

## LUIS MARQUES MENDES NEW PSD LEADER

12-04-2005



Luis Marques Mendes was elected as leader of the Social Democratic Party (PSD), an EPP member, after the resignation of former chairman and Prime Minister Pedro Santana Lopes.

Mendes won the leadership with 56.6 percent of the vote at the party Congress held in Pombal last Sunday.

Mendes replaces Pedro Santana Lopes who stepped down as party leader, taking the responsibility for PSD's failure in the recent parliamentary elections.

Luis Marques Mendes, 47, who graduated from the Law Institute of Coimbra University in Portugal, joined the PSD when he was only 16.

He was Minister Assistant to the Prime Minister and Minister for parliamentary affairs in the PSD government. He also served as Vice Chairman of the Political Committee of the party.

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