EUROPEAN COMMISSION
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Statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations: - debate in presence of Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ, Vice-President of the EC in charge of Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration Committee on Constitutional Affairs

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The 12th of september, European Commission adopted a proposal that aims to increase the visibility, recognition, effectiveness, transparency and accountability of European political parties and their affiliated political foundations. To this end, it improves the regulatory and funding framework in which they operate. Political parties at the European level have, as members, national and regional parties from the Member States and, in most cases, also allow membership by individual citizens. They are key players to strengthen European democracy, as they are in a privileged position to establish links with citizens and bridge the gap that separates the national and European political levels. By promoting cross-border political dialogue, they contribute to the emergence of a European public sphere.

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TIME	DESCRIPTION	DURATION
00:00:00	Title	00:00:05
00:00:05	External shot of European Parliament	00:00:05
00:00:10	Cutaways	00:00:09
00:00:19	Soundbite (ENGLISH), Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ, Vice-President of the EC in charge of Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration: "There was clear explicit call for the european political parties to fully play their part in the bridging gap between political and national and the european level. And of course, also, to reinforce the european capacity to act. We, in the Commission, believe that our proposals on the european political parties and foundations, will provide the right framework conditions for these ambitions to become reality".	00:00:32
00:00:51	Soundbite (ENGLISH), Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ, Vice-President of the EC in charge of Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration:" The Commission is proposing a regulation, which would introduce a european legal status for european political parties and separately for the affiliated political foundations. This new european legal personality will have to be fully recognized by all member	00:00:38

	personality will have to be fully recognized by all member states, and I think this is really a major innovation. The new european label should be granted to the parties and foundations that meet certain standards most importantly by observing the values on which the European Union is founded".	
00:01:29	Soundbite (ENGLISH), Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ, Vice-President of the EC in charge of Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration: "Concerning the financing of the european political parties and foundations, we propose the changes at two levels. First, because we introduce the european status we also need to establish at a european level a comprehensive framework to govern party financing in general, covering the funding, the expenditure of EU funding as well, as membership fees and donations. We also introduced the increase transparency requirement and the robust penalty regime".	00:00:32
00:02:01	Soundbite (ENGLISH), Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ, Vice-President of the EC in charge of Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration: "The Commission has included an ambitious target for entry into the force of this new proposed regulation. We would like to get it approved, and enter into force, the first of july of the next year, meaning 2013. I believe that this is a clear indication how important and necessary we believe the new framework is. We fully share parliament wish to have it in place well before the next european parliament elections and the campaign in 2014".	00:00:38
00:02:39	Soundbite (GREEK), Marietta GIANNAKOU (PPE, Gr), rapporteure: "In the member states the term european political party is not necessarily well known. On television we hear talk about the European People Party, and the Party of the European Socialist and the Liberals, etc. I think that the citizens assume that these parties have a status. If they were to find out that these parties were no more than a form of non-governmental organisation, they will be very surprised. We are now trying to do something so that a european political party can be promoted in terms of the values it provide and the cooperation it allow us to achieve".	00:01:13
00:03:52	Soundbite (GREEK), Marietta GIANNAKOU (PPE, Gr), rapporteure: "The parties are no looking for more money. What is important for the parties here is to have a legal framework so they are not contravening the provisions and forces of the member states, so that they can get the legal status they require".	00:00:21

00:04:13	Soundbite (GREEK), Marietta GIANNAKOU (PPE, Gr), rapporteure: "Another thing that is important with the view to the elections in 2014 is that we should be able to prepare better and in a more structured way for the election campaign. So, in this regulation, we provided responses to some of the concerns that have been voiced".	00:00:24
00:04:37	Cutaways (5 shots)	00:00:23
00:05:00	End	00:00:00

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