

## EPP PRESIDENT CONDEMNS THE ARREST OF BELARUSIAN LEADER

09-03-2006



Today, 9 March 2006, **Vintsuk VYACHORKA**, the leader of the **Belarusian Popular Front (BPF)**, was given a 15-day jail sentence. Vintsuk VYACHORKA has a key role in the Presidential election campaign of the sole opposition candidate **Alyaksandr MILINKEVICH** being his representative, Vice-Chairman of the election headquarters and responsible for international contacts and cooperation.

On behalf of the European People's Party (EPP), President **Wilfried MARTENS** has strongly condemned the arrest of the BPF leader. *This act by the LUKASHENKO regime is totally unacceptable. Actually, I am not surprised because it is not the first time LUKASHENKO has applied his undemocratic antics,* MARTENS stated.

The court charged VYACHORKA and 2 other activists with organizing an *unsanctioned rally*, though they had taken part in an absolutely legal meeting with voters. Mr. VYACHORKA called the verdict unlawful, saying that *according to the Election Code we have a right to hold meetings with voters, and we shall continue to hold them*.

BPF is in the process of becoming an observer member of the EPP.

---

 [Print](#)