DUBLIN 26 COUNCIL

ALDE PARTY

DUBLIN DECLARATION

LIBERALS ARE STRONG IN UNITY

European liberals come together in Dublin at a time when our shared values are more important than ever.

In an increasingly volatile world, ALDE and its member parties fight to uphold democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights. These are our core values, which help us maintain a society in which pluralism, tolerance, solidarity and equality prevail.

Our meeting comes at an important moment for Ireland, as it holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. **Ireland's own European journey offers an inspiring example of what European cooperation can achieve.**

In the 1972 referendum, the Irish people chose to join the European Economic Community, embracing the idea that in the modern world we can only secure our sovereignty as states by working with others in strong, rules-bound and permanent cooperation. The international debate at that time focused on asking if the state was simply too poor and too peripheral to survive the competition and pressures involved.

Ireland's success and sovereignty today reminds us that **when we work together, Europe can achieve incredible things.**

Security

Since Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, the European continent has changed. The level of hybrid attacks has increased exponentially. In recent weeks we have experienced increasing co-ordinated efforts to disrupt the lives of European citizens. We are alive to this type of disruptive activity, designed to create fear and anxiety among populations across Europe, designed to stretch and wear down security forces. The need for measures to enhance European security and to work together to build our resilience has never been more evident.

Europe must invest in all dimensions of its own security and rapidly develop its defence capabilities. We will not be safe unless we address critical capability gaps. We will support deep collaboration to build European resilience, particularly in the face of sophisticated hybrid threats, and to advance our maritime and cyber security. This collaboration will respect the security and defence policies of states, their constitutional laws and international commitments.

Competitiveness & AI

Without a strong economy we will not have security. We need to be economically competitive in order to sustain the European way of life and have the prosperity we need to protect the vulnerable in our society.

Competitiveness allows us to provide a robust social safety net and to live in dignity, with decent housing, with meaningful and productive jobs. It helps us educate our children and give skills to our workers. It provides excellence in healthcare allowing Europeans to live longer, healthier lives. It allows us to make the investments to keep our people safe in an increasingly volatile world, and it supports us in making sustainable choices that can ensure a liveable planet for those who come after us.

Europe must become an economic superpower. This means creating the conditions for businesses to innovate, start up and scale up across the Single Market, strengthening trade partnerships with ambition and reliable global partners, and accelerating the digital and climate transitions.

Artificial intelligence will be central to this ambition. We must focus on how we can best harness AI in support competitiveness and innovation while protecting fundamental rights.

Cost of Living

One of the biggest issues facing Europeans is the cost of living, particularly energy prices affected by disruptions to international trade, continues to put pressure on workers, their families and on communities more generally.

Europe has to become more economically self-reliant and independent in terms of how we do our business. We will continue to move Europe in this direction and prioritise work to enhance Europe's security of supply and the development of sustainable and affordable energy systems.

Ukraine

We will continue to offer unwavering support to Ukraine, whose people have shown such courage and determination in defending their country. They deserve a just and lasting peace.

Political, financial, military and humanitarian support for Ukraine must be coupled with ever-increasing pressure on Russia so that its cruel and morally indefensible war can no longer be sustained. We will work to agree more sanctions that are tighter and stronger.

Values

Without upholding our values, we will not have a Europe in which our people can flourish and which we are proud to call home.

Liberal parties believe in fighting for democracy, respecting human dignity, freedom, equality, the rule of law and human rights, including the rights of minorities.
We must defend and vindicate these values, both within Europe and globally.

At a moment where so many are promoting division and a return to a failed model of competition between nations, we will clearly and without any reservation speak for the vital necessity of the democratic and humanitarian ideals of Europe. We will continue to be committed to progress through cooperation and for its strengthening of national cultures through the security of shared interests.

"Ní neart go cur le chéile" – strength with unity.

Svenja Hahn
President
ALDE Party

Micheál Martin
Party Leader
Fianna Fáil