



# ALDE Party Extraordinary Congress

20-21 March 2024

Compiled draft resolutions

## Contents

Draft European elections 2024 Manifesto .....	2
Draft ALDE Charter of Values .....	15

NB. The line numbering is provided for reference and may not correspond exactly with the versions of the text displayed on the online resolution platform.

**[READERS NOTE for the Manifesto:** the text is divided into an overarching narrative and three themes. Each theme contains a series of “modules” that reflect the political calls. Each module is divided into a heading with the main call (“ALDE Party fights for...”), a list of proposals (the “how”) and a justification text (in cursive) explaining supporting the proposals (the “why”).]

# **Your Europe, Your Freedom: Delivering change for you**

## **From crisis resolution to delivering positive change for our common future**

In the last years, we have been rudely awakened. The pandemic, Russia's atrocious war against Ukraine and the cost-of-living crisis it triggered has put all of us to the test. It has been a stark reminder that we cannot and should not take our democracies, peace, and economic opportunities for granted.

Despite the social and economic hardship, you, the European citizens have shown impressive resilience and solidarity. Equally, the European Union has demonstrated that it can and does deliver on what really matters, when it really matters. We have come together on core issues previously thought impossible. During the war against Ukraine, we stood united against attacks on democratic values, supporting and helping our democratic neighbours. During the pandemic, pooling and sharing medical equipment and resources, jointly investing in the development of and purchase of vaccines. It has not always been easy, and there have been bumps along the way. But we have accomplished what was unimaginable five years ago.

It is time to build on this. As Europe's centrist force of liberal and democratic parties, we share the desire and impatience for better, easier times. By moving forward together, we can and will overcome the ongoing threats to our internal and external security, economic challenges, and climate crisis. We will fight to make Europe a safe and prosperous place to live. Uncertainty comes with change, but in every change, there is opportunity. We are committed to find a way to make sure these changes create jobs, maintain our welfare model, and uphold our world-class schools, daycares, and hospitals. Our aspiration is that you and future generations have the freedom to choose your own life path.

That is why, as the liberal force in Europe we want to focus on:

- **Boost economic growth for your freedom:** Invest in your skills, and digital and sustainable technologies to create jobs, reduce our dependencies and decouple growth from the use of natural resources.
- **Earn your trust through action and reform:** Give you a say in how your country and Europe are run and create efficient and transparent institutions, holding accountable those that breach the law.
- **Keep Europe free, safe and democratic:** Help Ukraine win the war, enhance our defence capabilities and economic security for Europe's continued independence.

## **Boost economic growth for your freedom**



Our economic freedom, today and tomorrow's jobs and our ability to tackle climate change depend on the successful shift to a sustainable and digital economy that empowers you. We can turn these major changes into opportunities if we clearly and strictly prioritise and target EU money.

This is not a question of spending levels, but how we spend it. The EU already has a 1.1 trillion-euro investment capacity until 2027, easily measuring up to our economic competitors. But we are too slow to spend this money, and spread it too thin over too many overlapping programmes. By the end of 2023, only 1/3 of the EU pandemic recovery fund had been used. All EU policies and economic instruments should be spent on and in support of the shift to the sustainable and digital economy.

EU public investments cannot stand on their own. Our businesses' ability to invest in and deliver a sustainable, competitive economy depends equally much on Europe being an attractive and easy place to do business. We must make it easier for businesses to invest, grow and expand within Europe. This means breaking down barriers and cutting red tape for entrepreneurs, small and large businesses in Europe. Keeping our markets open, encouraging healthy competition and harnessing digitalisation is the only way forward.

#### **ALDE Party fights for: An EU spending compass – sustainable, efficient, digital**

Consolidate the EU's many budgetary programmes, funds, and facilities to simplify spending and clearly prioritise investments and innovation in the sustainable and digital transformation across Europe, taking into account the real costs and benefits of investments for your future prosperity.

Shorten time for EU money to reach you and bring benefits in your community. Where appropriate, provide municipalities with direct access to some EU programmes such as European social funds. For nationally and centrally managed programmes, prevent duplication with additional national layers and rules and provide digital, "one-stop" application procedures to ensure Europe achieves the economies of scale of our global competitors.

Ensure funding programmes, in particular regional and social funds, are robust and flexible enough that they can be steered for crisis response when needed, instead of creating new crisis facilities that only cannibalise existing programmes and create additional red tape and administrative processes.

New EU resources from the Emissions Trading System (ETS), the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and the international tax on multinationals should be fit for purpose and earmarked to the sustainable and digital transition, not just a way to fill gaps in the general budget.

