

## UKRAINE: EPP PRESIDENT AND EPP-ED GROUP CHAIRMAN CONGRATULATE TYMOSCHENKO ON ELECTION AS PRIME MINISTER

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The President of the EPP, **Wilfried Martens**, and the Chairman of the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament, **Joseph Daul**, have congratulated today **Yulia Tymoshenko** on her election as the new Prime Minister of Ukraine, which was supported by the orange coalition partners: the EPP member-parties, the NSNU and the RUKH (Our Ukraine - People's Self Defence parliamentary group) and the EPP applicant-party Batkivshchyna ('Bloc Yulia Tymoshenko' parliamentary group).

Martens and Daul said: "*With the election of Yulia Tymoshenko as the new Prime Minister of Ukraine, the painstaking process of coalition-building has finally been completed successfully, and has proven the strong unity of the democratic "orange" forces. The EPP is looking forward to the challenging work that lies ahead for the new government, and the expansion of the reform process.*

*With the country under strong leaders such as Tymoshenko and Yushchenko, democratic values and principles will be upheld, which will move the Ukraine towards a prosperous and peaceful future for all its citizens.*

*Moreover, we are convinced that Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko will give new impetus to Ukraine's European drive – needless to say, the EPP will be ready to assist her in this process"*

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