communication trends in Europe with **Viviane Reding**, Commissioner for Information Society and Media, **Antonio Lopez-Isturiz**, Secretary-General of the EPP and Chair of the EPP campaign management Group, and **Simon Walker**, Corporate & Communication Director of Reuters Group.

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