

## ANASTASIA MOSER, CONFIRMED AS LEADER OF BULGARIA'S BANU-PU

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Anastasia Dimitrova Moser was re-elected leader of the Bulgarian Agrarian National Union – Popular Union at the party's XXXIV Congress in Sofia over the weekend.

With parliamentary elections imminent, Mrs Moser's confirmation as leader of the EPP member party means she will be crucial in negotiations about future coalitions. BANU-PU has for several months, been in talks with the Union of Free Democrats, led by the mayor of Sofia, Stefan Sofianski.

Mrs Moser will represent her party at the meeting convened by the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF), the largest of the EPP member parties in Bulgaria, for November 10 at which it is hoped to bring together all the Bulgarian Christian Democratic and centrist parties in the country, currently numbering a total of 12.

"This really is so important, and could prove crucial not just for your but your country and indeed for Europe," EPP chairman Wilfried MARTENS said in a letter to the BANU-PU Congress. "It is a sadness to me, as well as to all our political friends, that the moderate parties of the centre in Bulgaria are now divided, blaming and fighting with each another.

"I make this appeal to you and to your common sense: unite and work together. A divided centre-right in Bulgaria is only good for one thing, Socialism."

The letter praised Mrs Moser as the heiress of a proud Christian Democratic tradition going back more than a century. BANU had, he wrote, been a considerable force in political life "both before and after the long aberration of Communism," and Anastasia Moser's leadership had ensured a relationship with the wider political family which went far beyond simple political cooperation.