

Towards a positive narrative on migration and integration

The Congress of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening in Stockholm, Sweden on 26-28 May 2023:

Having regard to:

- The state of emergency declared by Italy on 11 April due to migration at its shores;
- The European Parliament's decision on 20 April to recast the Long Term Residents Directive, aiming to create a "positive narrative on migration" and foster integration of migrants;
- The growing disquiet in Turkey over its EU migration pact, as seen during the May presidential election.

Notes that:

- The United Nations forecasts that Europe's population has peaked and will decline steadily for decades to come.

Believes that:

- It will be impossible to sustain economic growth in Europe, with a declining and ageing population, while other continents continue to grow demographically;
- Therefore, a positive approach to immigration is fundamental to Europe's future;
- Anti-migrant rhetoric and policies reinforce Europe's population decline, and anti-migration political parties are therefore complicit in our continent's decline;
- There is no successful migration policy without an effective integration policy;
- Successful integration needs local leaders that apply zero-tolerance against discrimination, enforce the rule of law, promote mixed neighbourhoods, a foment inter-cultural dialogue and language learning, as well as buddy schemes to facilitate integration at a micro level;^[1]
- Local leaders need a clear and unambiguous support from national and European leaders as to the desire and willingness to welcome migrants.

Calls on:

- Liberal Heads of State and Government to place integration high on the European agenda;
- National liberal leaders and parliamentarians to promote a positive approach to immigration, and challenge anti-migration parties to explain how they propose to avoid the decline without immigration;

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- ALDE member parties to incorporate these messages into their Election manifestos.

[1] This is known as the Mechelen model.

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