

EPP WELCOMES ACCESSION OF ROMANIA AND BULGARIA ♦ EPP PARTIES BECOME FULL MEMBERS

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The European People's Party (EPP) warmly welcomed today the accession of two newest members of the European Union: Romania and Bulgaria.

"This is an important milestone for Europe since the EU has now become 27-member-strong with two new members that are committed to the European project," stated EPP President **Wilfried Martens**.

"Although the EU still has a lot of issues to resolve in the coming months and years, Romania and Bulgaria will prove to be important assets for the Union," Martens added.

With the accession of Romania and Bulgaria, the EPP also welcomed the upgrade to full member status in the EPP of: the **PD, RMDSZ** and **PNTCD** (Romania) and **DSB, UDF, BANU-PU** and **DP** (Bulgaria). At the same time, the 13 observer MEPs from these parties that belong to the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament have now become full members, bringing up the total number of MEPs in our Group to **277**.

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