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EPP Headquarters | Press and Communication Department | 10, rue du Commerce | B-1000 Brussels
 Phone: +32-(0)2-285 41 47 | Fax: +32-(0)2-300 80 13 | E-mail: press@epp.eu

EPP Foreign Ministers discuss EEAS, Civil Protection, Moldova, Georgia, Cuba

Brussels, 16 September 2010

Italian Foreign Minister **Franco Frattini** (PdL) and German MEP **Elmar Brok** (CDU), chaired this morning the regular meeting of EPP Foreign Ministers. The EPP meeting prepared today's scheduled European Council meeting and gave impetus to EPP's commitment for a stronger EU voice in world affairs. The EPP meeting, which included a total of 9 Foreign Ministers, focused on the current progress of the implementation of the European External Action Service, the relations with the EU strategic partners and the freedom of religion. The meeting also featured Commissioner **Kristalina Georgieva**, which presented her plans for a European Civil Protection strategy.

Moreover, the EPP Foreign Ministers welcomed Georgian President **Mikheil Saakashvili** (UNM). They discussed about the EU-Georgia relations as well as the current situation in the Georgian occupied territories. Furthermore, the EPP Ministers welcomed Moldovan Foreign Minister **Iurie Leanca** who reviewed the latest political developments in his country and the problem of Transnistria.

Finally, EPP Secretary General **Antonio Lopez-Isturiz**, MEP, informed the participants of the meeting of the recent visit of Cuban dissidents to Brussels, who pleaded at the EPP Political Assembly for the EU and its Member States not to alter the Common Position on Cuba.

The EPP Foreign Ministers' meeting is part of a series of EPP Ministerial meetings such as Ecofin, Employment, Industry, Energy, Defence, Justice and Home Affairs, Agriculture and Transport, organised and coordinated by the Party from its Brussels headquarters. The EPP Ministerial meetings underpin the horizontal activity of the Party with all the main EU institutions including the Council.

Note to editors:

The EPP is the largest and most influential European-level political party of the centre-right, which currently includes 73 member-parties from 39 countries, the Presidents of the Commission, Council, and Parliament, 15 EU and 6 non-EU heads of state and government, 13 members of the European Commission and the largest Group in the European Parliament.

For more information:

Kostas Sasmatzoglou, EPP Spokesman, Tel. +32-2-2854147 +32-2-2854147

Javier Jiménez, EPP Press Officer, Tel: +32-475480446 +32-475480446

This message sent to by press@epp.eu
 EPP Headquarters - 10, rue du Commerce, B-1000 Brussels
 Press and Communication Department



Kostas Sasmatzoglou, Spokesman (Tel: +32-2-2854174)
Javier Jimenez, Press Officer (Tel: +32-475480446)

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