

EPP BACKS CIORBEA IN ROMANIA

Brussels, September 27, 2001

Resolution adopted by the EPP Political Bureau / Council

The European People's Party:

Considering the resolution adopted by the Political Bureau / Council at its meeting in Brussels on June 28, 2001 :

- Reiterates its commitment to the integration of Romania into the European Union
- Reiterates its support for the EPP associate party, the PNTCD, under President Victor Ciorbea

The European People's Party remains convinced that the only guarantee for a true democracy is the continued existence of genuinely independent opposition political parties. The EPP has therefore deeply regretted recent events concerning the PNTCD and government intervention in the judicial process in Romania.

The EPP calls on the current Romanian government :

- to respect the political criteria established by both the European Union and the Council of Europe in all its aspects including full respect for democratic life and the true independence of the judicial system.
- to respect the internal life of the PNTCD and its decisions arrived at in a democratic manner

The EPP, the EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament, and the EPP Group at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, commit themselves to carefully observing that these objectives are attained, and will view the Romanian government's attitude vis-a-vis the PNTCD as a yardstick for its respect for democratic principles and accession to the European Union.

The Political Bureau / Council awaits with confidence the outcome of the Bucharest Appeal Court hearing concerning the PNTCD due on 4 October 2001.

The EPP fully supports the efforts made to date by the PNTCD towards its reconstruction which ensures the existence of a real Christian Democratic party in Romania and sends its hopes for real success to the Extraordinary Congress of 30 September 2001.