

"NO DIALOGUE OR AMBIGUOUS POSITIONS CAN BE TOLERATED IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST TERRORISM" - MARTENS REACTION ON MADRID MASACRE

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A string of deadly blasts has hit Madrid's rail network during the rush hour this morning, killing at least 190 people and hurting more than 1400 in Madrid ahead of Sunday's elections. Police cars, ambulances and fire brigades raced to the various train stations in the heart and surroundings of the Spanish capital, where several blasts destroyed carriages of at least 4 suburban trains.

The area around Atocha station, which lies in the heart of Madrid, has been cordoned off.

Representatives of the Spanish Government have described these attacks as one of the biggest terrorist massacres in the history of Spain. Government spokesman Eduardo Zaplana condemned what he called "an attack on Spanish democracy".

EPP President Wilfried MARTENS sent a letter to Prime Minister AZNAR with condolences for the dead and injured at the blasts in Madrid today.

Martens defined the attack as an unspeakable massacre and a great tragedy.

At just three days of national elections, Martens sees the attempt as a cry for the Spanish Government's continued strong stance against crime and terrorism.

EPP President reaffirmed also EPP's condemnation of any form of terrorist violence and its total support for those facing this tragedy.

In declarations to EPP news President Martens said that no dialogue or ambiguous positions can be tolerated in the struggle against terrorism.