On the terrorist attacks of Hamas on Israel and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza

The Council of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE Party) convening in Bucharest, Romania, on 20-21 October 2023:

Strongly condemns the recent unprecedented and heinous attack by the Hamas terrorist group on Israel on 7 October and is appalled by the resulting tragedy and human suffering.

Recognises that:

- Israel’s right of existence is not negotiable and it has a right under international law to defend its territory and an obligation to safeguard its citizens and free its hostages;
- terror can never be justified;
- many innocent Israelis and innocent Palestinians have already been killed since the current conflict started;
- basic necessities such as food, water, medical supplies and electricity are limited in Gaza;
- peace negotiations between Israel and Palestine have been stalled for many years and that this a threat to the stability in the broader region. We are concerned at the wider implications that this current conflict might spread in the Middle East and the world.
- there is a rise in antisemitic and anti-Muslim incidents taking place across Europe.

Believes that:

- the people of Israel and Palestine have a right to live free from fear;
- it is vital that terrorists are targeted, not civilians, in accordance with the rules of war and international humanitarian law to minimise civilian casualties.

Calls for:

- the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages currently held by Hamas, and for the EU and national governments to use all diplomatic means to support these efforts;
- an immediate humanitarian pause between the fighting parties to allow humanitarian corridors to be established so that civilians can seek protection and essential supplies of water, food, medicines and electricity can be quickly and safely delivered to Gaza to prevent a humanitarian tragedy in Gaza from escalating;
- non-governmental and international organisations operating in the area to ensure no European taxpayer and donor money goes to finance directly or indirectly terrorists organisations and activities;
• ALDE and its member parties to work for and support the above actions and push
their governments to prohibit all activities of Hamas and proscribe it as terror
organisations along with Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) to send
a strong signal to the Iranian regime that their continued funding of terrorist
activities will not be tolerated;
• all international actors and Israeli and Palestinian authorities and
organisations working for the rule of law to work together to ensure that those
responsible for the terror attack are held responsible and brought to justice;
• European countries to condemn and take action to combat the increase of
antisemitic and anti-Muslim incidents taking place across Europe and the world;
• the UN to immediately kick start peace negotiations and for European countries
and the EU to take a leading role in bringing about lasting sustainable peace
between Israelis and Palestinians together with allied countries in the region
and a two-state solution to prevent a return to the status quo ante and to bring
an end to the violence once and for all.