

TURKEY: EPP PRESIDENT SUPPORTS GUL'S CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENT

24-04-2007

**EPP PRESIDENT SUPPORTS GUL'S CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENT***Brussels, 24th April, 2007*

The President of European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried Martens**, welcomed today the announcement by the AK party of Turkey – an EPP observer member party – that **Abdullah Gul** (Turkey's Foreign Minister) will be its candidate for the Presidency of the country.

"I think Prime Minister Erdogan and the AK party made an excellent choice by putting forward Foreign Minister Gul as the Presidential candidate. Mr. Gul is perfectly qualified to become Turkey's President and will be a great asset for his country and for the continuation of its European path," stated the EPP President.

"The EPP looks forward to Mr. Gul's election as the 11th President of Turkey," Martens concluded.

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