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EPP President saddened by the passing of Václav Havel

Tbilisi, 18 December 2011



Upon his arrival in Tbilisi Georgia, the President of the European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried Martens**, made the following statement after hearing about the loss of former Czech President **Václav Havel**:

"I am deeply saddened by the passing of Václav Havel. As the leading figure of the Velvet Revolution, his struggle consolidated the demise of communism in central and eastern Europe. As the President of Czechoslovakia and then of the Czech Republic, he was a leading proponent of the European project and its core values: freedom, democracy, human rights.

Fortunately, his legacy will continue to inspire the on-going struggles for freedom and democracy around the world."

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, 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.

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