

EPP PRESIDENT CONGRATULATES NIKOLA GRUEVSKI FOR FYROM VICTORY

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Wilfried Martens, President of the European People's Party (EPP) the largest transnational party of Europe, sent this morning his warmest congratulations to **Nikola Gruevski**, leader of VMRO-DPMNE, for his great victory in yesterday's parliamentary elections (32.42 percent of the vote) in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM).

“This is a great victory for our sister-party in FYROM. This is also a great victory for democracy in the country. I think it is particularly important that the first government - after the country received EU candidate status - is a center-right government with a clear European vocation,” Martens stressed.

VMRO-DPMNE has for many years been engaged in EPP activities and is in the process of receiving membership status: *“in VMRO-DPMNE, Nikola Gruevski has managed to reform his party, to apply European norms of behavior, and to play a constructive role in the democratization of his country. Now, following this great victory, I expect that VMRO-DPMNE will acquire, from our decision-making organs, EPP status,”* the EPP President declared.

“I am convinced that as Prime Minister of FYROM, Nikola Gruevski will demonstrate a constructive role in the stabilization process of the Western Balkans and will adhere to the European norms of problem solving,” Martens concluded.

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