Adapt fiscal rules that promote healthy and prudent fiscal policies. New fiscal rules must incentivise countries to reorient public investments towards the sustainable and digital transition. Any flexibility should not create distortions in the Single Market.

*Major crises have forced the EU to target and clearly prioritise funds towards strategic challenges: investing in our security and ensuring you benefit from the sustainable and digital*



71 *transformation. The current inflation and debt accumulated due to the pandemic and energy*  
72 *crisis are challenges that require targeted investment and healthy budgetary management by*  
73 *the EU and Member States. European liberals will deliver a resilient EU economic system*  
74 *through pragmatic and enforceable budgetary policies geared towards smart investments and*  
75 *budgetary discipline.*

76 **ALDE Party fights for: A competitive European market for you and businesses to**  
77 **thrive**

78 Put the Single Market, which is still the backbone of our competitiveness and ability to create jobs,  
79 back on the EU agenda after years of neglect under the conservative-led European Commission.  
80 Advancing and modernising our Single Market is the only way to genuinely enhance Europe's  
81 open strategic autonomy; through efficient regulation, increased economic integration and  
82 removal of all internal borders and existing barriers for products, services and public procurement,  
83 making sure our innovators can access capital and investor funds across Europe.

84 Prioritise cutting administrative burdens and red tape by following the simple principle of "one  
85 market, one rule". Increase European Parliamentary scrutiny on implementation to ensure that  
86 once something has been regulated at the European level that the same rule, not 27 variations of  
87 it, apply across our internal market. Eliminate the need for European businesses, large and small,  
88 from having to jump through 27 national translations and agencies just to sell their goods and  
89 services.

90 Set up a uniform digital reporting portal for the European Commission, where companies can find  
91 relevant information on their different reporting obligations and submit all their reports thereby  
92 eliminating duplication and reducing the administrative burden on companies.

93 Support industries of all sizes across a wide variety of sectors, by enabling European innovative  
94 industries to scale up and go global and by maintaining the EU as an attractive investment  
95 destination for foreign businesses. Not by picking the winners and relying on industrial  
96 "champions".

97 Provide equal opportunities for companies in taxation, while respecting national right to taxation.  
98 Member States are competing with each other with fiscal benefits that work for larger companies  
99 and undermine public spending.

100 Protect the integrity of our internal market by making sure Europe's economic rulebook is fit for  
101 purpose to ensure all businesses play by the same rules.

102 Conclude the Association Agreement between the EU and Andorra and San Marino to enhance  
103 the single market by strengthening ties with these microstates closely linked to EU decisions.

104 *The Single Market is the strongest and most successful part of the European integration and is*  
105 *setting standards worldwide. By creating a strong internal market, we have lowered costs,*  
106 *increased choice, and quality for you as a consumer, and created opportunities for our*  
107 *businesses to grow and create jobs. However, the internal market is still incomplete. We*  
108 *advocate for a frictionless Single Market that ensures an equal and competitive business*



environment at the EU level, while protecting consumers. Instead of focusing on subsidies for large national companies, the EU should focus on structural competitiveness of the Single Market with special attention to small and medium-sized businesses and entrepreneurs, as they are the main job providers of the economy. The Single Market is Europe's industrial strategy and the road to open strategic autonomy.

## **ALDE Party fights for: Accelerate energy saving and the deployment of renewable and clean energy**

Prioritise implementation of adopted energy and climate rules to reach our targets and ambitions, to ensure you can fully benefit from and adapt to the sustainable transition. Empower the European Environmental Agency to become a fully operational authority ensuring consistent implementation of environmental standards across the EU and supporting the member states on this.

Invest in all types of renewable, carbon-neutral, and waste-based energy sources, complemented by carbon removal, capture and storage technologies. Increase public and private collaboration and investments in grid capacity and storage.

Accelerate energy efficiency by empowering you to optimise energy use and insulate and renovate your homes through incentives, digital solutions, and the creation of "one-stop" renovation offices, where you can easily access all the information and services required for your renovations. Governments must lead by example by promoting energy efficiency programmes for public facilities.

Simplify, shorten, and speed up the digitalisation of licensing and permitting procedures of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects across EU Member States.

Expand the scope of the European Emissions Trading System (ETS) to cover all remaining carbon-polluting sectors, implement a carbon price floor and develop a technology-neutral certification system for verified negative emissions.

Develop a European strategy for the sustainable use of biomass incorporating land use considerations, to ensure alignment with European policies on bioenergy and bioeconomy.

Facilitate intra-European cooperation across sectors, such as a functional pan-European rail network as well as research, innovation, and development and deployment of clean technologies.

