

## EPP WELCOMES TWO BELARUSIAN PARTIES AS OBSERVERS

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The Political Bureau of the European People's Party (EPP) has accepted two Belarusian parties – Belarusian Popular Front (BPF) and United Civil Party (UCP) – as Observers.

Both parties presented the application to become observers of the EPP in 2005. *"For the first time, the EPP welcomes Belarusian parties as observers. We want to strengthen with this decision the democracy in Belarus, which is facing a difficult situation under the Lukashenko regime, and show our solidarity with the leaders of these two parties"*, said the President of the EPP, **Wilfried Martens**.

The Political Bureau also adopted a resolution entitled "Europe and the World Economy – Strengthening the EU's Global Role".

In this document, the EPP calls the EU not to be shy of its new global role but to boost its economic relations, trade and the development of the global economy to the advantage of Europe and its global partners".

Indeed, the Political Bureau decided to re-elect for a term of three years Luc Vandeputte and Christian Kremer as deputies Secretary Generals.

Also in the organisational plane, the Political Bureau adopted some amendments to the EPP Internal Regulations, in particular the reinforcement of the position of "Secretary of External Relations", which will be elected every three years.

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