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## Ukraine: travel ban on Yulia Tymoshenko confirms EPP criticism

Brussels, 02 February 2011



The President of the European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried Martens**, made the following statement following the refusal of Ukrainian authorities to allow former Ukrainian Prime Minister and leader of Batkivshchyna, **Yulia Tymoshenko**, to travel to Brussels at the invitation of the EPP:

"I am very unhappy with the decision of the Ukrainian authorities to forbid Yulia Tymoshenko to travel to Brussels, but I am also not surprised with this development since it confirms EPP's stated criticism about the escalating authoritarian practices of the current administration. Without prejudice to the judicial process, it is clear that the Ukrainian government has a poor understanding of European values and has opted for power-politics reminiscent of the pre-Orange revolution days.

"Once again, on behalf of the EPP, I would like to offer my full support and solidarity to Yulia Tymoshenko and I look forward to meeting her soon."

Batkivshchyna is an observer member-party of the EPP.

ENDS

### Note to editors:

The EPP is the largest and most influential European-level political party of the centre-right, which currently includes 73 member-parties from 39 countries, the Presidents of the Commission, Council, and Parliament, 14 EU and 5 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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