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The President of the European People's Party (EPP) Wilfried Martens concluded yesterday a 4-day trip to Moscow and Istanbul after meeting with the Christian Orthodox leadership of the Patriarchate of Russia and the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, respectively. These visits were conducted in the framework of the 'Orthodox Dialogue' that was launched 12 years-ago between the EPP and the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Specifically, during his visit in Moscow, the EPP President met with his Holiness the Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Alexius II as well as leading figures of the Russian Orthodox Church. Wilfried Martens had the opportunity to discuss the role of Christian values in Russian society and the importance of promoting these values in Russian political life. The EPP President also expressed his hope that these discussions will expand in the framework of the 'Orthodox Dialogue'.

Moreover, the EPP President met in Istanbul with his All Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople Bartholomeos and reviewed the upcoming activities of the 'Orthodox Dialogue'. Wilfried Martens expressed to his All Holiness his particular satisfaction of the growing interest of many Orthodox Churches to engage in the 12-year long 'Orthodox Dialogue' as well as the tangible results it has produced.

