

WILFRIED MARTENS CONGRATULATES NEW KDH LEADER JAN FIGEL

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The President of the European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried Martens**, has congratulated **Ján Figel'** on his election as President of Slovakia's Christian Democratic Movement (KDH). The KDH is a member-party of the EPP and Ján Figel' was until now one of EPP's 9 European Commissioners. At a Congress held in Nitra yesterday, Figel' received an overwhelming 304 out 309 delegate votes.

"The election of Ján Figel' as President of the KDH is great news for Slovakia. Figel' was one of the most successful members of the Barroso Commission and I believe that his great European experience will bring added-value to Slovak politics," Martens stated.

"For the past five years I had the great pleasure of working closely with Ján Figel'; he has proven to be very loyal to the EPP and committed to Christian Democratic values and principles. Clearly, his return to Slovak politics will strengthen the KDH and centre-right politics in general. I look forward to the continuation of our close relationship in his new capacity as KDH leader and to receive him at the EPP fora," Martens added.

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