

EU as a key actor in restoring democracy in Cambodia

The Council of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening in Sofia, Bulgaria, on 28 April 2018:

Is:

- seriously concerned at the deteriorating situation in Cambodia following the imprisonment of the leader of the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) on trumped political charges and the dissolution of CNRP;
- alarmed by the continuing news of violent repression of political opponents, civil society and free media.

Welcomes:

- the positions and conclusions on Cambodia adopted by the European Council in February;
- the initiatives by ALDE members, including *Mouvement Reformateur* which initiated a debate on the situation in Cambodia in the Federal Parliament in April.

Supports:

- the Joint Statement on Cambodia at the UNHRC meeting, expressed by a group of 45 nations, including all EU members and candidates.

Emphasises:

- the great leverage of the EU in Cambodia with 40% of Cambodian exports to the EU markets with zero tariffs, conditioned by respect of democratic principles and Human Rights.

Recognises:

- that the July elections without the participation of the opposition will be illegitimate producing a dictatorial government at which EU will gradually lose influence to the benefit of China.

Calls for urgent actions by the EU and its Member States, including:

- an urgent mission to Cambodia initiated by the Commission, followed by the measures in response to the breached provisions of the trade agreement by Cambodia;
- targeted visa and travel bans by the Council on Hun Sen's family members and close associates;
- a new resolution by the European Parliament which would introduce conditionality on EU election observation missions linked to the freeing of political prisoners and the election participation of the CNRP;

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- an invitation to EU Member States parties to the 1991 Paris Peace Agreement to immediately take actions to prevent violation of the Agreement.

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