



## Libya: A historic day for the Arab Spring; now Syria

Brussels, 20 October 2011



The death of **Moammar Gaddafi** marks the definitive end of the Libyan dictatorship and brings new momentum to the Arab Spring, in view also of Sunday's elections in Tunisia where the Arab Spring began and next month's elections in Egypt:

"The people of Libya, who have been relentlessly fighting for their freedom, have reached a turning point in the history of their country," the President of the European People's Party (EPP) **Wilfried Martens** stated.

"Today marks the definitive end of tyranny and dictatorship in Libya and a historic day for the Arab Spring. Libya is finally free to start its transition to democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and social justice. Those indicted for war crimes and remain at large, must be tried at the International Court of Justice. Needless to say, the EPP will use all its means to support the democratic transition and the economic reconstruction of the country, as we are already doing in Egypt and Tunisia" EPP President underlined.

"Now our full attention is on Syria. On behalf of the EPP, I urge Syrian President **Bashar al-Assad** to step down immediately. The regime's deadly violence against the Syrian people must end," 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 74 member-parties from 39 countries, the Presidents of the European Commission, European Council, and European Parliament, 17 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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