

STATEMENT OF THE EPP PRESIDENT: ♦ I FREELY PARTICIPATED IN OFFICIAL AND PEACEFUL COMMEMORATIONS OF THE REVOLUTION IN HUNGARY ♦

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The President of the European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried Martens**, has made the following statement regarding his participation in the Commemoration of the revolution of 1956 in Hungary:

"I would like to avoid any misunderstanding and to confirm that I have participated in the official commemorations of the Revolution of 1956. As I said in Budapest, it was the start of a new era for Hungary and for the democratic institutions of Europe. That's why I accepted the invitation to travel to Budapest.

I have always defended the values of peace, respect and dialogue in Europe. And of course, the EPP and myself have firmly condemned any kind of violence.

I would not like to think that the active defence of these principles and values, which has forged the European Union, is disquieting for any democratic European political party.

I would like to underline that Fidesz, our member party in Hungary, fully shares these values".

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