

# ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2021

ALLIANCE OF LIBERALS AND SEMECRATS FOR EUROPE



ALDE Party President Hans van Baalen passed away following a short illness on 29 April 2021. A passionate and committed liberal, Hans served his country and global liberalism through a distinguished political career which spanned over decades and continents. He was a member of the Dutch House of Representatives (1999-2009), a member of the European Parliament (2009-2019), President of Liberal International (2009-2014) and President of the ALDE Party since 2015 to his passing. He was promoted to the Order of Orange-Nassau in 2020 and appointed to advise the Dutch government and parliament on peace and security in early 2021.

Hans was a strong advocate for international cooperation and solidarity, calling on countries and societies to look out for and support each other during crises and difficulties. He was also a firm believer in the European project and welcomed the Conference on the Future of Europe with enthusiasm. He wrote in an unpublished editorial, completed a few weeks before his passing:

I truly hope this marks the beginning of a new chapter in European politics by and for the European people.

Liberals across the world remembered Hans, thanking him for his dedication to the liberal cause and his tireless drive for democracy. It is this liberal family that meant so much for Hans and that he continued to serve throughout the years. It is this liberal family spirit we at the ALDE Party continue to uphold and foster, in his memory.

### FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

It is often said that a week is a long time in politics. With the pandemic still affecting our work in 2021, the past twelve months continued to present us with numerous challenges but has not stopped the ALDE Party progressing in our mission to strengthen European liberalism. It is therefore with pleasure that we present this latest annual report of ALDE Party activities for 2021.

Sadly, the year was marked by the tragic and early passing of our ALDE Party President **Hans van Baalen** after a short illness. Hans was a committed and passionate liberal, who always had time for everyone despite the many demands on his time. As a member of the European Parliament, as President of Liberal International, and as President of the ALDE Party, he always sought to bring liberals together. He always said liberals must unite; we all united in sadness at his passing.

But the ALDE Party Secretariat, and the Bureau under the leadership of acting co-Presidents **Timmy Dooley** and **Ilhan Kyuchyuk**, have been working hard to continue what Hans started, bringing the liberal family closer together and stepping up even more our engagement with member parties.

Our sights are already focused on the 2024 European Elections. We are determined to continue the liberal family's upward trend in elections all across Europe and become an even stronger force in the next European Parliament. If our member parties are strong, then collectively the ALDE Party is stronger.

It was important for us to come together - even if virtually - and we managed to organise the first (and hopefully last) virtual **eCongress of the ALDE Party** in June. Hundreds of delegates of our member parties all across Europe logging in over the course of the two days. We adopted 24 political resolutions, welcomed new members into ALDE, and held elections for three Vice Presidents and the Treasurer.

In December, we were able to organise a hybrid meeting of the **ALDE Party Council in Rome, Italy**, with delegates in the room and also following and participating online. While not yet a perfect formula, it has shown us the opportunities for this format going forward.

In 2021, we launched our town hall series of public events across Europe to discuss the Conference on the Future of Europe. Named in honour of President van Baalen, these brought together citizens and decision-makers to discuss liberal solutions to the issues that matter most. The first in the series took place outside of the European Union, testament to our wish to involve everyone in our activities. We also launched the first Bureau Policy Advisory Group on Jobs, Growth and Innovation in a digitalised economy, with further thematic Advisory Groups to be formed and start work in 2022.

We continue to empower more women in politics, and in 2021 launched the **Alliance of Her**, an ambitious new programme building on the highly successful 'European Women's Academy'. We were delighted two of the alumnae were appointed to ministerial positions this year and hope this story continues in the years to come. We also organised the first in-person gathering of the growing alumnae network for a two-day summit in November, culminating in the inaugural awarding of the Women in Politics Champion of the Year prize.

Last but by no means least, we are working hard to improve the proposed revision of the regulation for European political parties, engaging with our elected representatives, national delegations and with other parties. The revision is welcome and overdue, but we want to make sure it allows us to work more with our member parties, both inside and outside EU. We look forward to engaging further with you in the year to come.



