

SANADER'S EPP GOVERNMENT GETS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE ◆ CROATIA ON COURSE FOR EU ACCESSION

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The President of the European People's Party (EPP) **Wilfried Martens** warmly congratulated today **Ivo Sanader** and his government for receiving this evening a strong vote of confidence from the Croatian parliament. Sanader's government is comprised by two EPP associate-member parties – **HDZ** and **HSS** – as well as a number of independent and minority members of parliament. Sanader, who won a second term as a result of the November 25, 2007 elections, received today 82 out of 153 votes in parliament.

"I am particularly pleased with today's vote of confidence because it's a strong signal that Ivo

*Sanader and his government have a strong mandate to conclude Croatia's EU accession negotiations by 2009. Ivo Sanader and the HDZ together with his partner **Josip Friščić** and the HSS, have the full support of the entire political family of the EPP in order for Croatia to become the 28th member of the European Union,"* stated Wilfried Martens.

"Moreover, I would like to urge the Socialist/post-communist opposition to finally accept defeat and to start having a constructive role towards Ivo Sanader and his government rather than continuing with banal populism," the EPP President concluded.

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