Execute national and European transport decarbonisation strategies. Enable the shift for all types of transport, whether cargo or passenger, through infrastructure development, including the completion of missing cross-border transport connections, electrification of public transport and charging infrastructure in less densely populated areas, active mobility across national, regional, and local levels as well as using sustainable and innovative technologies to decarbonise the freight and heavy goods transport.

*The cheapest energy is the energy we do not use. Accelerating the deployment of renewable and clean energies gives us freedom by empowering us to reduce our dependencies on*



external resources. It is crucial for heating our homes, transportation, and water distribution. We must use the full spectrum of solutions in our hands in combination with and upholding the principle of technology neutrality to reduce emissions and find alternatives for existing ones. By doing so, we can fight climate change by reducing the use of fossil fuels and stimulate our economic growth creating jobs, fostering innovation, and making energy more affordable for you.

## **ALDE Party fights for: A digital transformation that empowers citizens and businesses**

Ensure a stable and clear digital rulebook to foster private investment, by focusing on the implementation of recently adopted rules. If new digital legislation is needed to address new consumer harm, such regulation should focus on incentives, technological openness, and the power of innovation to free up space for more investments.

Implement a digital-first principle to promote the potential of digital technologies to facilitate your interactions with public administration, payments, or funding processes, and create the right environment to accelerate the digitalisation of European businesses and the public sector, such as healthcare.

Accelerate deployment of secure, resilient, very high-capacity networks using already allocated funds to bridge the connectivity gap, in particular in small cities, rural and remote areas by streamlining approval processes and strengthening public-private partnerships. Ensure all such critical digital infrastructure complies with European and international security standards and does not create vulnerabilities and exposure to foreign interference from hostile state and non-state actors.

Embrace the potential of new digital tools such as artificial intelligence to boost our economy and improve our lives. Foster a European-specific vision of artificial intelligence as a human-centric innovation that prevents authoritarian practices through rules to protect our fundamental rights. Create a safe online environment by protecting you from disinformation made by foreign governments, through the enforcement of recent digital rules, the EU Code of Conduct on Disinformation, and a European Digital Watchdog. Ensure that the online environment is a safe space for all users, in particular women and girls, and addresses the increase of cyberbullying.

Foster vocational programmes to urgently upskill key professions within manufacturing, education, healthcare, and agriculture with digital know-how to accelerate the digital transition and increase competitiveness. Vocational certificates should be recognised throughout Europe.

Attract highly skilled professionals sought after by the digital sector, with a specific support given to women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), in order for the European digital sector to compete globally.

*We support a safe digital environment open to innovation and competitive for our small businesses and entrepreneurs. In the last decade, the EU has made a major push in regulating digital businesses in favour of competition, privacy, and equal opportunities in our Single*



184 *Market, as well as safety for consumers. These rules are milestones on the global stage, but for*  
185 *the European model to be successful, they need to be fully and correctly implemented. New*  
186 *legislation should prevent over-burdening businesses with regulatory contradiction and*  
187 *duplication. In the future it will not be the digital economy, the economy will be digital. We*  
188 *support bold action for a fair and competitive digital transformation.*

189 **ALDE Party fights for: A sustainable agriculture system that guarantees food**  
190 **production and safeguards biodiversity**

191 Reform the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) to support consumers and farmers in the transition  
192 towards a sustainable food production system with respect for biodiversity and animal welfare.  
193 Streamline the distribution of existing funds and incentivise the adoption of sustainable practices  
194 and tools such as crop rotation, biochar to reduce carbon leakage and precision farming.

195 Actively share data, foster innovation, and invest in breakthrough technologies to make better  
196 decisions, manage our resources efficiently, address the effects of climate change, make  
197 groundbreaking advancements in agriculture and safeguard biodiversity.

198 Increase the capacity of transport routes through the EU to secure food supply at affordable  
199 prices.

200 *We want to foster an environment where you can thrive and seize opportunities, whilst*  
201 *mitigating the challenges of climate change, keeping food affordable, securing our food*  
202 *systems, and promoting rural development. We are committed to supporting and providing*  
203 *opportunities for consumers and farmers to adapt to the sustainable transition while reducing*  
204 *our agricultural sector's climate impact. This significant shift can be done with collective effort*  
205 *and responsibility. Adopting sustainable agriculture and food system is essential for our well-*  
206 *being and to give farmers – whether small or big - a long-term perspective and predictability*  
207 *while safeguarding biodiversity, ocean, and water systems, preserving natural resources, and*  
208 *fostering economic growth.*

209 **ALDE Party fights for: An innovative, diversified and circular economy**

210 Provide businesses with incentives to invest in and adopt sustainable production to decouple  
211 economic growth from use of primary resources, including via diversification, reuse, and repair.  
212 Empower you to make informed decisions through awareness and educational campaigns.

