

UKRAINE: EPP SUPPORTS PRESIDENT YUSHCHENKO AND CALLS ON POLITICAL FORCES TO STOP TENSION

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The European People's Party (EPP) is closely monitoring the political developments in Ukraine and is concerned that the abuse of power by some political forces ignoring the results of the last parliamentary elections by violating the Constitution has brought the country into a deep political crisis.

"We understand that President Yushchenko felt it was necessary to protect the Constitution and we trust he examined it attentively before he announced his intention to dissolve the Ukrainian Parliament. As it was the case during the elections of 2004, we hope that the Constitutional Court which has the competence to uphold the rule of law will soon reach the correct decision", EPP President

Wilfried Martens stated.

Additionally, we question the will of some politicians to force a change in the leadership of the Central Electoral Commission, which has proven itself capable of holding fair and democratic elections in 2006 that were recognized by the international community.

EPP urges all political forces not to let the conflict escalate any further. *"We believe in the wisdom of the Ukrainian people, who showed the whole world two years ago, their peaceful approach, in solidarity and tolerance, adhering to democratic values and with respect for the rule of law",* President Martens said.

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