

A new focus on the protection of critical infrastructure

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

Notes that:

- the dramatic consequences of attacks on critical infrastructure for citizens can be seen daily in Ukraine due to the unprovoked and unjustified military invasion by Russia;
- critical infrastructure is the target of enemy operations both in times of peace and even more so in times of war and conflict;
- current examples such as the attacks on the pipeline in the Baltic Sea show the vulnerability of critical infrastructure in Europe;
- on 23 November 2022, the European Parliament was subject to a cyber-attack, showing the vulnerability of democratic institutions.

Believes that:

- a functioning country needs transport and supply routes as well as lines of communication that citizens and the state can rely on at all times;
- power interests of authoritarian states have so far been structurally underestimated in most European countries;
- the protection of critical infrastructure is not just about the technical protection of our infrastructure, but also about protection against external economic and geostrategic influence on the infrastructure;
- democracy and its institutions should be seen as part of critical infrastructure.

Calls for:

- a new strategy in dealing with investments by authoritarian states, including enhanced European cooperation on foreign investments in critical infrastructure to identify influence strategies by these states;
- the non-consideration of any companies which are under extensive influence of authoritarian states when expanding critical infrastructure;
- investments in research and development, especially in the field of cybersecurity and energy security, and in the reduction of so-called single points of failure in critical infrastructure;
- the inclusion of infrastructure of democracy and elections into the strategy on critical infrastructure, thereby recognising its importance for liberal democracies.

Resolution:

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Year and Congress:

Bratislava, December 22

Category:

Urgency

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