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EPP President: 'Tymoshenko arrest brings Ukraine one step closer to Soviet-style authoritarianism'

Brussels, 5 August 2011



The President of the European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried Martens**, after learning that the Ukrainian court has ordered former Prime Minister **Yulia Tymoshenko** to be placed under arrest in the framework of an on-going court case, made the following statement:

"I am not surprised that today the court ordered Yulia Tymoshenko to be placed under arrest. For months now, it has been blatantly obvious that the Yanukovich regime is running a politically motivated court case. The motive is clear: the removal of the main obstacle for returning to Soviet-style authoritarianism. Today Ukraine has moved one step closer," the EPP President emphasized.

"I call on Viktor Yanukovich to put an immediate end to this sham – Europe's patience has reached its limit," President Martens added.

Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko is the leader of Batkivshchyna, an observer member party of the EPP.

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 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.

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