

EPP PRESIDENT EXPRESSES CONDOLENCES FOR THE DEATH OF ALEXIY II

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On the occasion of the funeral of the late Patriarch of Russian Orthodox Church, **Alexiy II**, the President of the European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried Martens**, sent today his condolences to the Russian Orthodox Church and underlined that *"it is a big loss not only for Russians but also for Christianity as a whole."*

"I met with Patriarch Alexiy II in February 2007, in the framework of an inter-confessional dialogue, and I witnessed the important role he played in the rebirth of the Orthodox Church in Russia after the decades of communist dominance. Patriarch Alexiy II led an unprecedented effort in building churches and monasteries and promoting Christian values across the country," Martens stressed.

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