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Russia: non-registration of 'People's Freedom Party', a setback for political pluralism

Brussels, 29 June 2011



The President of the European People's Party (EPP), **Wilfried Martens**, has expressed his dissatisfaction with the decision of the Russian authorities not to register the 'People's Freedom Party' (PARNAS) for the upcoming elections:

"The decision of the Russian authorities not to register the People's Freedom Party is a setback for much needed political pluralism in the Russian Federation. I urge the authorities to reconsider their decision and to allow PARNAS, as well as other political parties, to participate in the upcoming elections for the

Duma. Twenty years after the demise of communism, the Russian authorities should have the confidence to organize elections that can meet European standards," underlined the EPP President.

Note to editors:

The EPP is the largest and most influential European-level political party of the centre right, which currently includes 75 member-parties from 39 countries, the Presidents of the Commission, Council, and Parliament, 17 EU and 6 non-EU heads of state and government, 13 members of the European Commission and the largest Group in the European Parliament.

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