

EPP AND UMP PREPARE NEXT EU FRENCH PRESIDENCY

23-11-2007



Members of the EPP Presidency – including President **Wilfried Martens** and Secretary General **Antonio López-Istúriz** – met in Paris with President **Nicolas Sarkozy**, Minister for Agriculture **Michel Barnier**, UMP Secretary General **Patrick Devedjian**, Vice-President of the National Council and former Prime Minister **Jean-Pierre Raffarin**, President of the Commission for Foreign Affairs at the National Assembly **Axel Poniatowski**, Chairman of the Delegation for the EU at the National Assembly **Pierre Lequiller**, Chairman of the Delegation for the EU at the Senate **Hubert Haenel**, and UMP National Secretary for European affairs **Alain Lamassoure** MdPE, to prepare the French Presidency of the European Union (EU), scheduled for the second semester of 2008.

"The meetings have been very useful in strengthening coordination between the EPP and the UMP, which no doubt will contribute towards a successful EU French Presidency next year", President Martens explained.

"France has always played a decisive role in the EU project, and I am sure that President Sarkozy and Prime Minister Fillon will make impressive contributions during their term of office", he pointed out.

"We will have significant challenges in 2008, but the French Presidency will be particularly important in advancing the implementation of the new EU Treaty, and in preparing the European elections which will take place in June 2009", Martens stated.

"I am also very proud that in 2008 the EU will be led by two politicians who are members of the EPP political family: Slovenian Prime Minister, Janez Jansa, during the first semester; and President Sarkozy, during the second", he concluded.

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