



twitter.epp.eu



facebook.epp.eu



flickr.epp.eu



youtube.epp.eu



myepp.eu



myepp.tv

■ [press release](#)

■ [www.epp.eu](http://www.epp.eu)

EPP Headquarters | Press and Communication Department | 10, rue du Commerce | B-1000 Brussels

Phone: +32-(0)2-285 41 47 | Fax: +32-(0)2-300 80 13 | E-mail: [press@epp.eu](mailto:press@epp.eu)

## Cyprus: EPP President condemns evacuation and sealing-off of church at Rizokarpaso village

Brussels, 28 December 2010



On Christmas Day, Turkish Cypriot police entered the church of the Rizokarpaso Village, one of a handful of Greek Orthodox churches allowed to operate in the northern part of Cyprus controlled by the Turkish army, and disrupted the Christmas mass.

The Turkish Cypriot police ordered the evacuation of the church and demanded that the priest would strip of his clerical clothing. The church was then sealed-off. Following this disturbing incident, the President of the European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried Martens**, made the following statement:

"On behalf of the EPP, I condemn this unprecedented act by the Turkish Cypriot police, which violates basic human rights and religious freedoms. I call upon all those responsible to ensure that this is not repeated. The EPP will closely monitor the situation."

### Note to editors:

The EPP is the largest and most influential European-level political party of the centre-right, which currently includes 73 member-parties from 39 countries, the Presidents of the Commission, Council, and Parliament, 14 EU and 6 non-EU heads of state and government, 13 members of the European Commission and the largest Group in the European Parliament.

### For more information:

Kostas Sasmatzoglou, Spokesman, Tel: +32-2-2854147

Javier Jiménez, Senior Press and Communication Officer, Tel: +32-475480446

This message sent to by [press@epp.eu](mailto:press@epp.eu)  
 EPP Headquarters - 10, rue du Commerce, B-1000 Brussels  
 Press and Communication Department  
 Kostas Sasmatzoglou, Spokesman (Tel: +32-2-2854147)  
 Javier Jimenez, Press Officer (Tel: +32-475480446)  
[Unsubscribe](#) | [Forward To A Friend](#)

