

Mrs. Miet Smet

Brussels

Budapest, 10th October 2013

Dear Mrs. Miet Smet,

I have learned with great sorrow of the passing away of your beloved husband, and my long-time friend, Wilfried Martens. Today we lost a great statesman of Belgium, Europe and a friend of Hungary. The Hungarian people will always remember all that he has done for our country and Central Europe.

President Martens was a great European, a founding father of the EPP and of the European Union. He played an indispensable role in promoting Christian-Democratic values in Europe. As the President of EPP, he built a strong and united political family and played a remarkable role in keeping it together.

As a Hungarian, I express my greatest respect for the enormous work he played in the struggle for Hungary's membership in the European Union. He was always our patron, comrade and he guided our country through many difficult moments, while the Hungarian people received not only political but friendly encouragement from him as well. He had a special tie with Hungary: one of his first public political appearances was in 1956 in Belgium, when he held a speech as a youth leader condemning the repression of the Hungarian revolution. The Hungarian people will never forget his commitment to their country.

On behalf of the people of Hungary, please allow me to offer my deepest condolences on his tragic loss to you and his family.

Sincerely,

ORBÁN Viktor