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Ukraine: EPP position vindicated in Parliament resolution

Brussels, 27 October 2011



The President of the European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried Martens**, has warmly welcomed the resolution on Ukraine ([click here for full text](#)), which was approved today in the European Parliament (EP):

“The resolution on Ukraine, approved today by a large majority in the European Parliament, vindicates the EPP position, which has been repeatedly expressed in a number of public statements including the one I made on 11 October 2011. In the spirit of today's resolution and according to previous EPP statements on Ukraine, I would like to reiterate the following:

1. The EPP supports the deepening of EU-Ukraine relations as long as the country is stable and democratic and respects the principles of the social market economy, the rule of law, human rights and the protection of minorities and guarantees fundamental rights.
2. The EPP recognizes that the Ukrainian authorities have chosen another way, i.e. violating human rights, breaching the European values, abusing of the judiciary for the purpose of the political suppression of opposition politicians, including former Prime Minister **Yulia Tymoshenko**.
3. The EPP regrets that President **Viktor Yanukovich** has broken the promise - given to many senior EU leaders and officials, myself included - of proposing a legal solution to decriminalize the articles selectively applied against Tymoshenko that date back to the Soviet times and do not conform to European and UN standards.
4. The EPP considers that, under such negative circumstances, no agreement between the EU and Ukraine can be signed and that President Yanukovich bears full responsibility for this blockade and urges President Yanukovich and his party, the Party of the Regions, to immediately end this prejudicial situation.

Furthermore, I would like to underline that any future meeting between President Yanukovich and EU representatives should be considered only if the Ukrainian authorities provide a concrete plan to resolve this unacceptable situation. Such a plan must include the freeing of all political prisoners – including Yulia Tymoshenko – and allowing them to stand at the next elections. Any further steps in EU-Ukraine relations will depend on the implementation of such a plan,” 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, 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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