



ALDE Individual Members in Austria

Wällischgasse 8/7-8 * AT-1030 Vienna, Austria * Register of Associations: ZVR 637465069

In dieser Broschüre finden Sie eine kurze Zusammenfassung des Manifests der ALDE Party zu den Wahlen zum Europäischen Parlament. Die NEOS sind Mitglieder der europäischen liberalen Parteienfamilie ALDE und daher auch Mitglied der Parlamentsfraktion, die nach gegenwärtigen Umfragen die Chance hat, zweitstärkste Fraktion im Europäischen Parlament zu werden.

Da das Programm zur Wahl umfangreich ist haben wir eine Kurzfassung erstellt, die zwar den Originaltext beinhaltet, aber verschiedene sehr detaillierte Passagen auslässt.

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European values are Liberal values

History has taught us that dignity and freedom for every individual are the building blocks of peace, prosperity, and progress. **Through strong liberal institutions, the rule of law and independent judiciary, we liberals are committed to protecting and promoting human and civil rights. In the face of the abuse of excessive political or economic power, we liberals defend the inalienable right to a life of self-determination, regardless of birth or belief, gender or sexual Orientation.** We want a Europe that is proud of its diversity and works for the benefit of its minorities. The linguistic diversity is a strength of Europe. Through competition, fairness and open trade, we liberals believe that progress for everyone and support for the vulnerable can be achieved by embracing the dynamics of market economies. Liberals believe that our diversity is our strength.

Reasonable debate, responsible conduct, respect for evidence and tolerance of diverse opinions sustain the public life of open societies. We want equal and fair opportunities for everyone. We want to leave a healthy planet to future generations. We empower everyone through education as a civil right. Every human should live a life that has reason to value.

For a united Europe ready for the future

We must create a European Union that can adapt to current and future challenges in an ever-more globalised World. By undertaking true **reforms of institutions and policies**, we can become a capable and leading actor on the world stage.

It is our duty as liberals to stand for, and defend, the **benefits of free and fair trade** together with allies from other political groups. We will always remain outspoken in defence of open, rule-based, and free trade underpinned by a strong World Trade Organisation. To make sure that all Europeans can reap the benefits of globalisation, **Member States must build sustainable welfare Systems and inclusive societies, supporting technological progress and dismantling barriers to enter the labour market.**

In its current state, the EU **asylum and migration System** is no longer fit for purpose. We need a new common European response, based on a long- term Vision.

Liberals strongly **oppose all forms of racism, division of societies and hatred** against human beings. Any form of violence against people on these grounds must be prosecuted.

For those who have a right to asylum in the EU, there should be a **humane and effective Common European Asylum System with decent reception, responsibility sharing, and efficient procedures** in line with EU fundamental rights Standards.

The European Border and Coast Guard should become an effective EU border guard Service, to ensure consistent control of external borders in line with EU law.

Beyond this, Liberals commit to establish **more legal ways to Europe** for those that seek jobs, education, or want to invest in our economies. To meet future demographic challenges, we cannot become a Fortress Europe. We want to extend the scope of the EU blue card to act as an EU- wide work permit based on objective criteria.

Free movement of people within the EU is vital for continued European Integration and prosperity, so we oppose any re-introduction of permanent internal border controls between Schengen member states.

A Europe of innovation and opportunities for all

In an era when people increasingly change jobs and careers, we need to strengthen our knowledge economy by investing in research and innovation, and equipping our workforce with the right set of skills for the 21 st Century while bridging the generational digital skills gap.

Investments in research and innovation are Investments in the future of Europe. Reaching the target of 3% of the EU GDP invested in research and development by 2020 is key to boost our competitiveness, productivity and sustainable job creation.

By 2050 the EU will be a **carbon neutral economy**. Its energy System will be highly efficient and fully based on renewable energy. Therefore, the single European energy market with free flows of renewable energy now needs to be completed. As an intermediate Step, the EU should reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

Europe still needs to do more in order to **include women in the labour market** in order to benefit from their full economic potential.

