

Cossack Political Party Registers With Justice Ministry

January 31, 2013

The  **Moscow Times**

The Cossack Party of the Russian Federation has completed its registration with the Justice Ministry, RIA-Novosti reported Thursday.

Established in late November, the party's executive committee is headed by Alexander Smirnov.

In April, a law went into force lowering the minimum number of signatures required for registering a party from 40,000 to 500.

More than 200 parties have registered with the Justice Ministry since then, the state-run news agency reported.

Opposition leaders have complained that the leniency in registering parties has diluted the movement's strength.

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