

Europe must not reward the Taliban with Political Legitimacy

The Congress of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening in Vienna, Austria, on 3-4 of July 2026:

Notes that:

- since 2021, the EU has set conditions for engagement with the Taliban: respect for human rights, unhindered humanitarian access, and meaningful steps towards an inclusive government - none of which have been met;
- the human rights situation has deteriorated dramatically, particularly for women and girls, including through the systematic exclusion and persecution of women and girls;
- many Afghans who support democracy, human rights, and work in European missions are without protection and face acute danger;
- the European Union presents itself as a major supporter for human rights, gender equality, and international law. Giving access to representatives of the Islamist-terrorist Taliban regime without any progress on such issues undermines Europe's credibility on these commitments globally.

Regrets that:

- Taliban representatives were welcomed in Brussels on June 23th to discuss migration and deportation arrangements. Giving access and visibility to Taliban representatives gives the wrong signal about Europe's priorities globally;
- the Taliban used the visit to Brussels to show that Europe is normalising relations even without any progress on the conditions set by the European Union;
- this meeting sets a dangerous precedent where regimes that breach human rights can exploit collaboration on migration in order to gain increased international acceptance.

Calls on the European Commission, the European External Action Service, the Governments of EU Member States, and Council of Europe Members to:

- refrain from inviting Taliban representatives to Brussels or other European capitals for diplomatic or migration-related negotiations;
- uphold the EU's clear conditions for engagement with the Taliban;
- prioritise engagement with Afghan civil society, women human rights defenders, and victims of Taliban persecution;
- offer pathways to protection via humanitarian visas and protection within the asylum system;
- support and cooperate with the ICC's Afghanistan investigation.