

ALDE will Rejoin Spitzenkandidaten and Parliamentary Democracy

The Congress of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening in Dublin, Ireland, on 2-4 June 2022:

Noting:

- how extremely important government formation is for voters at national elections;
- how voters all over Europe actually vividly discussed EU policy in the 2019 European Parliament elections;
- that throughout Europe, it is NOT a rule given that the party who obtained the majority of the votes gets to govern.

Recognising that:

- it is better to lose an election than not to fight it;
- it is even better to win an election, and that is easier to do if you run united with a single lead candidate.

Believing that:

- the harmonisation of EU Member States' laws for the European Parliament elections, the introduction of transnational lists and making the voters decide on the Commission President indirectly through the European Parliament election will increase interest and participation in the elections;
- it is healthy for democracy and the EU, if voters are able to vote against the European political family of sitting Commission President without this being interpreted as a vote against the EU – just as national voters reject their governments without this being interpreted as a vote against the state itself.

Calls on the ALDE Party to:

- affirm its support for Spitzenkandidat in 2024, including its intention to nominate a single candidate for Commission President;
- work towards improving the Spitzenkandidat system: In the future, the candidate of the party with the most votes should not necessarily become Commission President, but rather the candidate who is able to unite a majority in Parliament;
- urge the European Council to only nominate a single Spitzenkandidat for European Commission President after said Spitzenkandidat has secured a majority in Parliament ready to support him or her;

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- actively contribute to a formalisation of the Spitzenkandidaten procedure by a political agreement between the European political entities and by an Inter-Institutional Agreement between Parliament and European Council;
- urge the ALDE Group/RENEW to vote against anybody but a Spitzenkandidaten for the Commission Presidency;
- urge the ALDE Group/RENEW to try to build a majority for its own Spitzenkandidaten even if we are not the largest party/group;
- and, failing that, try to be part of a majority for another Spitzenkandidaten, getting as good a deal as possible;
- work towards a system in which generally, the European Parliament elects the members of the Commission and its President only after him/her having secured a majority and/or formed a coalition government. The right to nominate candidates for Commissioner shall thus in the future lie with the President of the Commission.

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