Jacob Moroza-Rasmussen ALDE Party Secretary General

# **EVENTS**

### **ALDE Party eCongress**

From 11-12 June, liberal leaders, European Commissioners, party leaders, decision-makers and other guests gathered online for the first-ever ALDE Party eCongress. The eCongress was hosted virtually from Brussels, with multiple spaces for fringe events and one fully equipped studio for a fully immersive online experience of the plenary sessions.

The eCongress began with Acting Co-Presidents Senator **Timmy Dooley** and **Ilhan Kyuchyuk MEP** paying tribute to late ALDE Party President **Hans van Baalen**, and included a special segment on the Conference on the Future of Europe, with guest speakers including **Guy Verhofstadt MEP** and LYMEC President **Antoaneta Asenova**.

A total of 24 political resolutions were amended and adopted at the eCongress, and ALDE Party Vice-Presidents **Henrik Bach Mortensen**, **Dita Charanzová MEP** and **Luis Garicano MEP** were re-elected to their posts, while **David Burke** was elected Treasurer.

### **Meet and Greet**

On 1 September, we organised a Meet and Greet reception to welcome back liberal friends following the summer break. The event was held on the terrace of Grand Central in Brussels, respecting COVID-19 guidelines of the time. We were pleased to welcome almost 150 guests!

### **ALDE Party Council**

On 10-11 December, ALDE Party held a hybrid Council meeting in Rome, Italy.

During the Council, delegates welcomed **Strategy Aghmashenebeli** (Georgia) as a new full member party and approved the transition of **Laisvės Partija** (Lithuania) from affiliate to full member party. The 3rd Hans van Baalen town hall meeting on the future of Europe was also held during the Council event, as well as the first-ever Liberal Awards, hosted by the European Liberal Forum.



# **POLICY AND MEMBERSHIP AFFAIRS**

### **Liberal Action Plan on the Future of Europe**

With the launch of the Conference on the Future of Europe (COFOE) on 9 May 2021, ALDE Party has played an active role in the development of the Conference by bringing together citizens and institutions to discuss the issues that matter most. Our action plan has a three-pronged approach:

- A dedicated digital hub where citizens can share liberal ideas and solutions, learn more about COFOE and participate in upcoming debates and events
- Hans van Baalen Town Hall meetings across Europe and in collaboration with ALDE Party members where citizens are put in the spotlight
- **ALDE Conference on COFOE** where all inputs gathered in the dedicated digital hub and the town hall meetings were discussed, in April 2022

Our Liberal Vision for the future of Europe has six key areas and provides concrete solutions to tackle some of the defining issues of our time.



**Build back better** by fostering a green and digital recovery



Fight climate change & protect our environment while creating jobs and growth



the rule of law and human rights



Renew and rebuild humane immigration and asylum systems



Lead in the world and reinforce our European voice globally



**Strengthen European democracy** with reforms
that connect citizens
to their representatives

2021 also saw the launch of our **Liberal Stories** interview series focused Europe's future, featuring key liberal profiles such as Senator Emma Bonino (Più Europa, Italy).



WATCH ON YOUTUBE





### **Policy Advisory Groups**

In 2021, ALDE Party established four Policy Advisory Groups as platforms to facilitate learning and best practice sharing between ALDE Party member parties and relevant stakeholders, as well as to support the ALDE Party Bureau in fostering shared policy development and boost ALDE Party's public policy profile.

The Policy Advisory Groups include members working on the political level (elected officials) and technical level (advisers), covering the following areas:



Jobs, Growth and Innovation



Climate and Sustainability



Democracy and Security



China



MORE ON LIBERALS ON THE FUTURE OF EUROPE

# **RESEARCH AND EMPOWERMENT**

2021 saw the start of several important initiatives for the Research & Empowerment Unit. Most important were the start of a multi-annual research project with the aim to define narratives and strategy for the 2024 European election, and the start of the ALDE Accelerator in November 2021.

The multi-annual European-wide research efforts were kicked off in January with our first European-wide survey since the European election 2019. This survey was conducted in 28 countries (EU and non-EU), to get big picture insights into public opinion across Europe and the state of trust in institutions in a difficult time of the COVID-19 pandemic, when vaccination had only started in most countries. This was followed by two rounds of focus groups in selected EU countries and another European-wide survey in October 2021 to collect further insights from citizens.

