

## On the recent protests and human rights situation in China

The Council of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening in Bratislava, Slovakia, on 2-3 December 2022:

### Notes that:

- in late November 2022, thousands of people joined protests in cities across China, in an unprecedented challenge to leader Xi Jinping's zero-Covid policy;
- the Chinese authorities moved quickly to suppress demonstrations, deploying police forces at key protest sites and tightening online censorship;
- since the 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy protests in Tiananmen Square, the Communist Party leadership has consistently jailed political dissidents, especially those who argued publicly for democratic change;
- under Xi Jinping, the regime has rapidly expanded the scope of its repression, engulfing a numbing procession of lawyers, journalists, bloggers, women's advocates, minority rights campaigners, and religious believers who have been detained, placed under house arrest, disappeared, or formally sentenced to prison;
- the visit on 1st December of European Council President Charles Michel to Beijing to have a substantial meeting with President Xi to deal with the challenges in EU-China relations.

### Calls on the European Parliament, the European Commission, the European Council and EU Member States to:

- Urge the Chinese authorities to rethink China's zero-COVID policy, which is leading to great hardship for its people and significant damage to the Chinese economy, and engage in dialogue with the protestors.
- If repression continues, put into force stronger economic pressure on those responsible for the repression;
- continue to strongly condemn the persecution of political dissidents and give further support to Chinese opposition politicians – both in exile and within China - in their fight for human rights and democracy.

### Resolution:

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### Year and Congress:

Bratislava, December 22

### Category:

Urgency

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