



twitter.epp.eu



facebook.epp.eu



flickr.epp.eu



youtube.epp.eu



myepp.eu



myepp.tv

■ **press release**

■ **www.epp.eu**

EPP Headquarters | Press and Communication Department | 10, rue du Commerce | B-1000 Brussels
Phone: +32-(0)2-285 41 47 | Fax: +32-(0)2-300 80 13 | E-mail: press@epp.eu

Tymoshenko verdict: EPP President wants to suspend signing of EU-Ukraine Association Agreement

Brussels, 11 October 2011



The European People's Party (EPP) and its President, **Wilfried Martens**, has strongly condemned the decision of Ukraine's Pechersk court to sentence **Yulia Tymoshenko** to 7 years in jail:

"Unfortunately, the court process during the trial of Yulia Tymoshenko, repeatedly violated human rights and, furthermore, the behavior of the judge demonstrated that courts in Ukraine are not independent and are used to eliminate political opponents," EPP President Wilfried Martens declared.

"The court process and the decision is shameful for a country that has European aspirations and the ambition to sign an Association Agreement. The promise of President Yanukovich to European leaders to release political prisoners in order for them to stand for the elections, has yet to be fulfilled, which makes EU cooperation with the Ukrainian authorities extremely problematic," underlined the EPP President.

"Needless to say, I will discuss the state of democracy and human rights in Ukraine at the next EPP Summit in order to decide whether we proceed with the Association Agreement, but after today's court decision, I think we should suspend the signing of the Agreement with Ukraine," President Martens added.

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.

For more information:

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

Javier Jiménez, Senior Press and Communication Officer, Tel: +32-475480446

This message sent to by 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](#)

