



Alliance of
LIBERALS and
DEMOCRATS
for Europe

Declaration by Guy Verhofstadt, President of the ALDE Group

Within the ALDE Group we have always accepted the prerogative of nation states to organise their internal constitutional and institutional order. Consequently, it has been the practice of the Group not to take any position on such issues as they fall outside the area of competence of the European Union and of its parliament. This is a practice the ALDE Group intends to continue in the coming legislature.

The ALDE Group supports the Treaty of the Union and the principles that affirm the process of creating an ever closer union in which decisions are taken as openly as possible and as closely as possible to the citizens and which is founded on the common values to the Member States of pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity, freedom and democracy. At the same time, the ALDE Group recalls that, based on article 3.3 TEU, the Union shall promote economic, social and territorial cohesion, and solidarity among Member States whilst respecting the principle of 'a Europe based on a genuine democracy and the will of the people' as stated in the ALDE Party manifesto.

In this very same context, the ALDE Group emphasises the importance of the principles concerning the respect for the equality of member states before the Treaties and the respect for their national identities, ensuring the territorial integrity of the State, under the terms established by the respective constitutional structure, and in full accordance with the provisions of Article 4.2 TEU¹ that states that 'the Union ... shall respect their essential State functions, including ensuring the territorial integrity of the State'.

Guy Verhofstadt

¹ "Art.4.2.The Union shall respect the equality of Member States before the Treaties as well as their national identities, inherent in their fundamental structures, political and constitutional, inclusive of regional and local self-government. It shall respect their essential State functions, including ensuring the territorial integrity of the State, maintaining law and order and safeguarding national security. In particular, national security remains the sole responsibility of each Member State." Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union, 2012.