

**EUROPEAN UNION OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS
IEWSS—EUROPEAN STUDIES CENTER
NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS CONVENE AT STIRIN

The Prime Minister of Belgium and President of the European People's Party, the Honorable Wilfried Martens, will deliver the keynote address at an international symposium entitled "The Role and Function of Parties in the Democratic Process," to be held at the IEWSS European Studies Center at Stirin on July 19-21. This is the second in a series of seminars addressing the ideological orientation of political parties in Europe.

The seminar will be attended by delegates representing over 30 christian democratic political parties from throughout Europe. It is sponsored by the European Union of Christian Democrats (EUCD), the IEWSS European Studies Center and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) from the United States.

The program will focus on political party-building techniques with consideration given to the application of christian democracy to the specific political and economic challenges facing Eastern and Central Europe today. Such topics as the role of christian democratic parties in setting



a public policy agenda; building a sound political organization; and waging effective election campaigns will be addressed.

Among the participating East and Central European parties are: the Democratic Party of Albania, the Agrarian Party and the Christian Democratic Community of Bulgaria, the Christian Democratic Party of Croatia, the Czechoslovakian People's Party and the Christian Democratic Party of the Czech Republic, the Christian Democratic Movement of Slovakia, the Hungarian Democratic Forum and the Independent Smallholders Party of Hungary, the Center Alliance and the Christian Democratic Party of Poland, the National Peasants' Party of Romania, the Democratic Union of Kosovo and the Christian Democratic Party of Slovenia. Also present as observers will be representatives of christian democratic parties from Russia, the Ukraine and Estonia.

NDI, the international foundation of the U.S. Democratic Party, conducts nonpartisan programs to help strengthen democratic institutions and has worked extensively in Eastern and Central Europe. The European Union of Christian Democrats organizes the cooperation and the unity of action among the christian democratic and center-oriented People's Party in Europe (East and West). The European

Studies Center in Stirin, established by the Institute for East-West Security Studies of New York, is an independent international education and public policy center.

The keynote speech, scheduled for 21:00 on Friday, July 19 at the European Studies Center, is open to accredited members of the press. Copies of the speech will be available at the Center Friday evening, or prior to that at the NDI office in the Hotel Ambassador, Room 202.