

RELEASE IN FULL

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**From:** Abedin, Huma <AbedinH@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 22, 2011 11:34 AM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** Fw: France's Hollande formally anointed by Socialists (AP)

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 22, 2011 11:26 AM  
**To:** NEWS-Mahogany  
**Cc:** SES-O  
**Subject:** France's Hollande formally anointed by Socialists (AP)

PARIS - (AP) France's Socialist Party has formally anointed Francois Hollande as its candidate for presidential elections in six months, culminating a weeks-long process of primaries.

The 57-year-old Hollande is expected to be the top rival to conservative President Nicolas Sarkozy \_ who has not yet declared his candidacy but is expected to do so.

Socialist Party leader Martine Aubry told a party convention Saturday that "the change we want now has a name, Francois Hollande."

Hollande defeated Aubry by a large margin in an Oct. 16 vote for a Socialist candidate after three rounds of debate.

Among the five others defeated by Hollande was his former companion, Segolene Royal, mother of his four children \_ who challenged Sarkozy in 2005 elections.

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