

MARTENS AND LOPEZ-ISTURIZ DISCUSS WITH SPANISH PP LEADER MARIANO RAJOY THE EU AGENDA

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The President and the Secretary General of the European People's Party (EPP) met yesterday in Madrid with the President of Partido Popular, **Mariano Rajoy**. The Partido Popular is a long-standing member of the EPP.

They discussed the political situation in Spain and in the European Union (EU), including the economic crisis and the perspectives of the upcoming Spanish EU Presidency (first half of 2010). Mariano Rajoy explained to **Martens** and **Lopez-Isturiz** the package of proposals tabled by the PP for the EU Presidency.

"It was a very fruitful meeting. Partido Popular is one of the most active parties within the EPP and Rajoy has repeated his commitment to work in favour of the general interest of European society. I believe that very soon he will do the same when he will lead a new Government in Spain", Martens stated.

Earlier in the day, President Martens presented in FAES, the think-tank of the PP, his new book "Europe: I struggle, I overcome", along with the former Prime Minister of Spain, **José María Aznar**. Martens said that one of the goals of his new book is to explain how the EPP - currently the largest political force in Europe - was created, how it has united the center-right, and how it has decisively contributed to the strengthening of the European project.

López-Isturiz said in his opening speech that Martens' book is a *"valuable and inspiring testimonial for those who love the EU and are fighting to make it stronger every day"*.

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