Another goal of the Research & Empowerment Unit in 2021 was to reconnect experts from ALDE member parties from across Europe for best practice exchanges. The highlight was the first ever ALDE Accelerator meeting in November 2021, which brought together more than 100 liberal experts on different aspects of political organising for a week-long networking and best practice exchange.

With an end to most restrictions in sight for 2022, the Research & Empowerment Unit has a busy year ahead with further research and Accelerator meetings already scheduled to bring together liberal forces ahead of the 2024 election.



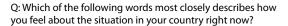


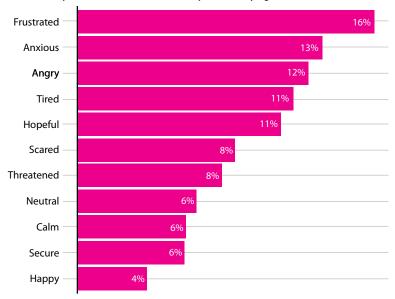
ALDE Accelerator Warsaw, Poland 22-26 November 2021

### **Our 2022 outlook**

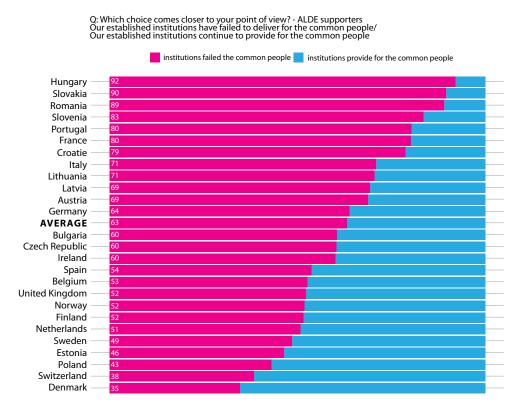
One of the key insights from our research in 2021 was that in every country in Europe, citizens are prioritising a set of issues that immediately affect their personal well-being. We started calling these issues the "kitchen-table issues". These issues are discussed with immediate family and closest friends, since they have an influence on short-term future and prosperity for each one of us. They comprise healthcare, jobs and unemployment, pensions and education. There is little appetite for big picture thinking and long-term visions, when the day-to-day well-being is at stake.

However, our research is also finding some worrying tendencies. People in Europe are frustrated. In our research in 2021, this has become the dominating mood with which the citizens of Europe are evaluating the situation in their countries. This is followed by anxiousness and anger. One of the keydrivers for this trend is the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.





However, there is also increasing scepticism about the ability of the established institutions to deliver for the common people. In our surveys, already half of all European citizens say that the established institutions have failed. This can easily become a problem, especially when considering peoples' focus on state capacity to deliver on the above-mentioned "kitchen-table issues".



Re-focusing on the individual and their well-being will be key for liberal politics in 2022. People are expecting smart solutions that help them, not elusive political debates.

The research of the ALDE Party Secretariat will continue to explore these trends in greater detail and will provide insight into how liberals can better address the concerns and worries of European citizens in the coming months.

# **COMMUNICATIONS**

2021 was a defining year for European liberals. From the sad moments to times of celebration, we've led in the fight for freedom and equality in Europe and beyond. For communications, this has meant sharing the important moments, connecting with our community online and showing how liberals fight, deliver and set the agenda at all levels of government.

In 2022, our ALDE Party communications will continue to grow, develop and adapt, shaping new ways to bring together with Europeans and the liberal family on our digital platforms. To our followers, thank you for joining us along the way!

### **Press**

In 2021, we continued to build and develop our press and outreach as part of our broader communications work. We've continued to connect with our press network to share the latest news and developments from the liberal family, publishing 10 press releases this year. We will continue to develop press and outreach efforts in 2022 and beyond.

### **Publications**

In 2021, we published two issues of our Liberal Bulletin. Following the loss of ALDE Party President **Hans van Baalen** and amid the COVID-19 crisis, the first issue of the year highlighted how liberals are fighting for our values, taking action and winning elections, featuring an insightful interview with Prime Minister of Estonia **Kaja Kallas**.

