

OBAMA: EPP LOOKS FORWARD TO STRONG TRANSLANTIC TIES

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The President of the European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried Martens**, congratulated this evening **Barack Obama** for his inauguration as the new President of the United States of America and expressed hope that his new Administration will support the strengthening of transatlantic relations.

"I would like to wish Barack Obama all the success in his new tasks. President Obama has ahead huge challenges such as dealing with the global financial crisis. At the same time, in today's globalised world, close cooperation between the European Union and the United States will be crucial for dealing with our common challenges such as climate change, security, and economic recovery," the EPP President stated.

"As we have done with previous US Administrations, the EPP will engage the new Obama Administration to strengthen transatlantic ties. Everybody knows that the US and EU share the same fundamental values: freedom, democracy, peace, solidarity; if we stand side-by-side I am convinced that we will be able to deal with the world's problems with effectiveness and efficiency," Martens concluded.

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