213 Tackle waste efficiently through innovative product design and packaging, explore the possibilities  
214 of an EU-wide deposit return scheme for packaging and advanced container standards, promote  
215 investments in waste management and recycling facilities within Europe and ease liability for food  
216 donations to combat food waste.

217 Advance the quality of our living environment through policies and economic incentives accessible  
218 to you and aimed at making living spaces more affordable, sustainable and energy efficient, while  
219 decreasing the material footprint of the built environment.



We are committed to use our resources more efficiently and move to a circular economy, to reduce our dependencies on importing critical raw materials, especially those we need for clean energy and environmental improvements such as electric vehicles, smartphones, or solar panels. The EU is currently using more natural resources than our planet can replace in a year, causing climate change and harming biodiversity, while also making products more expensive and harder to get. We must harness the opportunity of renewables, innovative technologies, and nature-based solutions to move to a circular and sustainable economy. This will not only improve our quality of life, but also secure vital resources for our businesses, make less waste and protect the environment.

### **ALDE Party fights for: Equip you with the right set of skills for the digital and sustainable transition**

Continuously support the Bologna Process and further develop the European Universities Initiative to ensure a thriving and durable European higher education system, which is vital to ensure your lifelong learning and a genuinely mobile labour force.

Ensure every European child learns at least one European foreign language starting from primary school to enable them to communicate outside their Member State, regardless of their level of education.

Create a truly interconnected labour market by revising the mutual recognition of professional qualifications and academic and vocational degrees to ensure that formal and informal learning is recognised and facilitate remote working across Europe.

Provide apprenticeships for the mid-career and extend the Erasmus+ programmes to students at all educational levels to ensure that everyone is skilled to contribute to our labour force, regardless of age.

Establish an efficient system for Europe-wide recognition of industry vocational programmes and trainings and make information about mobility programmes more visible and accessible to you.

Implement fast lanes (EU blue card) in to attract highly skilled specialists from outside Europe in key sectors such as engineering, sustainable and digital technologies, and healthcare.

*A dynamic and resilient labour market is essential to ensure you will be able to seize the opportunities from the digital and sustainable transitions. We must build a labour market that is adaptable, inclusive, and capable of supporting you in acquiring the skills and qualifications you need to thrive and have continuous opportunities, whether you live in North, South, East or West, city, or countryside.*

### **Earn your trust through action and reform**

European Liberals are at the forefront of defending the rule of law and your fundamental rights and ensuring your safety. Attacks on democracy are growing, while attraction to authoritarianism increases. We should not be complacent but be the first ones fighting against cynicism.



256 Defending democracy needs ongoing commitment. As liberals, we must remember that  
257 democracy is not only about elections. Democracy is about protecting your individual rights,  
258 freedom, and rule of law, ensuring the right tools to tackle crime and keep you safe, and  
259 empowering you to shape your own destiny and make your voice heard. As liberals we reiterate  
260 that achieving strong, stable, democratic, and functional institutions remains our main goal.

261 The EU is a unique democratic project, but reforms are needed to earn your trust. We want to  
262 build a space where national, local, European politicians connect with you to create fair, efficient,  
263 and transparent institutions, and hold accountable those that breach the rule of law.

#### 264 **ALDE Party fights for: Institutional reform to strengthen your voice in the EU**

265 Reform the EU treaties to strengthen your active participation and increase transparency and  
266 accountability for the EU to meet your needs and key concerns. Open the European Commission  
267 consultation process to encourage more citizens engagement, your engagement, including by  
268 better integrating local communities and subnational governments.

269 Transform the European Commission into a true political leadership body and simplify its decision-  
270 making by breaking down the siloed approach, which leads to overlapping and contradictory  
271 legislation. Implement the “one in, one out” approach where possible, ensuring that with each new  
272 regulation introduced, an equivalent existing one is eliminated to avoid redundancy in the same  
273 policy area.

274 Ensure more efficient governance by reducing the number of European Commissioners and  
275 determining its composition through a majority coalition in the European Parliament.

276 Establish an Erasmus programme for civil servants working at the EU institutions to foster  
277 understanding and cooperation between them and the Member States and to bring them closer  
278 to you.

279 Advocate for a single seat for the European Parliament, with right to initiate legislation and power  
280 to cast a no-confidence vote against any member of the European Commission.

281 Uphold the right to association and assembly to protect civil society organisations, in particular  
282 those fighting to protect and promote democracy under threat.

