

FINAL with 24 supporters

RESOLUTION PROPOSAL FOR THE ALDE CONGRESS 2018:

Create simple and clear basic EU membership rules, and enforce them

Motivations:

The EU is a union of member states committed to the principles of a fair and democratic society run by the rule of law and separation of powers.

When a country applies to become a member of the EU, its performance on a number of democratic and judicial parameters are assessed by the Parliament, the Commission and the Council, and the country is admitted only when the result of the assessment is satisfactory.

Because the maintenance of a fair and just society is not a given thing but must be nurtured on a continuous basis, each member country must be able to pass the above-mentioned assessment at any time.

Noting that:

The EU has seen some of its member states renouncing their commitments to a fair and just society. Some countries have interfered with the independence of their courts, by firing judges and replacing them with politically aligned judges and disrespecting binding rulings of Supreme Courts. Also, the press freedom has been constrained in some countries, on one hand by new media laws that allow governments to directly censor journalists at public media, while on the other hand private media monopolies and Government-sponsored Ads in the private sector allow to indirectly silence critical voices. Recent murders of investigative journalists and the lack of protection beforehand and success of solving those cases are further striking examples. Moreover, some member states try to oppress the civic society by discrediting civil society organizations and limiting academic freedom.

Other member states and citizens have been rightly confused and frustrated that these breaches have been much talked about but the EU leadership has not promptly disciplined such violations of basic principles.

Exactly what basic principles should form the basis for assessment, and what breaches should be determined to be punishable, and by what mean, and by whom, has been unclear among the EU leaders and institutions, and thus seem to have hindered action.

Considering that:

The citizens of the member states may rightly expect that the EU ensures their and their fellow citizens' equality before the law and democratic rights, their property, their right to a fair trial by independent courts, the freedom of thought and expression, a free press and the right to freely assemble, protection of privacy and their right for independent education.

A cornerstone in a fair and just European Union is that countries are treated equally and will be subject to consequences if they do not comply with basic rules. This is perfectly similar to citizens being treated equally, having to comply with the law and experiencing prompt consequences in case

of offence.

It must be clear to governments and citizens of the EU what non-negotiable performance a country must maintain on a small and clearly understandable set of specific, basic, civil society parameters. Any administrative decision which is contrary to the EU treaties must be corrected by the member states. The EU's enforcement must be strict and prompt, and free from partisan influence, in order to uphold the confidence and trust of their citizens.

We call upon the ALDE party and all its member parties

To work for creating a set of simple, clear and non-negotiable rules to be observed by a member state at any time, to be enforced promptly and unambiguously. The number of rules should be less than 10, covering basic parameters such as free press and independence of the judiciary. Non-compliance must be determined within a very short deadline by the EU court on request by a majority of either the Parliament, the Commission, or the Council. The penalty must be country's exclusion from all EU rights and funding – but not from its obligations – within a deadline of a few months. When the country is assessed to comply again, its privileges should be swiftly reinstated.

This resolution proposal is put forward by the following members:

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