

EPP PRESIDENT CONGRATULATES PPCD

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European People's Party President, Wilfried Martens, welcomed the announced results of the Moldovan national elections and congratulated the PPCD leaders for the good result because *"it shows that opposition parties have emerged as a potent challenge to the communists."*

Moldova's governing pro-Western Communists lead in Sunday's parliamentary elections, but lost some support to the opposition parties, according to announced results.

The centrist opposition Bloc for Democratic Moldova (BDM) secured some 28.3 percent and the Popular Christian Democratic Party (PPCD), which became observer of the EPP during the last Political Bureau on the 3th of March, was running in third place with about nine percent of the vote, the commission's secretary Valentin Vizant said with 97.4 percent of the ballots counted.

The Communists, in power since 2001, won over 46 percent of Sunday's vote a diminished lead compared with the 50 percent they polled in 2001. They looked set to win considerably fewer than the 71 seats they controlled in the outgoing 101- seat parliament and they may not have enough seats for a clear majority to keep the presidency, which requires a minimum of 61 parliamentary votes.

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