

Strengthening the European Economy

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

Knowing that:

- economic strength and profitable companies, including SMEs and family businesses, are the backbone of a prosperous European society;
- freedoms and opportunities for Europeans are based on stable, legally secure and business-friendly regulations for the economy and society;
- the European economy is facing fierce competition, particularly in strategic industries and emerging technologies;
- a competitive economy is central and fundamental to Europe's success;
- only a competitive and successful economy with companies that generate added value can generate sufficient tax revenue to sustainably finance and support national social welfare programmes;
- free trade and the global market are under pressure as well as previous market and trade understandings are under pressure.

Realising that:

- the European economy has been subjected to considerable pressure as a result of the US customs policy;
- many European companies are seeking markets elsewhere or new production sites where lower customs duties and fewer trade barriers apply, thereby increasing added value;
- the US, together with the OECD, has exerted pressure to enforce a minimum corporate tax rate of 15% for all OECD countries, even against their will and fiscal necessity, while the US itself does not comply;
- Europe risks losing its global economic importance if it does not collectively act swiftly.

Calls for:

- the EU to take active and urgent measures to complete the Single Market, prioritising the dismantling of national barriers for trade and the implementation of the Savings and Investments Union;
- the EU to conclude and ratify ambitious trade agreements with like-minded partners to diversify markets and reduce dependencies;
- the EU to actively avoid creating a competitive disadvantage for European companies;
- the removal of bureaucratic and regulatory barriers for small and medium-sized enterprises in the EU by consistently introducing exemptions for small and medium-sized enterprises in economic legislation while ensuring that any exemptions or adjustments remain targeted and do not undermine labour, environmental, and transparency standards;
- in laws, the EU to try not to undermine the internal market;
- EU member states to refrain from gold-plating when transposing EU legislation, as this undermines the level playing field within the Single Market and creates unnecessary additional burdens on European companies;
- the EU to develop its own economic strategy focused on economic growth, innovation, and strategic autonomy, and to prioritise the EU's own interest in its cooperation with international partners.
- the EU to be cautious in doing things in terms of legislation, taxation, and trade policy that could disadvantage the European economy.