

JOSEPH DAUL BACKS SARKOZY'S SPEECH IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Responding to the speech of the President of the French Republic, EPP-ED Group Chairman **Joseph Daul** MEP has welcomed the open and frank speech delivered by **Nicolas Sarkozy**.

"Europe is a highly political construction, and the French President did not hesitate in asking for a debate on the real issues for 500 million Europeans: respect for identities, defence of human rights, implementation of a defence policy and an immigration policy, protection without protectionism in a globalised world, refusal of social and environmental dumping", said Joseph Daul.

The Chairman of the most influential political group in the European Parliament welcomed the convergence of the French President's priorities with those defended by his parliamentary group: defence of European values, security in all its forms, reforms to free the economy and solidarity with the underprivileged.

Joseph Daul welcomed freedom of tone expressed by Nicolas Sarkozy in Strasbourg: *"No subject can be taboo, especially not the real issues: currency, defence, overhaul of the agricultural policy, energy and climate."*

Finally, the EPP-ED Group supports the willingness of French President to initiate and support a reflection on the future of Europe with the creation of a Committee of Wise Men.

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