The second issue, on the Conference on the Future of Europe, included interviews with European Commission Vice-President **Věra Jourová**, who is working on the front lines of defending our European democratic values, and ALDE Party Acting Co-Presidents **Timmy Dooley** and **Ilhan Kyuchyuk**.



### **Social Media Highlights**





















# **ENGAGEMENT**

### Our corporate outreach in 2021 continued to grow despite the pandemic

We hosted many editions of our Stakeholder Series events and our Liberal Breakfast forums. These events saw elected representatives come together with companies such as Adobe, Deloitte, Hyundai, Microsoft and Sky to discuss policy areas such as the Al Act, automated driving, the Digital Services Act, European digital innovation and the future of work. These important conversations add value to the corporate world, and to our world.

Echoing that of the wider world, much of our engagement activities saw the continued use of digital communication media such as webinars, hybrid digital events and zoom meetings. As we return to in-person events, the adoption of live streaming for our panels and forums will be here to stay, as our online engagement reached over 1,000 people for most sessions, complementing our traditional in-person attendance. This added reach adds value to all involved.

There are so many highlights, but to name just one more – 2021 saw the launch of our corporate newsletter, the Liberal Insider Pro. In 2022 this newsletter will be revamped into a brand new policy portal, updating you on the latest policy developments and giving you the chance to have your corporate inputs into our work. This is an exciting development and one not to be missed! Stay updated with our corporate engagement by getting in touch with us at <a href="mailto:insider@aldeparty.eu">insider@aldeparty.eu</a>.

### We remain the only European Party allowing citizens to engage directly

2021 was the year where we created a new bridge between liberals from the EU and those further afield. Under the leadership of our late president, **Hans van Baalen**, we developed the "Liberal Associate" service which allows liberals from around the world to be a part of the ALDE family.

2021 marked the ten-year anniversary of this unique European programme. We have engaged with individuals around the world on important topics such as the Conference on the Future of Europe, rule of law and human rights.

Now, in 2022, we are preparing to evolve again. Through the hard work of our ALDE Party Bureau members Baroness Sal Brinton and Daniel Berg we are overseeing a reform of our individual engagement. We need individuals at the centre of what comes next and we are busy working on the launch of the biggest European liberal club for individuals.



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT INDIVIDUAL ENGAGEMENT

# THE ALLIANCE OF HER (AOH)

"Women are necessary [and] no one is going to raise their voices for us if we don't do it ourselves.

We need to be brave, we need to occupy the space".

- Katalin Cseh MEP, in remarks during the Alliance Of Her Networking Reception, October 2021

In 2021, ALDE Party launched the Alliance Of Her, an ambitious new programme building on the highly successful European Women's Academy that aims to support liberal women across Europe to lead and succeed. Alongside the popular Academy, the Alliance Of Her supports a growing and influential alumnae network and delivers events and advocacy initiatives aimed at dismantling the barriers to women's equal political participation and ensuring instead that women's leadership is valued and promoted.

Following the launch, the Alliance of Her Academy graduated its 2020 class, adding another cohort of talented, dynamic and courageous liberal female leaders to its community. In addition, the programme hosted a networking reception in Brussels, supported online trainings and other events.

The major highlight however was the first ever in-person gathering of the alumnae network during a two-day summit in November, hosted by the Alliance Of Her Alumnae Advisory board. This event included workshops and networking opportunities and saw speeches and presentations from high-level liberal leaders such as **Kaja Kallas** and **Sophie Wilmés**. A gala dinner topped off the event with a keynote speech from 2018 alumna and Belgian Secretary of State **Eva De Bleeker**, and the first ever award for the Women in Politics Champion of the Year, which went to Bosnia and Herzegovina MP **Sabina Ćudić**.

As the new year arrived, the Alliance Of Her was able also to celebrate two of its alumnae being appointed to ministerial positions: **Bettina Stark-Watzinger** as Minister of Education in Germany, and **Liesje Schreinemacher** as Minister for International Trade and Development Cooperation in the Netherlands. The Alliance Of Her has even more ambitious plans for 2022 including the first ever youth academy and a strong presence at the ALDE Party Congress.



# MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

In 2021, ALDE Party hosted nine Pre-Council Ministerial Meetings with Renew Europe Group on key topics such as justice, environment, defence, competition, telecommunications and economy. The events were attended by Prime Ministers, Ministers, Commissioners, State Secretaries and MEPs from 17 different European countries. The aim of these events was setting a common liberal agenda prior to Council of the EU meetings.

Highlights included the launch of new Pre-Council meetings for several key Council configurations, including Justice and Home Affairs, Environment, Competitiveness, Foreign affairs and General affairs. We were also proud to mark the 10th Pre-Council meeting of our ALDE Party agriculture and fisheries ministers in March 2021.





1st ENVI 17 March 2021



10th AGRIFISH 23 March 2021



11th AGRIFISH 26 April 2021



## 1st FAC 6 May 2021



### 1st COMPET 27 May 2021



1st GAC 22 June 2021



5th TELECOM 3 December 2021



3rd ECOFIN 7 December 2021

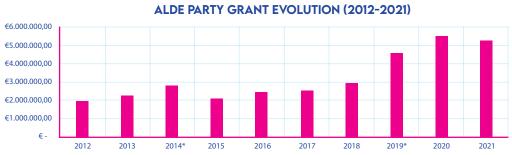


# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

ALDE Party is a European Political Party (EUPP) recognised by the Authority for European political parties and funded by the European Parliament. Funding from the European Parliament covers 90% of the party's eligible expenses. The remaining 10% of eligible expenses as well as its non-eligible expenses must be funded by the party's own resources. The calculation of the Grant from the European Parliament is based on the number of Members of the European Parliament affiliated to the ALDE Party. In 2021, we had 71 affiliated MEPs from 21 EU Member States.

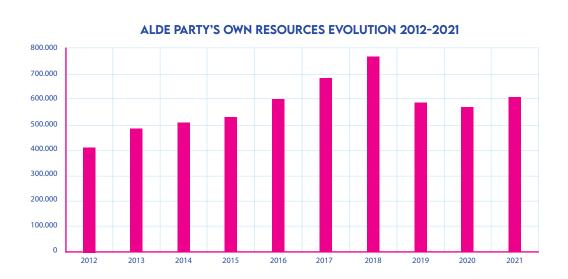
2021 has been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis as was 2020, which led for two years in a row to the cancellation of several in-person activities and meetings and generated at the end of the year an significant carry-over to the following year. In 2022, with the improvement of the sanitary situation, we are looking at resuming our inperson activities and meetings and, importantly, use of the annual budget of the Party.

### **Evolution of ALDE Party annual Grant 2012-2021**



### \* For election years the European Parliament provides the parties with extra budget for the election campaign

### **Evolution of ALDE Party's own resources 2012-2021**



### **Composition of ALDE Party's own resources**

The own resources of the party come mainly from membership fees, sponsorship and various other sources.



