

**Doc. 10826**  
31 January 2006

## The code for good practices of the political parties

Motion for a recommendation  
presented by Mr Severin and others

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only the members who have signed it

1. Democracy is nowadays confronted with a crisis whose symptoms include low turn-out at the elections and lack of interest and low participation of citizens in public life. The origins of this crisis are complex and certainly cannot be explained in a simple way.
2. Political parties are the main actors in the political process and their role in sustaining representative democracy is well established. Acting as an intermediary between voters and public authorities, they constitute an essential link of democracy. There is no modern democratic system without political parties.
3. One of the reasons of the present crisis is the decrease in confidence in politicians and political parties following democratic deficits within the parties themselves. These include insufficient transparency, responsiveness and accountability. Voters who do not perceive political parties as sufficiently democratic, do not bother to support them in their combat for power, and do not get actively involved in their activities.
4. In order to remedy this highly unsatisfactory situation, the Assembly should elaborate a code of good practices for political parties which would reinforce their internal democracy and increase their credibility in the eyes of the citizens thus contributing to greater participation of citizens in political life.

*Signed (see overleaf)*

*Signed*<sup>1</sup>:

SEVERIN, Adrian, Romania, SOC  
ATEŞ, Abdülkadir, Turkey, SOC  
AZZOLINI, Claudio, Italy, EPP/CD  
ÇAVUŞOĞLU, Mevlüt, Turkey, EDG  
de PUIG, Lluís Maria, Spain, SOC  
ELO, Mikko, Finland, SOC  
HERKEL, Andres, Estonia, EPP/CD  
JURGENS, Erik, Netherlands, SOC  
MIUTESCU, Gheorghe Adrian, Romania, ALDE  
POURGOURIDES, Christos, Cyprus, EPP/CD  
PREDA, Cezar Florin, Romania, EPP/CD  
SLUTSKY, Leonid, Russian Federation, SOC  
SZABÓ, Zoltán, Hungary, SOC  
TIMMERMANS, Frans, Netherlands, SOC  
Van den BRANDE, Luc, Belgium, EPP/CD

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<sup>1</sup> SOC: Socialist Group  
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party  
ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe  
EDG: European Democratic Group  
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left  
NR: not registered in a group