

## YUSHCHENKO TAKES OATH AS UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT

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On behalf the European People's Party, President Wilfried Martens sent his congratulations to Viktor Yushchenko, who was sworn-in as President of Ukraine on Sunday, ending months of massive street protests against the fraud-plagued elections.

"This ceremony is the culmination of the 'Orange Revolution' and the beginning of a new era in Ukraine, based on democracy and freedom", said Wilfried Martens.

In the inauguration ceremony, Ukraine's new President stressed his commitment with Europe. "Our way to the future is the way of a united Europe. We, along with the people of Europe, belong to one civilization. Our place is in the European Union".

For over year now, the EPP offered its undivided support to Mr. Yushchenko and even invited him to the most recent EPP Summit of December 16, in the midst of the turbulent events that resulted from the fraudulent second-round of elections.

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