### **BUDGET / ACTUAL 2021 \***

INCOME	Budget 2021	Actual 2021
Membership fees	360.000	332.607
Non-EU Members Party contributions	50.000	95.150
EP Grant	5.326.556	5.302.504
Registration fees (Events, Council, Congress)	20.000	18.725
Individual donations	20.000	5.509
Donations/sponsorship	125.000	60.162
Office and parking space rental	58.500	61.570
Individual membership	30.000	16.863
Liberal associates		3.043
Bank interest	1.000	181
Registration fee for corporate	20.000	850
Other income		11.431
Allocation of own resources		15.676
Carry-over from previous year		2.351.920
Total Income	6.011.056	8.276.191
Total Income  EXPENSES	6.011.056 Budget 2021	8.276.191 Actual 2021
EXPENSES	Budget 2021	Actual 2021
<b>EXPENSES</b> Infrastructure costs and office running costs	Budget 2021 230.500	Actual 2021 262.747
EXPENSES Infrastructure costs and office running costs Legal and accounting costs	Budget 2021 230.500 80.000	Actual 2021 262.747 95.482
EXPENSES  Infrastructure costs and office running costs  Legal and accounting costs  Costs of statutory meetings	Budget 2021 230.500 80.000 928.00	Actual 2021 262.747 95.482 472.715
Infrastructure costs and office running costs Legal and accounting costs Costs of statutory meetings Information activities & representation costs	230.500 80.000 928.00 1.520.000	262.747 95.482 472.715 1.092.139
Infrastructure costs and office running costs Legal and accounting costs Costs of statutory meetings Information activities & representation costs Communication expenses	80.000 80.000 928.00 1.520.000 259.000	Actual 2021 262.747 95.482 472.715 1.092.139 112.624
Infrastructure costs and office running costs Legal and accounting costs Costs of statutory meetings Information activities & representation costs Communication expenses Support to partner organisations	80.000 80.000 928.00 1.520.000 259.000 85.000	262.747 95.482 472.715 1.092.139 112.624 84.999
EXPENSES  Infrastructure costs and office running costs  Legal and accounting costs  Costs of statutory meetings  Information activities & representation costs  Communication expenses  Support to partner organisations  Salaries, charges and other costs	80.000 80.000 928.00 1.520.000 259.000 85.000 2.698.000	262.747 95.482 472.715 1.092.139 112.624 84.999 2.885.281
Infrastructure costs and office running costs Legal and accounting costs Costs of statutory meetings Information activities & representation costs Communication expenses Support to partner organisations Salaries, charges and other costs Depreciation	80.000 928.00 1.520.000 259.000 85.000 2.698.000 124.000	262.747 95.482 472.715 1.092.139 112.624 84.999 2.885.281 102.418
Infrastructure costs and office running costs Legal and accounting costs Costs of statutory meetings Information activities & representation costs Communication expenses Support to partner organisations Salaries, charges and other costs Depreciation Other charges	80.000 80.000 928.00 1.520.000 259.000 85.000 2.698.000 124.000 25.500	262.747 95.482 472.715 1.092.139 112.624 84.999 2.885.281 102.418 22.344
Infrastructure costs and office running costs Legal and accounting costs Costs of statutory meetings Information activities & representation costs Communication expenses Support to partner organisations Salaries, charges and other costs Depreciation Other charges TOTAL REIMBURSABLE EXPENDITURE	80.000 80.000 928.00 1.520.000 259.000 85.000 2.698.000 124.000 25.500 5.950.000	Actual 2021  262.747  95.482  472.715  1.092.139  112.624  84.999  2.885.281  102.418  22.344  5.130.749

# \* as adopted by Council on 18/11/2020

### **ALDE PARTY'S OWN RESOURCES 2021**



### **BUDGET 2022 \***

INCOME	Budget 2022
Membership fees	360.000
Non-EU Members Party contributions	60.000
EP Grant	5.294.539
Registration fees (Events, Council, Congress)	20.000
Individual donations	20.000
Donations/sponsorship	175.000
Office and parking space rental	58.500
Individual membership	23.000
Liberal associates	3.000
Bank interest	1.000
Registration fee for corporate	23.500
Total Income	6.029.520

EXPENSES	Budget 2022
Infrastructure costs and office running costs	249.000
Legal and accounting costs	80.000
Costs of statutory meetings	900.000
Information activities & representation costs	1.445.000
Communication expenses	188.000
Support to partner organisations	100.000
Salaries, charges and other costs	2.865.000
Depreciation	137.000
Other charges	27.500
TOTAL REIMBURSABLE EXPENDITURE	5.991.500
Non-reimbursable expenditure	47.039
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	6.038.539

<sup>\*</sup> as adopted by Council on 11/12/2021

# **HUMAN RESOURCES**

In 2021, the HR department focused on the wellbeing of employees and improvement of the existing onboarding process of new hires. In addition, special attention has been given to diversity in the recruitment process.

To improve wellbeing, an audit was carried over by an external auditor. In response to the auditor's recommendations, the HR team developed new processes to enhance the safety and security of employees at the workplace, on missions or when working from home.

For the onboarding process, a new system based on an internal induction plan was implemented in 2021. To provide new hires with a full induction to the organisation, an individual training plan for each employee was developed. The trainings - delivered by Heads of Units and Managers - aim to give new employees an overview on the priorities and the activities of each unit.

Finally, our organisation experienced growth in terms of recruitment in 2021. Ten new staff members (permanent and temporary) were hired, from many different nationalities. A more open, diverse and inclusive organisation gives access to a wide range of experiences, stimulates the creation of new ideas and, eventually, leads to better performance and successful projects.

