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EPP President comments on new Hungarian media law and EU Presidency

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With regard to the new media law in Hungary, which will come into force later this week, the President of the European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried Martens**, made the following statement:

"I appreciate the efforts of Prime Minister **Viktor Orbán** and his government to improve the former Hungarian media law with the aim to strengthen the freedom of the press, the culture of respect, the protection of minors and human dignity. I also understand the challenge of strengthening media accountability, while keeping media freedom intact. Discussion on the Hungarian media law should not be based on the politically motivated misinterpretations, but on the exact knowledge of the text.

As laws are proven through practice, European Union (EU) Member States have also experienced similar challenges and have all established healthy media practices that are compatible to European legislation. In this sense, I am sure that the Hungarian government will also implement its new media law in accordance to European legislation and in alignment with European media standards and norms," stated EPP President Wilfried Martens.

"I would also like to take this opportunity to wish Prime Minister Viktor Orbán a successful EU Presidency. Needless to say, for the next six months PM Orban can rely on the full support of the EPP," Martens added.

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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