283 Encourage Member States to celebrate and mark Europe Day by declaring it a national holiday,  
284 following the example of Luxembourg.

285 *It is time to develop functional mechanisms that regain your trust and allow for a meaningful*  
286 *involvement. We believe in a Europe where your voice is prominent, and you have a role to play*  
287 *in shaping the decisions that affect your life. It is only by having stronger EU institutions and vital*  
288 *channels of communication that your concerns and aspirations will be adequately represented*  
289 *in the decision-making processes. Through citizen initiatives such as the Conference on the*  
290 *Future of Europe, we have learned what changes you want. Now, it is time to implement and*  
291 *continue fighting for reform to reassure you that your future is in safe hands.*



**ALDE Party fights for: Defend the rule of law and slash corruption**

Make full use of the conditionality principle in Article 7 and expand the annual rule report scope to include all values in Article 2 to protect and promote the rule of law, combat corruption and ensure adherence to our values. No rule of law, no EU money.

Foster professional, meritocratic civil services across all government levels and institutions in Europe and put in place anti-corruption policies including a system of indicators for policy monitoring to ensure impartiality and to end clientelism and party politicisation.

Tackle the rise in drug-related crime in Europe, which has become a prime market for international drug traffickers. Increase collaboration between Europol, Interpol and national law enforcement agencies through enhanced information and data exchange for all serious cross-border and organised crime.

Call on all EU Member States to join the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), which should have the ability to enforce sanctions beyond financial penalties.

Establish an effective anti-corruption sanction regime in Europe and reinforce national anti-corruption agencies with more funding, possibly through EU-level initiatives. Secure the functioning of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) by ensuring national cooperation and adherence to recommendations.

*Corruption remains a problem that hurts good government, trust in institutions and even the outcome of elections. Cross-border and organised crime has increased, and governments are more and more ignoring the supremacy of EU law and EU court rulings, affecting our safety, democratic systems and cooperation. We are committed to tackle crime, slash corruption and address rule of law breaches regardless of the perpetrators, whether governments or individuals, while advocating for targeted sanctions to avoid punishing innocent citizens and businesses.*

**ALDE Party fights for: Guarantee your individual freedom in an open and tolerant society**

Legalise and recognise same-sex or rainbow families, and ensure their rights, including free movement within the EU, are enshrined in EU legislation.

Secure equal and safe access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, such as abortion and other gender-based care. Incorporate the right to abortion into the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and continue striving for affordable contraceptives.

Combat gender-based violence by calling for the ratification of remaining countries to the Istanbul Convention and the implementation of EU-wide restraining orders.

Break down barriers by increasing diversity in all spheres of influence and equal access to parental leave across European countries and institutions, including the recognition of parental



327 leave for Members of the European Parliament and the possibility to nominate another Member  
328 as substitute, as well as promoting a more balanced distribution of care responsibilities.

329 Expand the EU Crimes list to include hate speech and hate crime and include gender, sex, gender  
330 identity and sexual orientation and disabilities, alongside racism and xenophobia, as areas in  
331 which hate crime can manifest itself.

332 Create a European watchdog to protect and promote media freedom and independence across  
333 Europe.

334 *Every one of us is free to be who we want to be, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race,*  
335 *religion, or any other aspect of our identity. We are free to express ourselves, pursue our goals*  
336 *and make our own choices. As liberals, it is our duty to create a society that cherishes diversity*  
337 *and safeguards your right to live without fear in a free and just society. We will continue fighting*  
338 *against the increased conservative trends that undermine the principles of equality.*

### 339 **ALDE Party fights for: An asylum policy that works**

340 Reform the Common European Asylum System, aiming to stop the cynical and inhuman business  
341 model of smugglers, improve reception standards, share responsibility, and make asylum  
342 procedures more efficient.

343 Enhance coordination for search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean, prioritising the  
344 safety and dignity of individuals in distress. Make sure that there are consequences for  
345 pushbacks, mistreatment of migrants and other violations of the rights of migrants. Make  
346 agreements with third countries to halt irregular migration to the EU.

347 Targeted and objective information campaigns about the realities of migration to counter  
348 disinformation provided by smugglers.

349 Establish EU-managed common facilities outside the EU borders for asylum seekers, responsible  
350 for streamlined application processing.

351 Reform Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, for effective control of EU  
352 external borders with respect for human rights.

353 Prioritise integration, including through EU funds, to support policies such as the provision of basic  
354 skills, applying zero-tolerance for discrimination, promoting inter-cultural dialogue and language  
355 learning, as well as buddy schemes to facilitate integration at a micro-level.

