

## TAAVI VESKIMAGI, RES PUBLICA'S NEW PRESIDENT

05-06-2005



The General Assembly of the Estonian centre-right opposition party Res Publica elected last Saturday at its Congress Mr. Taavi Veskimägi as its new President. Veskimägi, 30, is an MP and former Minister of Finance (2003-2005).

Veskimägi received 619 votes. The runner-up candidate, Mr. Jaanus Rahumagi received 274 votes. The outgoing President and former Prime Minister, Mr. Juhan Parts, did not stand for re-election.

EPP President Wilfried Martens sent his congratulations to Mr. Veskimägi and invited him to participate at the next EPP Summit of June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Addressing the General Assembly before his election, Veskimägi said that it was time for Res Publica to return to the protection of traditional right-wing values:

*"In order that today's decisions are not made at the expense of future generations, widening of personal liberties and their direction to the future must become the basic values of our world view that focuses on the individual. We also give importance to the protection of private property, so people would dare to save and invest for the future, as well as to fair competition and opposition to monopolies and corporativism. We have to be those standing for the modernization of the state, so there would be no strong bureaucracy and high taxes in Estonia," Veskimägi said.*

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