First Nationalist Party Registered by Justice Ministry

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Baburin, far left, meeting President Vladimir Putin with Liberal Democratic Party leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky in 2006 **Denis Grishkin**

Authorities registered the country's first nationalist political party since legislation removing barriers to party registration was passed in the spring, according to a list of approved parties on the Justice Ministry website.

The official listing of the Russian All-People's Union is the latest in a wave of registrations that have seen the number of approved political parties swell to 26, compared with seven at the time of December's parliamentary elections.

Sergei Baburin will the lead the new party. He earlier headed the People's Union, which made it into the State Duma in 2003 as part of the nationalist Rodina-Congress of Russian Communities bloc.

The party's slogan is "National power, national politics, national economy."

According to its website, its aims include "the swift creation of a full-fledged, unified government of Russia and Belarus" and "the rebirth of national self-consciousness among the Russian people."

The Russian All-People's Union will be the first approved nationalist party since Rodina was merged with more moderate parties to form the social-democratic party A Just Russia in 2006.