

If you are having trouble viewing this message, [see it in your browser](#).



## Syria: EPP President condemns Assad regime; UN Security Council must act swiftly

Brussels, 15 November 2011



The President of the European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried Martens**, has condemned in the strongest possible terms the ongoing crackdown by the Assad regime in Syria and the dozens of civilians killed yesterday. According to the United Nations, more than 3500 people have died since the start of the peaceful protests in March this year.

The EPP President also welcomed the decision of the EU Council to tighten its sanctions on Syria and to impose new restrictive measures against the Assad regime. President Martens has supported the initiative of the Arab League to act as a mediator and regrets that the Syrian authorities didn't respect the Arab League plan – ie. withdrawal of the army from the cities, the release of political prisoners, the launch of a political dialogue with the opposition forces – to which they committed on 2 November 2011.

“The decision of the Arab League on 12 November 2011 to suspend the membership of Syria, the important declaration made yesterday by the King of Jordan urging Assad to quit, and the EU Council decision to impose new sanctions, underscores the increasing isolation of the regime,” President Martens said. “When a regime resorts to the killing of its own people, the consequences of such deplorable behavior are well known. Thus, the message from the EPP is loud and clear: Bashar El Assad must leave and he will leave,” President Martens declared.

To put an immediate end to this intolerable situation, President Martens also called on the United Nations' Security Council to urgently take a decision to impose sanctions on Syria: “I urge Russia and China and all the members of the United Nations Security Council to assume their responsibilities and condemn Damascus,” 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 Commission, Council, and 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.

### For more information:

Kostas Sasmatzoglou, Spokesman, Tel: +32-2-2854147

Javier Jiménez, Senior Press and Communication Officer, Tel: +32-4754804

This message sent to by [press@epp.eu](mailto:press@epp.eu)  
EPP Headquarters - 10, rue du Commerce, B-1000 Brussels  
Press and Communication Department  
Kostas Sasmatzoglou, Spokesman (Tel: +32-2-2854147)  
Javier Jimenez, Press Officer (Tel: +32-475480446)  
[Unsubscribe](#) | [Forward To A Friend](#)

