

# Accelerating Western Balkans integration now

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

## Notes with concern that:

- the Western Balkan countries, particularly North Macedonia and Montenegro, have endured a disproportionately long and frustrating waiting period for EU integration, undermining trust and stability in a strategically vital region;
- with a key EU decision expected in early July 2025 for Ukraine and Moldova to fully join the EU's "Roam Like at Home" (RLAH) system, this imminent step vividly demonstrates the EU's capacity for swift action and underscores the critical urgency for similar progress in the Western Balkans, where further delays risk deepening disillusionment and strategic vulnerability due to resolvable 'technicalities' lacking political will;
- the successful integration of Western Balkan countries into SEPA proves that tangible benefits of EU integration can be delivered swiftly when there is political will;
- it is politically unacceptable and morally untenable to keep the Western Balkans in a prolonged waiting room when faster, tangible benefits are feasible.

## Believes:

- that accelerated sectoral integration of the Western Balkans—based on acquis alignment—can and should deliver faster benefits to citizens and businesses, while strengthening strategic resilience and credibility of the enlargement process.
- in a strong engagement from Renew Europe to lead this effort.

## Reiterates:

- Previous ALDE Party resolutions calling for enlargement of the European Union and full integration of the Western Balkans.

## Calls for:

- Immediate proposals and ratification of amendments to the SAAs with Western Balkan countries;
- Full inclusion in sectoral internal market measures, including RLAH, mirroring Ukraine and Moldova;
- Full EU membership by 2030 for all countries meeting the Copenhagen criteria.