

Emergency Resolution adopted by the EPP Congress, Marseille, 7th - 8th December 2011

Elections in Russia

- Taking into account the elections to the State Duma, lower house of the Federal Assembly, in Russia on 4th December 2011, and the persistent refusal by Russian authorities to register new political parties under the pretext of various technical formalities,
- Whereas Russian authorities continued to violate their obligations regarding free and fair elections - according to the preliminary findings of the international election observers OSCE/ODIHR, OSCE PA and PACE the "elections were marked by the convergence of the State and the governing party."
- Condemns the mass arrests, on Tuesday 6th December 2011 in Moscow, of around 300 participants of the democratic opposition and several of their leaders and human rights defenders including Mr. Nemtsov, leader of PARNAS Party and Mr. Orlov, the president of the Memorial NGO and laureate of the Sakharov Prize of the European Parliament, and calls for their immediate release;
- Calls upon the European Union, the OSCE and the Council of Europe to declare the State Duma elections in Russia, on 4th December 2011, as non-free and not meeting some OSCE commitments on generally accepted democratic standards;
- Calls upon the European Union, the OSCE and the Council of Europe to monitor the presidential elections in Russia carefully and declares that it is the duty of the Russian authorities to make sure that the opposition candidates have the right to run and should be granted equal rights in campaigning, including with regards to media access;
- Calls on the Russian authorities to stop non-compliance with their obligations in the sphere of human rights and democracy under the framework of the OSCE and CoE, changing the rules and practices of the process of registering political parties, in order to provide for unimpeded access for political forces to the presidential elections of 2012.