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The two observer member parties of the EPP, the People's Union Our Ukraine and RUKH, created a new bloc -"Our Ukraine – People's Self-Defense"- bringing together 9 parties with democratic and European orientation.

During their Congress held in Kiev on the 7th of August under the leadership of **President Yushchenko**, the EPP President, **Wilfried Martens**, congratulated them for this important step. He welcomed the decision of the President to call on early elections that should resume the will of the Ukrainian people and said:

"I hope that again democratic standards will be observed during the upcoming elections and that the path of your country towards democracy and prosperity will remain irreversible. President Yushchenko and Prime Minister Tymoshenko together proved in the past that they defended democratic values and that they stand against corruption, crime and violence. Therefore the EPP supports the unity of the Orange political forces. We hope that your Bloc together with the Bloc of Yuliyia Tymoshenko will win the elections and that you will form a government to the benefit of all citizens and to the European future of Ukraine."

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