

EPP PRESIDENT VERY DISAPPOINTED BY RUSSIA'S RECOGNITION OF GEORGIA'S BREAKAWAY REGIONS OF ABKHAZIA AND SOUTH OSSETIA

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The President of the European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried Martens**, has today expressed his grave concern and great disappointment over Russia's decision to recognise Georgia's breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia as independent states.

"The decision of the Russian government was a serious mistake that threatens to destabilize the entire Caucasus region and is contrary to all relevant United Nations decisions and international law. This act, in conjunction with its recent occupation and bombing of Georgia-proper has raised serious doubts about Russia's foreign policy intentions. I, therefore, strongly call on Russia to reverse its decision on Abkhazia and South Ossetia and to respect in full Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity," stated Wilfried Martens.

"Needless to say, the EPP fully supports the work of the European Union (EU) and its current Presidency in order to quickly end the Georgian crisis," concluded Martens.

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