

## NEW EUROPEAN ENLARGED PARLIAMENT - NEW EP PRESIDENT

22-07-2004

The newly enlarged European Parliament began its new five-year term yesterday with a plenary session in Strasbourg, focused on the election of the new EP President and its Vice-Presidents.

With 732 MEPs from 25 member states, the EP will represent 450 million people. The EPP-ED Group is the largest political group with 268 MEP and is the only political family with deputies from all the European Member States.

### NEW EP PRESIDENT

For the next two and a half years the European Parliament will be guided by Josep Borrell, a 57-year old spanish socialist whose selection was made possible yesterday after a deal that was struck between the EPP-ED and PSE to sit Borrel for only half of the five-year term.

Borrell has European experience as Member of the Spanish Government and as Member of the Constitutional Convention.

Following the election of the president of the European parliament, MEPs on Tuesday also elected the 14 vice-presidents of the assembly. Spanish MEP Alejo Vidal-Quadras Roca from the EPP group obtained the most votes.

From the 14 vice-presidents, seven are from the EPP group, three from the Socialists, two from the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats, one from the Greens, and one from the left-wing GUE group.