



Ed Davey MP | Leader
Liberal Democrats
66 Buckingham Gate
London
SW1E 6AU

Didrik de Schaetzen,
Secretary General, ALDE
Sent by email

2nd June 2026

Dear Didrik,

I am writing to nominate Julie Smith, Baroness Smith of Newnham, for the position of the Vice President of ALDE.

Julie is currently the Liberal Democrat Defence and Security spokesperson in the House of Lords, which she joined in 2014. I believe she would make an excellent addition to the ALDE team.

Julie has a strong academic background in UK and European politics. After completing her PhD at Oxford in elections to the European Parliament, she became a Hanseatic Scholar. Later, she became a Lecturer in European Politics at Cambridge University becoming a Professor of European Politics in 2021.

She is a regular speaker at international conferences on European Politics.

Beyond her impressive academic record, Julie also holds considerable practical political experience. Not only does she serve a key Spokesperson role for my Party in the House of Lords, but she was also an elected Cambridge City Councillor for over a decade, and first attended an ELDR Congress in Torquay in 1993. Julie has since become a regular delegate to ALDE Congress.

Julie's extensive knowledge and experience mean she has a deep understanding of how political parties work. She has served the Liberal Democrats on various Federal Party Committees, most recently on the Federal Policy Committee, and has been a regular speaker at Liberal Democrat Conferences over the last thirty years.

Julie's academic background and interest in political parties is a real asset to her work. Indeed, some of those now elected were previously her own students, and she

has had great success using her connections to build strong relationships with other European politicians in our sister parties.

Julie's considerable and varied experience means I believe she will bring much to the ALDE Bureau in these important and difficult times for Europe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sir Ed Davey".

Sir Ed Davey MP
Leader of the Liberal Democrats