



HELSINKI STATEMENT

European liberals come together in Helsinki, Finland, at the frontline of our security, freedom and resilience. Today, Finland is protecting Europe by guarding its 1,300 km border with Russia. Helsinki has always been a beacon of diplomacy and cooperation. Fifty years ago, the Helsinki Accords laid the foundation for what would become the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Now, Finland's historic accession to NATO reaffirms our shared commitment to strengthen European security. European liberals from the EU, Council of Europe and beyond continue to work together.

Europe should draw inspiration from Finland's unique approach to security - from civil preparedness to critical infrastructure protection and robust shelter infrastructure. Now more than ever, we need deeper cooperation and a more integrated Europe on all fronts.

The ALDE Council theme "Securing tomorrow" is a reflection of the challenge of our time and a call to action. Europe must act now or risk irrelevance. War has returned to our continent. Authoritarianism is rising. Transatlantic guarantees are weakening. New threats are testing our democracies.

It is the time for Europe to lead. The EU must rise as a superpower. An economic superpower. An defence superpower. A diplomatic superpower.

European liberals have always defended freedom, democracy, and security. With leaders like Kaja Kallas and Mark Rutte, we are already taking decisive steps towards a stronger, safer Europe. But we are not stopping here, we must deliver on our vision:

BUILD A MORE UNITED EUROPEAN DEFENCE

We must defend our values with more than words. Europe is the world's second-largest defence spender with approximately €400 billion allocated in 2024, yet fragmented efforts are weakening us. NATO remains the cornerstone of our security, but we must strengthen its European pillar with stronger capabilities and more investments. To act independently, we must ensure a competitive and resilient defence industry, boost production capacity, cut red tape, enable cooperation across borders including military mobility. We need a European Defence Union.

BOOST OUR OWN EUROPEAN ECONOMIC POWER

A strong economy is the cornerstone of our security. We must strengthen our single market, invest in strategic industries, innovative technologies, and clean energy and diversify our supply chains. We must get rid of our dependency on Russian fossil fuels and forge free trade agreements with democratic allies but be ready to respond swiftly and proportionately to tariffs on EU goods using all available instruments. Europe must remain open for business, but never to blackmail.

STAND WITH UKRAINE WHATEVER IT TAKES

Ukraine is fighting for its survival and for Europe's future. Our support remains unwavering; politically, economically, and militarily. Investing in the defence of Ukraine is investing in the safety of Europe. Ukraine is a sovereign nation that should be able to determine its own destiny as a member of the EU and NATO, and we have to make it a reality, starting with integrating Ukrainian representatives into the European Parliament as observers by 2026.

PROTECT OUR DIGITAL FRONTLINE

Security doesn't stop at borders. Disinformation, cyberattacks, and foreign interference are weakening democracies from within. We must enhance cyber defence to protect critical infrastructure, improve cooperation and information sharing, increase public scrutiny and transparency of online platforms and expose those who seek to divide us.

BUILD A UNITED FRONT AGAINST AUTOCRACY

Autocrats thrive when democracies are divided. The EU must speak with one voice and safeguard the rule of law in all member states. The age of foreign policy vetoes must end. We must deepen alliances with democratic nations and support those who fight for freedom in Europe and beyond. We reaffirm our support for the full EU accession of Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, and the Western Balkans by 2029 with accession criteria fulfilled. This is an investment in our long-term peace, security and prosperity.

Without peace, there is no prosperity. Without security, there is no freedom. Liberals in the EU and Council of Europe are fighting for a Europe that protects its people, inspires hope and leads with conviction. A Europe that is safe to live in, where democracy is defended, and where everyone can thrive without fear.

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