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Malta: EPP expresses sorrow for the passing away of Guido de Marco

Brussels, 13 August 2010



The President of the European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried Martens**, has expressed his sorrow for the death of the former President of Malta, **Guido de Marco**, who passed away yesterday at the age of 79.

Professor De Marco was Deputy Leader of Maltese Partit Nazzjonalista between 1977 and 1999; Deputy Prime Minister from 1987 to 1996 and from 1998 to 1999; and President of Malta between 1999 and 2004. He was also Minister of Interior and Justice and Minister for Foreign Affairs of his country. In September 1990 he was elected President of the United Nations General Assembly and had to deal with important events like the Gulf War.

"It is with great sorrow that I learned about the passing away of a great statesman: Guido de Marco. De Marco was a convinced European and played a crucial role for the accession of Malta to the EU, the application of which he presented in 1990. His contribution was also key in the rebuilding of Malta's foreign relations with the Western world after 16 years of Socialist rule. He also served as an excellent interlocutor between Palestinians and Israelis and was a leading figure in the Middle East Peace Process," President Martens stated.

"Professor de Marco was also very active in the EPP and in the EPP Group in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. All the members of our political family will always remember his excellent work to promote our common values," Martens concluded.

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, 15 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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