

## On the way to majority decisions in the Common Foreign and Security Policy

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

### Considers that:

- in general, decisions within the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) require unanimity giving a single EU member state the power to veto any decision of the Union;
- several EU member states have blocked or delayed sanctions and CFSP decisions, including measures related to Russia's aggression against Ukraine;
- however, the Treaties of the European Union do foresee multiple exceptions to the unanimity principle in the CFSP which have not been used so far;
- according to Article 31(2) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), when adopting a decision defining a Union action or position on the basis of a decision of the European Council relating to the Union's strategic interests and objectives, the Council of the EU shall decide with a qualified majority;
- according to Article 31(2) of the TEU, qualified majority voting shall also be applied when adopting any decision implementing a decision defining a Union action or position;
- furthermore, according to Article 31(3) of the TEU (the so-called "Passerelle Clause"), the European Council may unanimously decide that the Council shall act by a qualified majority in cases other than those referred to in Art. 31(2) TEU;
- in 2018, the European Commission proposed to use the Passerelle Clause to introduce qualified majority for decisions on sanctions and human rights issues;
- in 2023, the European Parliament proposed a comprehensive reform of the treaties, including a qualified majority for CFSP decision combined with a blocking minority of one third of the EU member states representing one third of the Union's population.

### Believes that:

- a strong CFSP is essential for the EU to be a driving force in a changing global environment and to provide security to its citizens;
- as long as a single EU member state can veto CFSP decisions, the EU is prone to blackmailing, foreign interference and indecisiveness.

### Calls for:

- EU member states to use the existing possibilities for qualified majority decisions within the CFSP;
- sanction regimes, in particular, to be drafted by defining only the general conditions unanimously, i.e. the general conditions for natural or legal persons to be listed or a good to be banned from import or export, while any listing of a concrete person, or an import or export ban of a concrete good, should be an implementing decision approved by a qualified majority;
- EU member states, European Commission and European Parliament to push for CFSP decisions to be made by qualified majority in general, for example through usage of the Passerelle Clause and/or a reform of the Treaties of the European Union;
- the Treaties of the European Union to be revised so that international agreements may cover both exclusive and shared competences of the Union while still being concluded by the European Union alone, without requiring the mixed agreement procedure, where the agreement primarily pursues Union

objectives;

- the Treaties of the European Union to be revised so that all international agreements concluded by the European Union are approved by the Council by qualified majority voting, unless the Treaties provide for an even less restrictive voting procedure;
- EU member states, European Commission and European Parliament to establish an Erasmus-Programme for diplomats to foster the creation of a common diplomatic and strategic culture.