

EPP PRESIDENT DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT HOSTILITIES IN GEORGIA

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The President of the European People's Party (EPP) **Wilfried Martens** has expressed today his deep concern over the violent fighting in South Ossetia (Georgia) and the attacks on Georgian civilian aims beyond South Ossetia from the army of the Russian Federation.

"I am deeply concerned about the hostilities of the last 48 hours in South Ossetia and the attacks on Georgian civilian aims beyond South Ossetia from the army of the Russian Federation. If the situation is not diffused quickly, it has the potential to destabilize the entire Caucasus region. Therefore, I call on the immediate cessation of hostilities by all the parties and the swift resumption of negotiations in order to find a political solution to this crisis, respecting of course the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia," stated President Martens.

"The EPP fully supports the initiatives of the European Union and its Presidency in working, together with all the parties concerned, towards a swift ceasefire in order to prevent further escalation of this conflict. The EPP also supports the efforts of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office as well as the OSCE mission in Georgia and I call on the immediate cooperation with the mission by all parties," added the EPP President.

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