We stand for a **result-oriented, efficient, thematically focused cohesion policy** that follows on the real needs of citizens and that stimulates sustainable economic growth and innovation- driven economy in all the EU regions. The EU's cohesion funds **shall not support Programmes or projects that counter the Paris Agreement** or the EU's climate and energy objectives.

We also want to make EU action as efficient as possible. Therefore, cohesion policy should be linked to the European Semester and support the implementation of structural reforms.

Opportunities and innovation through small and medium-sized enterprise and free trade

The European Union needs to continue setting global Standards in international trade and promote free and rule-based trade as an essential source of prosperity. Faced with emerging trends of protectionism and expanding Asian economies, the **EU must overcome internal challenges** to seize the opportunity.

We support the efforts of the European Commission to **negotiate more trade deals, and call on the negotiators to preserve human dignity and human working conditions, sustainability and anti-corruption** in future agreements. Global trade from a European perspective must also be fair and sustainable.

Small and medium-sized enterprises are the backbone of prosperity in Europe. To further support them, we will continue to facilitate the creation of more jobs through easier access to finance, simpler rules for investment funds to support new, innovative businesses across Europe, encouraging knowledge and technology transfer from universities and research institutes, and greater opportunities for young entrepreneurs.

Digital innovation that benefits and unites us

The future is digital, which makes the question of how the international trade of Services and data is defined and is regulated crucial. To harness the full potential of innovative technologies and make the EU the most attractive place for Companies in the digital economy, the **EU must build a fully-functioning Digital Single Market**. We shall encourage competition among Companies in the digital space, and we will not hesitate to use our powers to **prevent the development of monopolies and to ensure competition to develop innovative Services**.

A Europe that leads on the global stage

We shall establish a **new effective mechanism outside the framework of Article 7 of the TEU to monitor violations of fundamental rights, civil liberties and the rule of law in the member states of the European Union on a regular basis**. We call on the European Commission, as the guardian of the EU Treaties and on the basis of objective criteria, to enforce sanctions in cases of violations and create stronger conditionality between the rule of law and receipt of European funding.

In a rapidly changing geopolitical environment, the EU should play a more important global role, both as a soft and hard power, further developing the EU's immense economic and rule-setting power and growing collective diplomatic and military capabilities.

We believe Member States and the EU as a whole must assume greater **responsibility for its security** and we support a common EU approach wherever possible to the strategic challenges Europe faces today, **and to progressively introduce Qualified Majority Voting** on such matters. We welcome greater European Cooperation in defence spending and the agreement of PESCO, and encourage Member States to further **increase defence Cooperation** in areas of mutual advantage, in greater Cooperation with and to complement NATO which remains the backbone of military Cooperation and guarantor of collective defence for Europe. Solidarity between Member States is crucial to make our common defence efforts credible and tangible for citizens. In the long-term, we support more interlocking and interoperable European forces.

European citizens must be at the centre of our security and defence policy that must involve concrete actions starting with **ever-closer Cooperation to fight terrorism as well as more effective efforts to secure the EU's external border**. These (*the threads a democratic Europe has to face, RJP*) include those aimed at undermining our democracies and our elections as well as to fight climate change, one the biggest security and safety threats of our times.

We believe the EU must continue to play its leading role in **Development Cooperation** to ensure sustainable development and promote democracy, human rights, peace and security in the world. To use our resources in the best possible way, we strive for **a greater focus on the quality of development projects and Programmes**, and better coordination within the EU and the EU and its Member States.

We **regret Brexit** and call on the EU and Britain to make every effort to avoid a 'no deal' scenario which would have negative consequences for all concerned, and Ireland in particular. We hope a positive and close partnership and ongoing Cooperation will be maintained between the EU and the United Kingdom if she ceases to be a member of the EU. If the United Kingdom decides to reverse its decision to leave the EU, we will welcome that decision and work to ensure the re-establishment of a refreshed and stable relationship.

