

**UKRAINE: EPP CALLS ON MEMBER PARTIES TO SEND ELECTION OBSERVERS**

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Statement by EPP President Wilfried Martens and EPP-ED Chairman Joseph Daul on the Ukraine general elections of 30 September 2007:

"The EPP stresses the great importance of the upcoming general elections, for the strengthening of democracy and for the European future of the Ukraine.

The European Union should closely monitor the respect of international democratic standards for free, fair and transparent elections.

*For that reason we all have an obligation to send observers to these elections.*

It is high time for a return to the reform process and the Ukraine's continuation of its European path. Therefore the EPP strongly supports the "Bloc of Yulia Tymoshenko" and the Bloc "Our Ukraine - People's Self-Defense" and their cooperation for an orange coalition. President Viktor Yushchenko and Chairwoman Yulia Tymoshenko have once more proven their leadership qualities and their ability together to take bold steps by uniting their respective blocs.

They have a clear European vision for their country and we trust they will continue with zeal their fight against corruption and join in efforts for the rule of law and democracy and demonstrate a constructive role in the stabilization process of Eastern Europe."

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