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## EPP President: "Ukraine moving further away from EU's norms and values"

Brussels, 4 May 2011

The President of the European People's Party, **Wilfried Martens**, made the following statement on Ukraine:

"I condemn the opening of a new court case against Yulia Tymoshenko, regarding the crucial gas agreements between Ukraine and Russia in January 2009, which were also positively assessed by the European Commission. This latest move of consecutive court cases against Yulia Tymoshenko is, once again, politically motivated in a concerted effort by President Yanukovich to intimidate and suppress the democratic opposition in Ukraine."

"I am also very concerned with President Yanukovich's intention to change the Ukrainian constitution in a non-transparent manner, moving Ukraine further away from basic EU norms and values. Any changes in the country's constitution must correspond to European democratic standards and strengthen the separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary. I also note the rumours on ngo legislation and underline the importance of freedom of association as well as opportunities for international cooperation."

"Recalling all previous EPP declarations and on behalf of the EPP, I will continue to follow very closely the developments in Ukraine and react accordingly. Moreover, I reiterate my full support to Batkivshchyna and its leader Yulia Tymoshenko and I look forward to meeting her in our next Enlarged EPP Summit in Brussels."

### Note to editors:

The EPP is the largest and most influential European-level political party of the centre-right, which currently includes 75 member-parties from 39 countries, the Presidents of the Commission, Council, and Parliament, 15 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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