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Subject: Mission to strengthen links with Bulgaria's centre left

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[IMAGE]

## **FACT-FINDING MISSION TO STRENGTHEN LINKS WITH BULGARIA'S CENTRE LEFT**

EU social democrats will this weekend launch an initiative to build stronger links with Bulgaria's centre left.

A fact-finding mission by the Party of European Socialists on 8 and 9 March will focus on the new political situation in the country following last year's presidential elections.

Party vice-president Jan Marinus Wiersma will lead the mission in which European Parliament Socialist Group leader Enrique Baron, his deputy Hannes Swoboda and representatives of PES parties in the UK, Germany, Austria, France and Greece will participate.

The delegation will meet Bulgarian President Georgi Pavanov and Prime Minister Simeon Saxe coburg Gotski as well as Bulgarian Parliament President Ognian Gerdzhikov and leaders of social democratic parties in the country.

The visit will conclude with a Round Table discussion of the political situation in Bulgaria from 09h30 to 12h30 on 9 March at the Parliament building. Journalists will be able to cover the opening statements after which the meeting will be closed to the press.

Mr Wiersma and Mr Baron will give a press conference at 12h30 in the meeting room.

For more information, please phone Tony Robinson on Belgian mobile  
or on 8 and 9 March Nick Crook on Belgian mobile

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