



**Group of the Progressive Alliance of
Socialists & Democrats
in the European Parliament**

European Parliament
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The President

Mr Boyko Borissov
Prime Minister of Republic of Bulgaria
1 Dondukov Blvd
1194 Sofia
Bulgaria

9th November 2009

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

As President of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, I was deeply upset by the remarks you recently expressed in public, making allegations for banning the Bulgarian Socialist Party and insulting its members and activists.

The S&D Group strongly opposes any threats, insults and pressure on the members and supporters of all democratic political parties, regardless of political orientation, simply because they voice different opinions from those of the Prime Minister and his party.

The Bulgarian Socialist Party is not only the major opposition party in Bulgaria but also a member of the Socialist International and the Party of European Socialists and as such it should be treated with respect, in a climate of political tolerance.

May I remind you that freedom of expression as well as political pluralism are among the core values of the European Union and every government and political party is expected to closely stick to them in their everyday practice. Respectively - the atmosphere of political oppression is absolutely not tolerable.

The S&D Group expects the Bulgarian government to act as all EU governments do in observing the principles of democracy, freedom of speech and the rule of law. Failure to show such respect would be a major step back from 20 years of efforts by the people of Bulgaria to build and preserve a democratic society.

Yours faithfully

Martin SCHULZ

CC: Acting President of European Council - PM Reinfeldt
President of European Commission - J M Barroso
President of PPE Group in European Parliament - J Daul