

Protect Democracy: Political Violence Has No Place in Europe

The Congress of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party, convening in Brussels, Belgium on October 24-25, 2025:

Considering that:

- Increasing radicalisation of people in extremist circles, including minors, and involvement in terrorism and violent extremist activities poses a serious threat to our internal security;
- Extremist politicians have been downplaying and attacking democratic values and institutions, and have created fertile ground for promoting political violence;
- Political violence is being increasingly used to target democratic institutions, free media, police, politicians and ordinary citizens, intended to spread fear and division in society;
- Intelligence and counterterrorism agencies have repeatedly warned against political violence by extremist groups and have warned politicians not to shy away from explicitly calling it by its name and to never normalise political extremism, as this complicates fighting extremism;
- These times require a clear choice between democratic forces and anti-democratic forces;

Noting that:

- Democracies cannot be considered safe if people live in fear for their lives due to their ethnicity, religion, political views or identity;
- Freedom of speech and assembly are cornerstones of liberal democracy, but they may never be abused to promote violence, hate or intimidation;
- Political leaders across Europe must stand firmly against all forms of political extremism and defend democratic institutions;

Calls for the ALDE Party and its member parties to:

- Condemn any form of political intimidation, violence or hate speech in Europe, while insisting on the right to peaceful protest;
- Continue to fight extremism and political violence, and to never be silenced by nor give in to extremist politicians;
- Promote investment in education in order to build and strengthen resilience to extremism, to promote fundamental rights, critical thinking, and historical understanding of fascism, which will further support societal dialogue to counter radicalisation and extremism in European societies;
- Stress the need for strict enforcement of applicable laws for digital platforms, and for holding them accountable for the spread of hate, disinformation and extremist propaganda without restricting the expression of political views and support for human rights.