356 Develop effective foreign aid programmes prioritising job creation and climate change mitigation.

357 *Migration towards the EU has always existed and will always be part of our societies. We*  
358 *provide shelter to those who are fleeing war or persecution. We need to fight against human*  
359 *traffickers and smugglers, tackle irregular migration and make the return and readmission policy*  
360 *more efficient to address the inhuman consequences for migrants and disruptive effects on our*  
361 *countries. Additionally, with a decreasing and ageing population and worsening labour*  
362 *shortages, the EU must address headstrong the integration of migrants as part of a successful*



363 *migration policy. We stand against populist anti-migrant rhetoric and policies that reinforce*  
364 *Europe's population decline and worsen our competitiveness in the global labour market.*

## 365 **Keep Europe free, safe and democratic**

366 It is time for us to take action and deliver on our promises to maintain freedom, openness and  
367 democracy. Europe must stand on its own feet and act in our own right to guarantee your security  
368 and safety, but we must continue collaborating with democratic allies while reducing dependence  
369 on single suppliers, especially from authoritarian regimes.

370 We have witnessed how the war against Ukraine has brought us together as a united continent,  
371 demonstrating our commitment to defending democracy and security in a positive and responsive  
372 manner. It is vital that we reaffirm our long-term commitment to Ukraine in its quest for stability  
373 and progress.

## 374 **ALDE Party fights for: Make Europe a safe place to live**

375 Invest in pan-European defence forces across land, sea and air and research and development  
376 to create an independent European capacity to act, boosting European production capacity and  
377 creating the conditions to enable synergies between our countries' militaries.

378 Building on that foundation, augment the EU pillar within NATO by strengthening our Permanent  
379 Structured Cooperation mechanism to create a high level of efficiency, recognising some member  
380 states maintain neutrality while actively participating in peacekeeping missions and pursuing a  
381 values-based foreign policy.

382 Strengthen the EU's role on the global stage by acting as one: shift to qualified majority voting in  
383 defence and security policy preventing individual countries from obstructing our joint ability to act,  
384 enhance the roles of the High Representative and the European External Action Service and give  
385 the EU a seat in the UN Security Council.

386 Establish foundational rules governing states' use of digital technologies in warfare and boost EU  
387 joint capacity to act and respond to the evolving digital threats, including through public-private  
388 partnerships and rapid information exchange between countries to safeguard our collective digital  
389 infrastructure, ensuring a resilient cyber landscape.

390 In our strategic geopolitical stance, we stand in unity with Ukraine, pledging increased military  
391 assistance for as long as it takes and post-war reconstruction support, including identifying a legal  
392 mechanism to utilise frozen Russian assets and ensure accountability. We support Ukraine's full  
393 membership of NATO and the EU in as smooth and fast a manner as possible to increase both  
394 Ukraine's and Europe's security, with all the security guarantees it entails.

395 Implement Magnitsky-style targeted sanctions on Chinese officials who violate human rights in  
396 Xinjiang, Tibet and Hong Kong under the National Security Law and protect any resident in Europe  
397 from extradition to China.



Oppose any attempts by China to unilaterally change the status quo in the Taiwan straits, especially through the use of force.

*Without peace there is no prosperity. Europe's security needs a serious makeover. The shockwave from Russia's war against Ukraine, the unrelenting menace of terrorism, and the growing security concerns because of China's policies have shown us that our current systems simply are not cutting it anymore. We must strengthen Europe's autonomous capabilities and maintain an open and collaborative approach with like-minded countries to strengthen our global influence and address main challenges. We firmly oppose governments suppressing minorities and violating human rights and commit to safeguarding our own economic and strategic interests and a sustainable and equitable world order.*

### **ALDE Party fights for: Enlargement as a tool for reform and security**

Reaffirm our commitment to an open-door policy for the European countries that fulfil the Copenhagen criteria and make sure that the EU sends strong signals that compliance of the criteria and benchmark achievements brings tangible results. In that sense, our ambition is to ensure that the countries of the Western Balkans, Moldova, Georgia, and Ukraine are ready to meet all accession criteria by 2029.

Revise and reinvigorate the EU enlargement policy as a matter of priority, by developing a new framework for relations with candidate and neighbouring countries, in particular, the concept of staged integration.

Invite candidate countries to participate in the next EU elections by offering them observer non-voting status in the European Parliament until their full membership, as done previously.

Welcome the European Political Community as a forum to bring European countries to the table, but it must not develop into an alternative to EU membership.

Provide capacity building to support candidate countries to meet accession criteria, for instance by helping professionalise public administration and develop governance.

