

For the full release of political prisoners in Serbia

The Council of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party, convening in Helsinki, Finland on 27-28 June, 2025:

Considering that Serbia:

- is an EU candidate country but is suffering a backsliding in terms of democracy, rule of law and media freedoms under the rule of President Vucic;
- is facing a prolonged political crisis and large-scale anti-government protests are still going since the canopy of the Novi Sad rail station collapsed on 1 November 2024.

Regretting that:

- Right before the largest protest gathering in Belgrade on March 15, an illegal state security wiretapping recording was made at PSG office premises in Novi Sad that were then broadcast on all national frequencies and ruling party controlled affiliates;
- After the broadcast, the Serbian prosecution ordered the arrest of all participants present that evening, including five members of PSG including one member of the local assembly, and charged the individuals with seeking to violently overthrow the legal constitutional order of the Republic of Serbia and branding them as terrorists;
- Their detention over an almost 3-month period did not follow due process and their human rights were violated;
- Only after immense pressure from student protests and international community involvement, as well as a statement from the European Commission and resolution of the European Parliament, did the Appeal Court release them to strict house arrest conditions, while awaiting trial.

Calls on:

- ALDE member parties to increase calls on Serbia to release all political prisoners currently in house arrest, to drop all politicised charges, and condemn anti-EU actions and rhetoric of President Vucic and his ruling SNS party;
- the European Commission and European states to take a more active, critical approach in addressing the failure of rule of law in Serbia, especially in using and weaponising state security forces and the judiciary to threaten and silence political opponents and student protesters.