

EPP STAYS LOYAL TO BULGARIAN UDF - AGAG

Strasbourg, September 6, 2001

EPP Secretary-General Alejandro AGAG today reaffirmed the party's loyalty to its Bulgarian member, the Union of Democratic Forces, ousted in the June 2001 elections.

"Any statements by King Simeon's party, the National Movement - winner of the elections - that it is imminently joining the EPP are inaccurate," Agag said. "We have not even been approached by this party."

Bulgaria's former King Simeon Saxe-Coburg, a Madrid-based businessman, won 43% of the vote in the elections, one seat short of an absolute majority in the 240-seat parliament. The UDF secured 18%, but declined invitations to join the King's government in a coalition.