

## EPP PRESIDENT COMMENTS ON THE DIALOGUE OF RELIGIONS

21-09-2006



On Monday, September 18, the EPP Presidency discussed the reactions which the speech of the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, in Regensburg, caused in many muslim countries.

*"The Pope made clear that the controversial quote from the 14th century did in no way reflect his opinion. On the contrary, the EPP welcomes the Pope's statements on freedom of religion as well as his openness for a dialogue of religions which he again stressed. He made clear that our common future must be founded on non-violence and mutual respect,"* EPP President **Wilfried Martens** explained after a meeting of the EPP leadership in Brussels.

*"A dialogue needs a clear and radical rejection of religious motivation for violence. For the EPP, I would like to stress that we consider values such as the dignity of the human person, the separation between religion and state as well as the freedom of speech as foundations of our societies,"* the EPP President pointed out.

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