



Brussels, 28th January 2014

Inge Gräßle (EPP/CDU):

European Parliament awards contract to wife of designated Bulgarian Socialist candidate for EP elections

The wife of the designated lead candidate of Bulgaria's Socialist party for the European elections, Sergei Stanishev, has received a grant worth 60.000 EUR for her Bulgaria-based PR consultancy "Active Group" out of European Parliament funds, with the aim to help prepare the European elections in Bulgaria.

"This is an obvious conflict of interest", the spokeswoman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament's budgetary control committee, Inge Gräßle MEP (CDU-Germany) today said.

"European Parliament President Martin Schulz can no longer ignore this problem and must come clean on what smacks of a partisan deal to favour his fellow Socialist members from Bulgaria".

"Now that Mr Stanishev has proclaimed he will stand as a candidate at the European elections, decisive action must be taken to annul a grant that leaves open many questions on the use of public money by the President of the European Parliament and parliament staff under his direction".

For further information:

Dr. Inge Gräßle MdEP, Tel. +32 228 47868

EPP press service, Lasse Böhm, Tel. +32 484 65 68 97