

Fossil-free energy: the key to security and quality of life

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

Considering:

- **Energy dependence:** The Russian invasion of Ukraine has made it clear that the phase-out of gas and oil imports is crucial for Europe's security and sovereignty. Reliance on fossil fuels from authoritarian regimes exposes us to political pressure, price shocks and supply disruptions;
- **Climate change:** The long-term consequences of climate change will come at enormous financial cost and threaten our economies and health. More frequent heatwaves, rising sea levels, and extreme weather events will reduce food security, cause water scarcity, drive climate migration and fuel resource conflicts. Meeting the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement by reducing our greenhouse gas emissions (mainly CO2 emissions) is therefore an absolute priority — to safeguard our quality of life and the future of our children;
- **European energy system resilience:** A stable energy supply is the backbone of our security and daily life. An energy system that lacks a strong and durable grid, options for energy storage and thus, the capacity to balance out imbalances in the energy flow risk causing blackouts. Blackouts would paralyse hospitals, transport, communications, and the economy — and could quickly result in civil unrest.

ALDE calls for:

- **Innovation and research:** It is essential to remove existing obstacles and create the necessary regulatory framework to strongly promote investment in innovation and research on fossil-free energy (for example solar cells, offshore wind power, geothermal power, efficient and safe nuclear power energy), on sustainable transport technologies (for example batteries, hydrogen, carbon-free and low carbon fuels) as well as on carbon capture usage and storage;
- A European framework for the creation of a real market for negative emissions;
- **European Energy Market:** Install a real European energy market without borders in order to better harness the diverse strengths of the member states in energy production by creating better interconnections of power grids throughout Europe so that surplus energy can be shared across borders, fluctuations in wind and solar can be balanced, surges in electricity prices can be balanced out, and blackouts can be prevented;
- **Smart grids and digitalisation:** Support smart grids and digitalization, essential to manage production and demand efficiently, prevent blackouts, and reduce energy losses;
- **Storage:** Rapid deployment of storage technologies (for example batteries, hydrogen, pumped storage, synthetic fuels, vehicle-to-grid) to balance fluctuations in renewable energy and ensure a stable energy supply and pricing;
- **A European action plan for bioeconomy;**
- **Create a Level-Playing Field for Fuels:** Use ETS as the essential tool to create a level-playing field among fuels while phasing out subsidies, including those for fossil fuels. Additionally, a comprehensive Liquid Fuel Strategy aiming at decarbonising the entire transport sector should be developed as liquid fuels are essential for decarbonising aviation, the maritime sector and the existing vehicle fleet, even beyond

2035;

- **Quicker permitting processes:** Simplify and accelerate permitting processes, including efficient and public consultations, and remove regulatory and infrastructure-related barriers for all fossil-free technologies, such as wind, solar, hydro, and geothermal and nuclear, to avoid years of delays. Recognise the role of municipalities in building ecosystems between authorities, public services, businesses and universities to speed up permitting processes and the establishment of new business;
- **Low-interest loans and guarantees:** Provide loans through public banks and trust funds to lower interest rates and offer guarantees for green investments, in order to reduce risk for private investment and make energy storage, energy infrastructure, energy efficiency, and clean mobility more affordable, especially for small businesses and low-income households. Strengthen the environmental mandate of the public banks across Europe;
- **Energy efficiency:** Increase energy efficiency in buildings, industry, and transport. Make contributions to the district heating network or the local energy production a business opportunity for new and existing industries;
- **Sector coupling:** Encourage cross-sectoral planning processes and the coupling of sectors such as electricity and heating and cooling systems through Power-2-Heat facilities and district heating as an opportunity to increase flexibility and decarbonise European heating and cooling systems;
- **Incentivise independent energy production and storage:** Provide tax relief to households and apartment houses that invest in renewable energy or energy storage, in order to further balance fluctuations in the energy production and consumption;
- **Socially fair transition:** Ensure a socially fair transition with reskilling opportunities and support for affected regions to prevent social backlash and the rise of the far right;
- **European production:** Boost the competitiveness of Europe as a business location to enable production in Europe of innovative products necessary for transition (solar panels, wind turbines, batteries, hydrogen technologies and nuclear), in order to reduce dependence on imports and create new jobs in the energy and technology sectors;
- **Reliable partners:** cooperation with non-EU countries to ensure energy security should only be made with reliable international partners.
- **Critical Components:** Develop a sustainable, international supply chain for critical technology components necessary for the green transition, such as crucial raw materials, taking into account social and environmental concerns;
- **Charging stations:** Support fast-charging stations for electric vehicles and trucks, as well as hydrogen refuelling stations — especially along highways;
- **Electrification:** Boost electrification of heating (for example with heat pumps) and cooling systems to reduce dependency on fossil fuels. Strive to improve conditions for the electrification of the industrial processes;
- **Solar farms:** Explore the possibility of developing solar farms in suited and trusted partner countries, for example in North and Central African countries to generate exportable energy through interconnected grids to Europe, thereby enhancing energy security;
- **Good practices:** Create an instrument supporting the transfer of know-how and best practices between European countries to facilitate the implementation of national energy and climate plans as part of the European Energy Market.