

EPP PRESIDENT: "US ♦ EU COOPERATION IS THE ONLY WAY TO TACKLE THE ECONOMIC CRISIS"

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Wilfried Martens, the President of the EPP, has welcomed the outcome of last Saturday's meeting between **George W. Bush**, US President; **Nicolas Sarkozy**, the President of France and EU Presidency; and **José Manuel Barroso**, the President of the European Commission.

"They agreed on the necessity to cooperate – the US and the EU - in order to solve the economic crisis as quickly and efficiently as possible. This is the right approach and the only way to tackle the crisis - I hope that future meetings will continue in this direction," said President Martens.

"Since we are living in a globalised economy, the joint leadership of the US and EU is crucial if we are to successfully resolve the main challenges ahead: not only the current economic crisis but also climate change and security issues," he added.

"I am particularly pleased with the fact that Mr Sarkozy and Mr Barroso, both members of the EPP, have met with President Bush to ensure collaboration on these issues. It reflects once again that good transatlantic relationships are fundamental and beneficial for both sides; and that is why the EPP is strongly committed to strengthening these bonds further," concluded President Martens.

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