

## Visionary EU Enlargement and Border Dignity

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

### Regarding:

- the French-German non-paper "*A new momentum for EU enlargement*" (4 June 2026).

### Recalling:

- the LIBSEEN 2021 Position Paper pioneering a progressive, merit-based staged integration roadmap with intermediate institutional participation and increased funding;
- the ALDE Dublin Congress Resolution (2022) on the future of EU enlargement;
- the ALDE Helsinki Council Resolutions (2025) on accelerating Western Balkans and Ukraine integration;
- the ALDE Brussels Congress Resolution (2025) demanding structural reforms to prevent single-member-state vetoes from blocking legitimate accession steps.

### Welcoming:

- the decisive efforts of the European Commissioner for Enlargement to successfully elevate the enlargement agenda into a top geopolitical and EU priority.

### Emphasising that:

- phased or staged integration, with access to the Single Market as a priority, must be citizen- and business-friendly, visionary, bold, and efficient, with the clear aim to accelerate progress towards full membership rather than creating second-class tiers.

### Expressing deep concern that:

- the Entry/Exit System (EES) treats EU candidates as generic "third countries"—which, while well-intentioned on paper, steers degradation, humiliation, and unacceptable scenes at EU borders, heavily fueling anti-EU sentiment.

### Calls on the EU institutions and Member States to:

- shift rapidly from oral reassurances to structured and clear criteria-based timelines, applying Qualified Majority Voting (QMV) to all intermediate integration steps to ensure a predictable process;
- ensure that the new momentum and phased process won't allow for any attempt to bilateralise the EU accession process by exploiting single-member-state vetoes over bilateral and history-based disputes to stall legitimate, merit-based progress, as has been the case over the past years;
- urgently reform EES protocols for candidate nations to eliminate humiliating administrative bottlenecks, safeguarding cross-border economies, human dignity, and European solidarity.