

Reshaping Our Future – The Turning Point for a Sovereign Europe

The Congress of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening in Dublin, Ireland, on 2-4 June 2022:

Notes that:

- functioning democratic procedures are the basis for a life in prosperity, social participation and individual freedom;
- it is time to reaffirm our commitment to fundamental and human rights for every person living in one of our members party's countries;
- the freedom of expression is undergoing a transformation with the advent of digital platforms and with public and private media playing an essential role by fulfilling their task of public control and transparent information;
- economic freedom is the foundation for peace and prosperity in Europe but the democratic and pluralistic coexistence in Europe has recently been severely tested.

Welcomes that:

- New Central Europe+ (NCE+) and its members from NEOS (Austria), Momentum (Hungary), Nowoczesna (Poland), Progressive Slovakia plus USR (Romania), MRF (Bulgaria), CENTAR and HNS (Croatia) and Latvijas Atbilstība (Latvia) with the support of ALDE party organised a Liberals Mayors convent on 29 March 2022 in Vienna;
- five (Vice-)Mayors from Vienna, Split, Warszawa, Dzhebel and Bucharest as well as the chair of Renew group in the Committee of the Regions and Mayor in France attended;
- all signed a joint declaration with the title 'Reshaping Our Future – The Turning Point for a Sovereign Europe'.

Believes that:

- in these times of widespread political uncertainty, populism, and war in Europe, we need to stand resolutely for the upholding and strengthening of democracy, democratic institutions and the rule of law;
- human rights are never for certain, but have to be fought for again and again and today it is more important than ever before that we remember this. Fundamental and human rights enable people to shape their lives freely according to their wishes and to exercise their personal responsibility;
- all people should raise their voices and make their opinions known. At the same time, increasing tendencies to interfere with the freedom of

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expression of others through hate speech, defamation or discriminatory content have no place in a democracy;

- restrictions on media content and state-led restructuring of media, as we have seen in some countries within and outside of Europe, can never be tolerated or accepted.
- the same applies to the spread of fake news by anti-democratic and populist movements;
- the four freedoms of the European Union are essential for sustainable growth and the development of an ever closer union. A free-market economy provides individuals with the opportunity to realise their full potential.

Calls for:

- particular attention must be drawn to human rights and the right to self-determination, women rights and gender equality, the rights of ethnic, religious and sexual minorities, especially in times of armed aggression;
- ALDE to unreservedly stand up for the safeguarding of independent and critical reporting in public and private media as a central democratic principle;
- The condemnation in the strongest possible terms of the Russian aggression against sovereign Ukraine. Our response must be solidarity and humanity towards the independent Republic of Ukraine and a clear, strict stance towards Russia;
- Europe to seize the opportunity to take its destiny into its own hands and create a robust, secure and autonomous security order for the future;
- full support of inter-regional cooperation between liberal (Vice-)Mayors and City councillors to support liberal values directly in Member states and urban centres through New Central Europe+ and the Liberal Mayors Network.

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