

**MARTENS: ♦THE EU IS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD TO ASSURE OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE AND OUR DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM♦**

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The President of the European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried Martens**, has reminded that *"in our globalized world the European Union (EU) is the only alternative to assure our economic future, our European identity, our democratic system, the rule of law, the respect and the protection of minorities, our social system and the diversity of cultures and languages"*.

During his speech in the EIN Summer University recently held in Warsaw, Mr. Martens also said that the EU is facing several challenges, especially climate change: *"the political decision to limit global warming to a maximum of 2° C is the most important figure to keep in mind – but it will require lots of efforts on a global scale"*.

Another important topic today, President Martens added, *"is the increasing competition with our trading partners in the world, especially with the emerging Asian economies. In addition, new ideas and proposals are required with regard to globalization, digital economy, transatlantic relations and the geographic finality and limits of the European Union"*.

*"It is yet unknown what the world will look like in 2025, but I am convinced that Europe will play a major role. In the course of European integration, the EPP took the initiatives and contributed most to our progress. We will continue to play this significant role by preparing our continent for future challenges. Therefore we need to remain the strongest political family in Europe – not only in numbers but also in content"*, he concluded.

The full speech [is available here](#).

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