Invest into the infrastructure and connectivity, guarantee equal opportunities for educational institutions in all candidate countries, comparable to those associated with the Erasmus+ Programme, and support initiatives in candidate countries and prospective candidates, such as the concept of "Roam like at Home" between EU and Western Balkans.

*EU accession benefits us from the political, economic, and security perspectives. The EU, its values and standards remain the great unifying factor for all the people of the Western Balkans, Moldova, Georgia, and Ukraine. It is crucial to support the development of our sister countries to work their way to candidate status and stabilise the region, push for integration and counter disruptive efforts from Russia and China.*



## ALDE Party fights for: Enhance Europe's economic security

Revive the push for EU trade and investment agreements with open, market-based economies such as the US, Australia, Mercosur, selected African partners and the Indo-Pacific region based on international commitments to rule of law, human rights, biodiversity and climate, reciprocity in market access and adherence to existing WTO rules. The EU must conclude ongoing negotiations, start new talks with other partners and speed up the ratification of all trade agreements and investment protection agreements that have already been concluded, with the exception of the investment agreement with China.

Achieve a trans-Atlantic free trade agreement with the US as the best way to fulfil our shared climate objective and create jobs and growth opportunities, while reducing the negative consequences of the US Inflation Reduction Act on the EU.

Reduce dependency on regimes that do not share our European values using a de-risking principle. The Comprehensive Agreement on Investment (CAI) agreed with China can only be revisited once Chinese counter-sanctions on European elected officials and scholars are completely removed, and when the agreement provides real commitments from China on human rights, labour, environment, market access and intellectual property protections for European companies.

Revitalise our trade and political relations with Africa to enhance Europe's economic integration with key African countries in line with their economic strengths and interests, reflecting an equal partnership, countering Chinese investment and influence.

Deliver a bilateral investment agreement between the EU and Taiwan to enhance our open strategic autonomy for our high tech and sustainable industries, whilst respecting the One China policy.

Take the lead on World Trade Organization (WTO) reforms to restore the appellate body as soon as possible and achieve new commitments on technological know-how and trade secrets, subsidies and competition, as well as contractually enforceable, strong social, environmental and human rights standards.

Explore joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership and establishing an economic security council of like-minded countries.

*The cost-of-living crisis, the pandemic and global lockdowns and conflicts have shown that we rely too much on countries that do not share our values. This puts our democracy, economy, and way of life in danger. However, free trade remains key to bring you growth and jobs. It is only by strengthening trade that we can strengthen our economy and ability to act independently, working in your and the EU's best interest while setting standards worldwide. Not to close the EU off to the world but work even more closely with the United States and partners who share our values, economic model, and environmental and climate objectives.*



## **Cover note for draft working document of new ALDE Charter of Values**

### **Background**

This document aims to set out the values and principles of the members of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats in Europe. It is not intended to extrapolate policies, which may change over time, but rather present the essence of liberalism and democracy, by which our parties share a heritage and a vision. Since the ALDE Party currently has members from EU as well as non-EU countries, this document has been developed as a value-base for all, not just EU members.

Many of our member parties have a similar style of statement of their values and principles. One of the most reassuring elements of this review has been the commonality of the re-statements of our shared values and principles.

We know that underlying these shared values member parties may choose to follow different paths to implement these principles. The debates we have at ALDE Council and Congress are when we discuss the boundaries of these paths and policies. However, the objective of the renewed Stuttgart Declaration is that all our member parties can agree to these common values, which differentiate us from other parties.

### **Next Steps**

This is the final draft version of this document. It was previously presented at the Council meetings in Stockholm (May 2023) and Bucharest (October 2023) and a number of consultation sessions have been organised with member parties. Member parties may submit amendments to this draft Charter, and it shall be discussed, and all amendments voted on during the working group on Thursday 21 March 2024.



## 1 **ALDE CHARTER OF VALUES, adopted in XXX**

2 We, the liberal parties affiliated to the ALDE Party, are dedicated to the promotion and  
3 strengthening of liberal values across Europe, and affirm our commitment to this undertaking  
4 through our daily activities in our respective countries and through our enhanced cooperation  
5 together as part of a pan-European political family.

6 We liberals believe and trust in the power and abilities of the individual. We believe that everyone  
7 should be able to determine their own destinies, in a society where there are equal opportunities  
8 for all, and where no one faces any discrimination based upon race, ethnicity, caste, heritage,  
9 class, religion, age, disability, sex, gender identity, gender expression or sexual orientation.  
10 Dignity and freedom for every individual are the building blocks of peace, prosperity, and progress  
11 to make the world a better place.

12 Every individual has the right to freedom of expression, to respect for privacy, to integrity of one's  
13 body, to self-determination, to follow faith and beliefs of their choosing in compliance with the Law  
14 and European values.

