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EPP President hosts Eastern Partnership meeting of EPP and like-minded Ministers in Georgia

Batumi, 20 December 2011



The President of the European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried Martens**, who visited the Republic of Georgia, hosted yesterday in Batumi a trilateral Eastern Partnership meeting of EPP and like-minded Ministers from Moldova, Georgia, and Armenia. The meeting was attended - in presence of Georgian PM **Nika Gilauri** - by **Thornike Gordadze**, Georgian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Viorel Gutu**, Moldovan Deputy Minister of Agriculture, and **Zohrab Mnatsakanian**, Armenian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs:

"I am particularly pleased to have hosted in Batumi the first Eastern Partnership ministerial meeting of EPP and like-minded Ministers from Georgia, Moldova, and Armenia. Following a decision taken at the EPP Congress in Marseille by Georgian President **Mikheil Saakashvili**, Armenian President **Serzh Sargsyan**, and Moldovan Prime Minister **Vlad Filat**, I am very pleased that this EPP initiative has quickly materialized," underlined President Martens.

"Contrary to Ukraine and Belarus, it's important to see the leadership of three advanced eastern partnership countries working closely together, pooling their political resources, in order to make the Eastern Partnership a success. Moreover, the fact that we were able to gather the chief negotiators for the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) and have a thorough and productive discussion, will surely give new impetus for the implementation of the DCFTA," added the EPP President.

Note to editors:

The EPP is the largest and most influential European-level political party of the centre-right, which currently includes 74 member-parties from 39 countries, the Presidents of the European Commission, European Council, and European Parliament, 16 EU and 6 non-EU heads of state and government, 13 members of the European Commission and the largest Group in the European Parliament.

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