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## Egypt: EPP and CES President expresses solidarity to NGOs; behavior of authorities deplorable

Brussels, 2 February 2012



The President of the European People's Party (EPP) and the Centre for European Studies (CES), **Wilfried Martens**, made the following statement on Egypt:

"On behalf of the EPP and the CES, I would like to express my solidarity and support to all foreign NGO's based in Egypt, which are dedicated to the promotion of democracy and human rights in the country.

Following last year's Egyptian 'Arab Spring' revolution, which put the country on the democratic path, these foreign NGOs are now investing significant resources and are making great efforts under difficult circumstances, in order to assist the Egyptian people advance freedom and democracy and develop political parties, civic institutions, good governance and the rule of law.

Today the Executive Board of the CES - which represents a pan-European network of 21 EPP-affiliated political foundations - expressed its astonishment regarding the unacceptable behavior of the Egyptian authorities, which inexcusably raided 10 NGOs including the CES member from Germany, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), and the CES partner organization from the USA, the International Republican Institute (IRI).

Despite repeated calls from European and American politicians, urging the Egyptian authorities to remedy the situation and allow foreign NGOs to resume their normal work, the conditions for NGOs continue to deteriorate and Cairo-based staff are still being prevented from leaving Egypt.

Therefore, I call on **Mohamed Hussein Tantawi**, commander-in-chief of the Egyptian Armed Forces, and the Egyptian authorities to put an immediate end to the deplorable treatment of foreign NGOs and to allow them to move and operate freely. Failure to do so may compromise the broader and on-going European efforts to support Egypt and its transition to democracy"

Finally, I would like to send my condolences to the family and friends of the 74 tragic victims from yesterday's clashes between fans of rival football teams in Port Said."

### 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 and the European Council, 17 EU and 5 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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