MARTENS ON SLOVAKIA: "EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS GIVING UP THEIR OWN VALUES"

14-02-2008

Statement by EPP President, **Wilfried Martens**, on Slovakia:

"Today the Party of European Socialists re-admitted the Slovakian SMER-SD party into the family of European Socialists. This clearly shows a great deal of short memory as the PES signed the Berlin Declaration in 2000 that forbids member parties to form coalitions with extremists in Europe.

The Slovak National Party, well known both abroad and in Slovakia for its xenophobic and ultra nationalistic views, is still a member of the Slovak government. The final choice by Prime Minister Robert Fico to include extremism in his government cannot be excused by a lack of suitable partners in the Slovak Parliament. The EPP strongly condemns this irresponsible decision by the European Socialists. We will closely follow the situation in Slovakia especially the respect for democracy, rule of law, freedom of speech and expression, and human and minority rights."

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