

EPP PRESIDENCY SUSPENDS BULGARIAN UDF - EPP PRESIDENT REVEALS REFORM PLAN IN ARTICLE (updated)

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The Presidency of the European People's Party (EPP) has recommended to the Political Bureau to suspend the membership of UDF (Bulgaria).

The Presidency has taken this decision after the announcement of Petar Stoyanov, leader of the UDF, of joining the so - called "Movement for European Reform".

"It is not compatible for a member party of the EPP to join such an initiative and at the same time remain in our party. The EPP is committed to reforming the European Union (EU) and we are open for constructive dialogue with our non-EPP allies but, at the same time, we expect UDF to be loyal and committed to its membership obligations", the President of the EPP, **Wilfried Martens**, stated.

"The EPP will lead the way in making Europe an economic powerhouse, to make it secure, environmentally sensitive and to promote with our Atlantic partners our shared values. We want a Europe of citizens, not a European super-state", Martens added.

EPP Summit Decision on UDF

Regarding the UDF matter, the EPP leaders at the Summit meeting in Meise (08/03/07) decided the following:

*David Cameron, leader of the Conservative Party and Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek, Leader of the Civic Democratic Party (Czech Republic), launched the "Movement for European Reform" on the 6th of March 2007 and announced that they **"are committed (...) to establishing a new political grouping in the European Parliament"** (see article in 'The Telegraph', 06/03/07).*

It was acknowledged that if they succeed in their pledge on the formation of a separate Group in the EP and consisting lobbying the EPP member parties, this could lead to the split of the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament and would severely damage the political clout of the EPP.

The leaders therefore confirmed the decision of the Presidency to suspend the EPP membership of the UDF (Bulgaria) after it openly adhered to the Movement of European Reform at its public Forum in Brussels on 6 March 2007, despite the unanimous decision of the EPP Summit of 15 December 2005 (which included the participation of Petar Stoyanov, Chairman of UDF) that "a mid-term withdrawal would be a breach of agreement, it is unanimously agreed that the EPP member parties would discontinue bilateral contacts with the British Conservatives".

EPP President: "The Right Leadership for Reforming Europe"

"European Voice", the weekly newspaper of "The Economist Group", published today [an opinion piece](#) by EPP President Wilfried Martens - *"The Right Leadership for Reforming Europe"*, which also outlines EPP's reform plans for Europe. In the article, Wilfried Martens also extends a public invitation to David Cameron to share his ideas with the EPP leadership.

[Note: The British Conservatives and the Czech Civic Democrats are not members of the EPP. Their Members in the European Parliament comprise the "ED" section of the EPP-ED Group.]

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