

EPP WELCOMES ADOPTION OF REVISED REGULATION ON EUROPEAN POLITICAL PARTIES

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The European People's Party (EPP), the largest and most influential European-level political party, has welcomed the formal adoption of the revised EU Regulation on European political parties that was signed earlier today by the President of the European Parliament and the Presidency of the European Council.

The revised Regulation includes two significant improvements: a) it allows for the establishment of European political foundations linked to European political parties and, b) it mandates European political parties to campaign for the elections of the European Parliament.

"Today's signing of the revised Regulation is a turning point for the democratisation of the European Union. European political parties are finally being given the role that they and their electorate deserve: being at the centre of the European political process, not at the margins," stated EPP President **Wilfried Martens**.

"The establishment of European political foundations and their engagement with the academic world and civil society offers endless opportunities for the development of the political debate based on a variety of clearly defined ideological perspectives. At the same time, the running of European election campaigns by European parties allows for the competition of programmes and ideology at the European-level, while infusing the European political debate at the national level. Needless to say, the EPP will be at the forefront of this new era of European politics," Martens added.

Finally, the EPP would like to thank all those who contributed to the process of revising the Regulation: the European Commission and our nine EPP Commissioners in particular, the European Council and our 11 EPP governments in particular, the European Parliament and the members of our EPP-ED Group in particular, and all other individuals from our political family who offered their assistance. EPP also acknowledges the impressive work of the Portuguese Presidency who thoroughly and promptly completed the process, as well as the constructive role of all other European political parties.

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