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14-05-2007



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Brussels, 15th May, 2007

The European People's Party (EPP) accepted two new parties: the Hungarian Christian Democratic Party (KDNP) -which will be a full member party- and the VMRO - DPMNE from the Former Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), which will have the status of observer.

The decision on their membership was taken by the Political Bureau of the EPP during its meeting in Brussels on 14th and

15th May 2007.

The President of the EPP, **Wilfried Martens**, welcomed the parties: *"the political family of the EPP is growing again and it shows that we are the driving political force in Europe. I am sure that KDNP and VMRO - DPMNE will contribute to improve the political work and activities of the EPP"*.

With the accession of KDNP and VMRO - DPMNE, the EPP has now 71 members parties from 38 European countries and welcomes one more Primer Minister in the EPP family: **Mr. Nikola Gruevski**, Prime Minister of FYROM.

The Political Bureau also elected **Mrs. Corien Wortmann-Kool** as new EPP Vice-President replacing **Mr. Camiel Eurlings**, appointed Minister in the new government in the Netherlands. Mrs. Wortmann-Kool is currently Member of the European Parliament.

The Secretary General of the EPP, **Antonio Lopez - Isturiz**, stated that *"Mr. Eurlings was an excellent Vice-President and I am sure that Mrs. Wortmann-Kool will continue his dedicated work"*.

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