

## EPP WITHDRAWS MOTION TO SUSPEND BULGARIAN PARTY

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*Brussels, 14th September*

The European People's Party (EPP) decided today to withdraw its motion to suspend the membership of UDF (Bulgaria).

In March 2007, the Presidency of the EPP recommended to the Political Bureau – EPP's decision-making body with representatives from all EPP member-parties - the suspension of the UDF after its former leader announced that his party joined the so-called "Movement for European Reform".

The EPP has closely followed the latest developments in the UDF and recently received a letter of its new President announcing the withdrawal of UDF from this 'movement'.

After examining the letter, the Political Bureau considered that UDF is again fulfilling its membership obligations, as it always did prior to March 2007. As a consequence, the Political Bureau decided to withdraw the motion to suspend the membership of UDF.

The President of the EPP, **Wilfried Martens**, welcomed the decision: *"Six months ago, I said that it is not compatible for a member party of the EPP to join initiatives like this "Movement" and at the same time remain in our party. Today I am glad that UDF understands and shares our position on this issue"*.

*"Needles to say, the EPP has always been and will always be open for constructive dialogue with our non-member allies in the European Parliament as long as they refrain from any more acts that try to undermine the unity of the center-right in Europe"*, Martens added.

### GEORGIAN PARTY JOINS EPP

The EPP also accepted today the United National Movement (UNM) from Georgia, led by President Mikhail Saakashvili, which will have observer-member status.

President Martens welcomed the decision: *"This a historic decision for the EPP since it will now has a strong presence in the south Caucasus and will help reinforce democracy and stability in the region"*.

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