The Belfast Agreement must be upheld in full, including the **rights of citizens in Northern Ireland** to EU citizenship if they so wish, and we want a workable and operable guarantee to be included in the withdrawal agreement that ensures that there will be no hard border on the island of Ireland.

We support greater strategic engagement of the EU in its neighbourhood and the future enlargement perspective for the **countries of the Western Balkans** and its common European neighbourhood, once these countries meet the accession criteria. We call for a considerable investment by the European Union into the infrastructure of these strategically so important countries.

Europe has to speak with one voice. We liberals advocate the strengthening of the **European External Action Services (EEAS)** and the High Commissioner of European Foreign and Security Policy.

We wish to see the EU take the initiative **to reform the United Nations Charter and lead reform of the World Trade Organisation.**

We condemn the continued annexation and occupation of Crimea and aggression in East Ukraine by **Russia in violation of international law.**

We want to uphold and strengthen international agreements on disarmament and non-proliferation and urge **Russia and the United States** to uphold their commitment to the INF Treaty. We support the continuation of the Iran nuclear deal.

A responsible Europe that works better for you

(We want to renegotiate) the **competencies between the European Union and its Member States**, strongly keeping in mind the principles of simplification and subsidiarity. The Union of tomorrow must be based on decentralisation and diversity, not on burdensome bureaucracy and over-regulation.

We will continue our efforts to bring **more transparency and more efficiency to the EU institutions.** We believe the **European Parliament** should only have one seat in Brussels, and that more work needs to be done to reinforce the democratic nature of the European Union. We want to see involvement of the European Parliament in decision-making by giving it the right to initiate legislation, and a greater degree of transparency of negotiations and voting within the European Council, and the Council of the EU.

Making every Euro count: investing wisely

We must ensure that European money is spent as efficiently as possible. Every Euro that comes from the EU budget should be treated with care and responsibility by the EU institutions and government of the Member State.

We shall **promote investments in innovation and research, technological change, security, environment and fighting climate change, and tackling youth unemployment as key priorities that the EU budget should reflect.** The EU's budget shall **not support Programmes or projects that counter the EU's climate and energy objectives.** In addition to current spending methods largely based on subsidies, financial instruments such as loans or guarantees can be used more to mobilise private capital and incentivise innovation by linking it to a clear agenda of economic and structural reform.

We will work for better control mechanism and more automatic sanctions on countries when the stability and growth pact is broken. We will work for the **rapid implementation of a banking union** in the Eurozone, based on strengthening the responsibility of owners and creditors of banks.

We aim to substantially reform and rethink agricultural subsidies as reforming the **Common Agricultural Policy** will be an essential step to the sustainability goals, and greater transparency and equality in the subsidies. This should also combat challenges such as antimicrobial resistance, food security, and promote alternative and **environmentally friendly agricultural methods**.

Building a more Liberal Europe

To build this liberal Europe, the ALDE Party and its member parties, seek your vote so liberals are even stronger for the next five years in the European Parliament.

The momentum is here. Let's embrace it. Let's dream. A dream of renewing the European Union from the ground up.

- We want a Europe that is rich in its diversity and united in standing up for the fundamental rights and freedoms of its citizens.
- We want a Europe that is free, fair, dynamic and open.
- We want a Europe that protects the rule of law.
- We want a Europe that renews its promise of a strong social contract for a competitive economy.
- We want a Europe that embraces the potential of the technological and digital evolution, of innovation and what the World's biggest research programme can bring.
- We want a Europe that protects its citizens against threats like climate change, terrorism, cyber conflict and organised crime.
- We want a Europe that defends entrepreneurship and businesses.
- We want a Europe of open markets and free trade.
- We want a Europe that pursues economic innovation to lead in a competitive world.
- We want a Europe where you can succeed.