

## WASHINGTON VISIT OF EPP DELEGATION ENDS WITH SUCCESS

21-07-2005



A high-ranking 5-member delegation of the EPP, headed by President Wilfried Martens, concluded with great success a four-day visit to Washington DC (18-21 July).

The first two days were dedicated to the participation of the delegation in the ♦Leaders Meeting♦ of the International Democrat Union (IDU), which was hosted by the International Republican Institute (IRI). President Wilfried Martens had the opportunity to meet with IDU Chairman and Prime Minister of Australia John Howard and to discuss IDU-EPP relations.

♦The EPP is willing to establish a tangible relationship with the IDU and to function as a bridge with the CDI. Our global political family must work together in order to tackle the challenges of the future,♦ Martens stated.

In the framework of the IDU meeting, President Martens had the opportunity to meet with many world leaders of the centre-right including United States President George W. Bush, who hosted a special meeting at the White House.

Moreover, the last two days of the visit were dedicated to a series of meetings organized by the IRI in the framework of the newly-launched partnership of the Institute and the EPP.

President Martens and his delegation met with Congressman Joe Wilson (R-SC) and Congresswoman Jo Ann Davis (R-VA), Assistant Secretary of State Glyn Davies, Deputy Assistant to the President Barry Jackson, President of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) Carl Gershman, Professor Michael Novak from the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) and a number of officials from the Congress, the Senate and the State Department.

In addition EPP and CDI Secretary General Antonio Lopez Isturiz had a special meeting with officials from the Cuban Affairs Office and the DRL Bureau of the State Department and the Latin America and Caribbean Bureau of the US Agency for International Development.

Finally, President Martens and his delegation had fruitful talks with IRI President Lorne Craner and the IRI leadership for the development of the collaboration and specific activities: ♦Our relationship with the IRI has opened new doors for the transatlantic partnership and I return to Brussels with great optimism. The EPP and the IRI will work hard to jointly promote our common goals,♦ Martens declared.

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