

## PRESIDENT MARTENS: ♦ ONLY STRONG LEADERSHIP WILL GET EUROPE BACK ON TRACK"

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The President of the European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried Martens**, considers that the EU needs more leadership to achieve all its current goals.

*"Decisiveness and leadership are as fundamental on a European level as they are in national politics. Instead of simply defending national interests, leading national politicians would do better to show a readiness to compromise and make progress in those areas that need to*

*be dealt with at European level", Martens says in an [article](#) published in the Spring issue of "Europe's World".*

*"I am in no doubt that a higher degree of politicisation and personalisation – more leadership – would help ensure that EU citizens start to take a growing interest in the European Union, and develop a better understanding of the way the EU works. To achieve that state of affairs, though, the political actors on both national and European level will have to play more pro-active and high-profile roles", the EPP President points out.*

*"Leadership", he also reminds, "is a precondition of successful politics: The politicians who have made history are those who had an iron will in their determination to resolve major problems".*

*"The European project and the whole process of economic and political integration would have been unimaginable without the vision and greatness of Europe's national leaders after World War II", Mr. Martens adds, including Helmut Kohl and Margaret Thatcher.*

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