

PRESIDENT MARTENS: ♦EUROPE NEEDS A STRONG HUNGARY, HUNGARY NEEDS A STRONG EUROPE♦

21-05-2007



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The President of the European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried Martens**, underlined on Sunday 20th of May the strong link between Europe and Hungary: *"while Europe needs a strong Hungary, Hungary needs a strong Europe"*.

In particular, Martens said the EPP wants the Fidesz leader, **Viktor Orban**, *"back in government to help the EPP-leaders shape in solidarity this great European house of ours - in a democratic, free spirit driven by energy for Hungary, for the EPP, and for the whole of*

Europe!"

Speaking during the Fidesz Congress held in Budapest, Mr. Martens reminded that *"we all have an interest in building a strong Europe, but a strong Europe is inconceivable without strong Nations"*.

"Does anyone in Europe still believe that any of our nation states alone are capable of defending themselves against global terrorist threats, or dealing with climate change or ensuring their own future energy security?", he continued.

President Martens also mentioned among other challenges that the European countries are facing the challenge of globalization. *"If the European Union fails to rehabilitate work, life based on work, and family cohesion based on labour, then the departure of labour from Europe will only accelerate"*, President Martens pointed out.

Concerning energy, Martens said that this is a *"strategic issue"* and, as a consequence, *"Europe needs to become stronger and has to speak with one voice"*.

"We must pool in solidarity our efforts for an agreement on a common European energy policy. Also Hungary must make a clear commitment to this common policy. Hungary's role to assume responsibility is consistent with its weight, historical knowledge and experience within the European Union. This is a clear commitment that the Fidesz - Hungarian Civic Union stands for", he explained.

"We demand the incumbent Hungarian government and coalition parties to commit themselves too. They ought not to walk it alone on a deal with Russia, but instead work within the European family and not accept Putin's energy policy that he uses as a political weapon against us, the members of the European Union", President Martens added.

He also spoke about the necessity of respecting *"the human rights and civil liberties in and outside of the European Union. There is no room for double standards and the European Union must be uncompromising and consistent and reject any violation of civil liberties"*.

Martens concluded his speech in Budapest reminding that *"dictatorships of all political persuasion, right wing or left wing as they may be, must unconditionally be rejected by democrats. We firmly reject apologetic approaches towards communist ideology just as we rejected the Fascist - Nazi ideology"*.

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