

EPP DEBATES HOW TO DEAL WITH THE DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE IN EUROPE

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Representatives from EU institutions, study centres and associations discussed the demographic change that Europe is currently facing during a debate organised yesterday by the EPP.

This topic is currently a priority for the EPP, which will soon be presenting its position on it. The issue will also become part of the EPP electoral program for the June 2009 European elections.

Participants in yesterday's meeting spoke about the increasing ageing of the population and its different implications for the labour market, family policies, the health system and the regulation of migratory flows.

"The EPP, as the biggest pan-European party, has already decided to put forward some sensible policy proposals which should help the EU Member States to reverse the tide of the current demographic challenge," stated EPP President, **Wilfried Martens**.

"The EPP is convinced that we will need to adopt and implement a new agenda of age-friendly employment, entrepreneurship and volunteering policies as soon as possible, if we want to remain competitive in an ever more globalised world," he added.

Participants in the meeting included, among others, **Dr. Ursula Lehr**, Institute for Gerontologie, University of Heidelberg, former German Minister for Youth, Family, Women and Health; **Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou**, MEP and President of the Intergroup on Family and Protection of Childhood of the European Parliament; **Nikolaus Van der Pas**, Director General of the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities of the European Commission; and **Marilies Flemming**, Vice-President of the European Seniors Citizens Union and EPP Rapporteur on Demographic Change in Europe.

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