

Innovate, Integrate, Elevate: Unleashing Europe's Tech Potential

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

Considering that:

- advancements in technology and digital sectors are critical for economic growth, competitiveness, and innovation;
- effective policies, initiatives and a unified market are essential to foster a thriving tech ecosystem within the EU in order to compete globally;
- enhancing market relevance and competitiveness requires a collaborative effort among member states, industry stakeholders, European institutions, Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs), and educational institutions;
- supporting startups, scale-ups, and newly established tech companies is vital for sustaining innovation, yet Europe's fragmented tech sector lacks centralised regulation to unify and strengthen its impact;
- young entrepreneurs face major hurdles, including excessive regulations, fragmented administrative requirements, limited financing, weak industry contact networks, and a lack of targeted support programmes or tax incentives.

Recognising that:

- the USA and China have established themselves as the current dominant players in the technology and digital sectors, attracting top talent and investment;
- the EU has already implemented initiatives such as Horizon Europe, but further efforts are needed to maintain and strengthen Europe's position as a regional global innovation leader;
- the EU must create a European environment conducive to innovation, entrepreneurship, and collaboration with a consistent regulation across the EU to compete on a global scale;
- access to funding, resources, and infrastructure remains a major challenge for young entrepreneurs, yet it's essential to nurture startups and drive growth in the tech sector;
- collaboration between industry, academia, and government is key to closing skill gaps and ensuring a steady flow of talent and innovation.

Believing that:

- a comprehensive collective strategy is necessary to retain and attract talent, attract investment, and drive innovation in the EU's technology and digital sectors;
- the crack-down on US universities by the Trump administration creates an opportunity to defend academic freedom, attract talents and strengthen Europe's position as a hub for freedom and innovation;
- providing a supportive ecosystem for startups and tech companies will spur growth, create jobs, and enhance the EU's competitiveness;
- Europe must create a pro-innovation regulatory environment that reduces barriers to business creation,

enabling young entrepreneurs to thrive and scale their startups;

- a unified digital market with harmonised regulations on digital services, AI, and financial transactions is vital for Europe's competitiveness.

ALDE calls for:

- the support of existing hubs and establishment of new strategic innovation hubs and tech clusters throughout the EU to enhance collaboration and networking among technology professionals and entrepreneurs;
- a Europe-wide incubator network, a 'Startup Erasmus' exchange program, EU support for Member States to share best practices on entrepreneurship education, a European mentorship program, and stronger collaboration between universities and businesses to develop innovation hubs;
- enhancing the digital infrastructure, including high-speed internet access, data centres, and cybersecurity measures, to support the tech industry;
- the swift completion of the digital single market in order to provide domestic initiatives and startup companies a larger market as well as facilitating the participation of newly established tech companies in public procurement projects;
- a dedicated EU fund with grants, microcredits, and tax breaks for young startups, alongside a 'Start & Scale' program and an expanded Business Angels Network. Combined with investment incentives, a Secondary Market for Startups, and a Public-Private Investment Fund to boost access to capital and attract private and international funding;
- implement a streamlined European Tech Visa system, facilitating simplified residency and mobility across member states for non-EU tech talent, entrepreneurs, and investors, enhancing Europe's attractiveness as a global innovation hub;
- the creation of a 'European Startup Passport': A single digital platform for startup registration, compliance, and reporting across all EU member states, ensuring automatic recognition of business licenses and a fast-track process for highly innovative startups;
- promoting partnerships between industry and academia to address skill and research application to market gaps by developing relevant curricula in education systems;
- the development and implementation of initiatives to retain talent, including competitive compensation packages, opportunities for professional development, and work-life balance policies;
- encouraging diversity and inclusion initiatives to create a welcoming and supportive environment for all tech professionals, regardless of gender, ethnicity, or background;
- further harmonising regulations on digital services and AI, a Europe-wide digital identity framework for businesses, a pan-European open data strategy, and harmonisation of tax rules for the simplification of invoicing and cross-border payments;
- reducing bureaucratic hurdles and speeding up approval processes for AI-driven and high-tech companies, ensuring a regulatory framework that fosters innovation while maintaining ethical and safety standards.