

## EPP PRESIDENT: ♦ FICO COALITION A SETBACK FOR SLOVAKIA AND EUROPE ♦

03-07-2006



**Wilfried Martens**, President of the European People's Party (EPP) the largest transnational political party of Europe, expressed today his great displeasure with the announced coalition of SMER-HZDS-SNS in Slovakia.

This coalition - which should form the next Slovak government later this week ♦ has threatened to roll-back the impressive political, social and economic reforms that were accomplished under the leadership of **Mikul ♦ Dzurinda**. At the same time, the new coalition partners have a manifest reputation of populism (SMER), autocratic behavior (HZDS), and xenophobia (SNS).

*♦I am deeply concerned with the current political developments in Slovakia. I am afraid that the ♦Fico coalition ♦ will be a setback for Slovakia and for Europe,♦ said the EPP President. ♦I am appalled that a party like the SNS, with its xenophobic views and hostility towards ethnic minorities, will become a coalition partner in the new Slovak government, ♦ Martens said.*

**Hans-Gert Poettering**, Chairman of the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament, had the same reaction: *♦I am astonished that the most extreme xenophobic party is to be part of the next government. This development is not justified by any lack of suitable partners in the Slovak Parliament and it can only harm the real interests of Slovakia. It will certainly put at risk the substantial political, economic and social progress achieved under the leadership of **Mikul ♦ Dzurinda**"*

Finally, Martens also welcomed the letter sent to Mr. Fico by the President of the Party of European Socialists (PES) that underlines the concerns about the coalition.

---

 [Print](#)