

## Fostering Democracy and protecting Human rights

The European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party convening in  
Palermo, Italy on 23-25 November 2011

### Whereas

- The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU is now binding and the EU will accede shortly to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR);

### Noting that

- Intolerance, racism, homophobia and xenophobia are increasing and spreading around Europe;
- The rise of the extremists in Europe organises, fuels and spreads intolerance, racism, homophobia and xenophobia;
- The above are threats to democracy, violating basic human rights such as the right to liberty and security, as well as cultural, linguistic and language rights;
- The extremists - and other intolerant, racist, homophobic and xenophobic forces – claim their own human rights through, for example, freedom of speech when imposing their inhuman values on society. In fact they misuse and also abuse the same fundamental human rights, as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights the United Nations, particularly in article 30.

### Considering that

- In the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights the United Nations defines several Human Rights, in line with the concerns raised in this resolution, particularly in Articles 2, 14, 28 and 30;
- The European Convention on Human Rights sets forth a number of fundamental rights and freedoms, such as, for example, the: "...right to life,..., right to liberty and security,..., freedom of thought, conscience and religion, freedom of expression,...the right to privacy, ...the right to marry, ..., prohibition of discrimination...";
- The European Union is committed to the promotion of democracy, respect for human rights, non-discrimination, pluralism and tolerance, and to combating social exclusion and discrimination;

### Resolution:

Fostering Democracy and protecting Human rights

### Year and Congress:

November 2011,  
Palermo

### Category:

Fundamental  
Freedoms and  
Human Rights

Fundamental  
Human Rights

### Page:

1

- The EU has established the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, which provides EU institutions and its member states with information, assistance and expertise on fundamental rights;
- As liberals we are committed to freedom, democracy, the rule of law, equality, respect and the rights of human beings.
- Cultural diversity should be recognized as one of Europe's assets.

**Calls on the European Union and its Member States to:**

- be aware of the emergence of intolerance, racism, homophobia and xenophobia on both the far right and left;
- to take responsibility in compiling the knowledge available and investigating why intolerant, racist, homophobic and xenophobic attitudes occur and what factors may the emergence of such attitudes;
- to take responsibility in mapping the work against intolerance, racism, homophobia and xenophobia and, as far as is possible, analysing the impact of such work;
- to take responsibility in suggesting what further action should be taken to counteract intolerance, racism, and xenophobia;
- to urgently adapt their legal system to the latest EU framework decision for combating racism and xenophobia;
- to ensure that current national laws and EU directives on equality, anti-discrimination, hate speech are applied properly and fully, and that citizens are protected against any discrimination, as provided for by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights;
- to take action to ensure that equality and non-discrimination principles are enshrined in laws, notably by supporting and approving EU and national anti-discrimination law, and by overcoming the remaining discriminations such as the prohibition or non-recognition of same-sex relationships, by introducing same-sex marriage and civil partnerships;
- to ensure that they actively fight against discrimination, persecutions, expulsions and evictions of Roma;

**As well as:**

- Increased EU accountability in establishing human rights benchmarks for non-EU countries, or other parties, involved in economic agreements with the EU.

**Resolution:**

Fostering Democracy and protecting Human rights

**Year and Congress:**

November 2011, Palermo

**Category:**

Fundamental Freedoms and Human Rights

Fundamental Human Rights

**Page:**

2



- Liberals to protect and defend the human rights and civil liberties of every individual.
- Member parties to be vigilant that the extreme does not become mainstream;

**Resolution:**

Fostering Democracy and protecting Human rights

**Year and Congress:**

November 2011,  
Palermo

**Category:**

Fundamental  
Freedoms and  
Human Rights

Fundamental  
Human Rights

**Page:**

3