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EPP President welcomes Hungarian EU Presidency; EPP at the helm in 2011

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The President of the European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried Martens**, warmly welcomed Hungary and its Prime Minister and EPP Vice President, **Viktor Orbán**, for the start of the Hungarian Presidency of the European Union (EU):

"I am convinced Viktor Orbán will successfully tackle the current challenges of the EU - particularly the economic crisis - and will advance EU priorities such as the implementation of the Treaty amendment, and the completion of Croatia's accession negotiations," President Martens stated.

"As an experienced two-term EPP Vice President, Viktor Orbán has very strong European credentials and will surely give impetus to the European project during the six-month Hungarian Presidency," he added.

"After a very successful Belgian EU Presidency led by Prime Minister **Yves Leterme**, the EPP and its leaders will, once again, be presiding over the main EU institutions in 2011: the European Commission with **José Manuel Barroso**, the European Parliament with **Jerzy Buzek**, the European Council with **Herman Van Rompuy**, and the rotating EU Presidency with PM **Viktor Orbán** in the first half of the year and PM **Donald Tusk** in the second half. I look forward to welcoming them all at 2011 EPP Summit meetings," President Martens concluded.

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.

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