

EPP ACCEPTS AKP & 'OUR UKRAINE' AS OBSERVERS

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The Political Bureau of the European People's Party (EPP) has decided today to accept the membership requests that were submitted in 2004 by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayip Erdogan and the President of Ukraine, Viktor Yushchenko.

Specifically, the EPP Political Bureau decided to accept, initially, as an observer the governing AKP of Mr. Erdogan.

EPP Prime Ministers and Party leaders gave a positive recommendation to the Political Bureau during the EPP Summit of 4th November 2004. They agreed that, initially, observer status would be provided to the AKP.

The political platform 'Our Ukraine' of Mr. Yushchenko was accepted as an observer, in view of his administration's commitment to promote Ukraine's European future.

The acceptance of the requests of Mr. Erdogan and Mr. Yushchenko is a groundbreaking development for the European Peoples Party, which boasts as the largest center-right political family of Europe.

'I am particularly pleased with this development,' states EPP President Martens, 'because it, once again, proves that the EPP attracts strong and reliable leaders from all over Europe, which share our vision and values.'

'The EPP has again proven to be one step ahead in European politics. Once more, we are the first in welcoming parties from countries committed to Europe,' Martens adds.

Finally, the EPP Political Bureau approved a Resolution on Moldova, in view of the upcoming parliamentary elections of March.

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