

ALDE Party code of conduct on receiving corporate sponsorship

Adopted by the ALDE Party Council on 24 October 2020

The ALDE Party actively seeks opportunities to work together with external organisations and individuals to achieve shared objectives, mainly in the form of sponsoring. However, it is vital that the ALDE Party maintains its independence and does not allow external partnerships to bring its name into disrepute or influence its stakeholders.

Sponsors must be a legal company without relevant penal records and not engaged in activities contrary to the values of the latest ALDE Party manifesto, of our resolutions as well as of our Statutes.

The ALDE Party seeks, within the constraints of Belgian law and EU regulation:

- initiatives that bring in added value but do not compromise the independent status of ALDE Party;
- to ensure that the activities of organisations we work with are consistent with our values

Framework

The ALDE Party secretariat contacts possible partners and proposes various sponsorship packages, mainly in the frame of the ALDE Party annual Congress. Relevant National parties will be kept informed of contacts with National companies. A contract will be signed by the ALDE Party Secretary General and the company offering the sponsorship, stipulating precisely what sponsors can expect from their sponsorship.

Furthermore, to ensure the independence and separation between the sponsors and the ALDE Party, sponsors will have to comply with the following rules of engagement, which should be stipulated in all contracts

- All sponsors wanting to have a stand or similar promotion at an ALDE Party Congress will be placed in a separate room/hall (where room setup allows for this – alternatively in a separate corner not in the close vicinity of the plenary room) for the stands of sponsors in the Congress venue
- Ensuring sponsors are aware that delegates should not actively be lobbied during the Congress. Any contact for in depth conversation on policy issues should be requested to and facilitated via the Secretariat
- Ensuring that sponsors are not present at plenary meetings or internal working group meetings

Contracts with partners will permit the ALDE Party to withdraw from any partnership where new developments mean that provisions of this code of conduct become breached. Should such a development come to the attention of the Secretariat or the Bureau, an assessment must be made with undue delay.

The Secretary General will send the members of the Financial Advisory Committee an e-mail asking them their recommendation on a possible new sponsor. The Secretary General will then send an e-mail (or – depending on timing - put it on the agenda of next Bureau meeting) to the ALDE Party Bureau together with the recommendation from the financial advisory committee who

shall decide whether they approve it. The complete list of Corporate sponsors for the last two calendar years should be submitted for review and possible reassessment, to the ALDE Party Bureau at least once per year. Ex-officio members of the Bureau, including our parliamentary group, will be informed and able to react about existing and potential new sponsors.

As foreseen in Regulation 1141/2014 governing us, the ALDE Party will not accept more than 18.000€ per annum from any one legal entity, so as not to compromise our integrity. The list of corporate sponsors will be communicated to the Authority according to the provisions of article 32 and shall be made public by the European Parliament. It should particularly be noted that European parties cannot accept donations from entities based in a third country (article 20 par. 4d).

Finally, a register of all donations will be maintained at the ALDE secretariat and is available to member parties upon request. This policy has been devised to ensure clarity and openness to all our stakeholders.