15 Freedoms and responsibilities are the foundation of liberal democratic societies of free peoples.  
16 Responsibility and therefore freedom are inseparable: individuals must bear responsibility for  
17 themselves as well as others and future generations.

18 We believe that the role of the state is to provide the opportunities for all citizens to attain these  
19 ideals; and to be empowered and be able to take part in the decision-making that affects their  
20 lives.

21 The state should be the guardian and promoter of individual freedoms, the rights of minorities,  
22 and function based on the principles of secularism and the rule of law, and in respect of the  
23 separation of powers including an independent judiciary.

24 In a liberal democracy, governments derive their power from the trust and confidence of citizens  
25 through free and fair elections.

26 We believe that decisions should be taken at the level as close to the citizen as possible, that we  
27 should exercise open government and ensure high standards of transparency in decision-making,  
28 and foster an environment of trust, contestability and accountability.

29 Reasonable debate, responsible conduct, respect for evidence, tolerance of diverse opinions, and  
30 freedom of the press sustain the public life of open societies. Whilst authoritarian, nationalist and  
31 populist forces seek to undermine the openness, pluralism and tolerance at the heart of our  
32 European society, we pledge to prioritise and emphasise these our values as well as bringing  
33 politics closer to every citizen so that they can make decisions about their lives. It is our  
34 responsibility to support the struggle for freedom and democracy in authoritarian countries, in  
35 Europe and beyond.

36 We believe that the state should enable an equality of opportunities, rather than equality of  
37 outcomes, and we recognise that welfare systems need to be in place to prevent people falling  
38 through and to provide individuals with new chances in life.

39 This must include empowering youth and promoting intergenerational dialogue and fairness to  
40 ensure that the generations that follow do not have fewer opportunities than the present. We



41 believe that high quality education plays a vital role, and ensuring the transfer of knowledge and  
42 skills through education available at all stages of life offers the best opportunity for individuals to  
43 meet the challenges of an ever-changing world.

44 We have an obligation to be good ancestors. We have a duty to build a continent whole, strong  
45 and at peace for our children and grandchildren and to foster youth civic engagement and political  
46 participation. Ultimately, we must do no harm; we must all take responsibility of ourselves but not  
47 at the expense of current or future individuals.

48 We want to leave a healthy planet to future generations. To do this, we must ensure we use our  
49 natural resources responsibly and strive for a liberal approach to achieving a clean, safe, healthy  
50 and sustainable environment. Liberals believe that we have a specific responsibility to develop,  
51 promote and instigate actions and progress by innovation that will protect our natural world  
52 alongside the development of systems to protect and enhance our natural world environments  
53 and their biodiversity.

54 We want to see Europe leading by example in the world, driving innovation and the upward  
55 progression of standards. We recognise that the biggest challenges facing us today are best  
56 tackled together. We regard forging strong alliances of free countries and liberals to stand for  
57 freedom and cooperation as an effective means of promoting our values, increasing prosperity  
58 for our citizens, and ensuring our collective security.

59 We must work to fix inequalities of power and wealth in our societies, to fight corruption, and to  
60 combat social exclusion. We are committed to eradicating poverty, oppression, hunger and  
61 disease. We pledge to stand up against acts of aggression that threaten sovereign nations and  
62 the rules-based international order wherever and whenever they occur.

63 We have a positive view on globalisation and other global trends that generate economic growth  
64 and jobs worldwide. We stand for open, rules-based, free and fair trade, which necessitates a  
65 well-functioning global rules system to ensure a level playing field for all. Our vision is anchored  
66 in the freedoms of movement of ideas, people, goods, services, and capital. Free market economy  
67 is key in creating well-being and prosperity, and the only economic system that can be combined  
68 with individual freedom. We are advocates of free competition and will continue to protect this  
69 from abuses by governments, gatekeepers, monopolies, and cartels.

70 We must build and foster a strong and sustainable economy in which everyone everywhere can  
71 thrive, that raises living standards for all, and does not benefit only a few at the detriment of the  
72 many.

73 We must continue to invest in research and scientific innovation, and ensure that we harness the  
74 positive developments of rapidly-changing digital and advancing technologies for the good of our  
75 societies and ensure that our fundamental human rights as stated in the Universal Declaration of  
76 Human Rights are protected both online and offline.

77 By our very nature, liberals are optimists. We are reformers and we constantly strive for progress  
78 that brings greater freedoms and rights to the individual. We see opportunities where others see  
79 challenges, and believe that our liberal values and beliefs offer the best guiding principles to our  
80 actions in our own countries and internationally.