

EPP UPGRADES MEMBERSHIP STATUS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF ROMANIA - ADOPTS DECLARATION ON HUNGARY

09-11-2006



The European People's Party (EPP) voted today for the upgrade of the Democratic Party (PD) of Romania from Observer to Associate Member.

The decision was adopted by the Political Bureau of the EPP during a meeting held in Brussels. The Democratic Party (PD) joined the EPP as an Observer in September 2005.

Although "Associate Members" cannot participate in decisions taken by the EPP involving the policies and structures of the European Union nor of its institutional system, the PD will become a full member party of the EPP, with full rights and obligations, in January 2007, once Romania formally enters the European Union (EU).

The PD is leading the current Government of Romania and its former leader, **Traian Basescu**, is the President of the country.

"I welcome the upgrade application of the PD. Our Romanian friends have been very active during the last year, participating in all the activities of the EPP. I am sure that they will continue this approach once Romania becomes a member of the EU", the President of the EPP, **Wilfried Martens**, said.

"Also, I am convinced that the PD will be victorious in the European elections of May 2007 and, together with our other Romanian partners, will have a strong voice in the European Parliament as part of our EPP-ED Group", **Martens** concluded.

Regarding other issues of the meeting's agenda, the Political Bureau also made the following declaration on Hungary:

Declaration on Police Brutality in Hungary

The EPP Political Bureau meeting in Brussels on 9th November 2006:

- *condemns the unprecedented degree of police brutality on 23rd October 2006 in Budapest against peaceful citizens who wished to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian revolution;*
- *underlines that the police intervened in Budapest in a disproportionate and violent manner, provoking peaceful people, using illegal weapons, harassing demonstrators, attacking and beating up people - often the elderly and women with children;*
- *condemns the breach by the police of basic civil rights like the freedom of assembly and the freedom of speech;*
- *stresses that one of the foundations of any democracy must be the rule and respect of law, including the respect of law by the police;*
- *stresses that the police provocations and brutality in Budapest were contrary to European standards, and unprecedented in Hungary since the establishment of democracy in 1989-1990;*
- *condemns any compromise of democratic rights and freedoms.*

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