

## Promoting Green Solutions

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party convening in Amsterdam, the Netherlands on 1 to 3 December 2017:

### Taking note of:

- the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol;
- the Paris Agreement and the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the UNFCCC and the 11th Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP11) held in Paris, France from 30 November to 11 December 2015;
- the commitment of all countries under the Paris Agreement to limit the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C;
- European Union climate legislation such as Emissions Trading System (ETS) and the Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR);
- the European Investment Bank's Green Initiative consisting of funding and technical support for energy efficiency projects by small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs);
- the crucial role of non-state actors, and especially the private sector, in decarbonisation and combating climate change;
- the collective nature of environmental threats, meaning that no country goes unaffected by the actions of another;
- the resolution 'Towards a Global Climate Change Treaty and Decarbonisation', adopted by the ALDE Party in Budapest in 2015.

### Believes that:

- the Paris Agreement and the outlined path towards decarbonisation will give reliable guidance for decision-making, avoid costly lock-ins to high-carbon investments, provide certainty and predictability to business and investors, and encourage a shift from fossil fuel investments towards more sustainable alternative investments;
- Europe should use a multilevel governance approach to achieve a decarbonised future for our citizens, as cities and regions have the power to reduce CO2 emissions in transport, buildings, agriculture, major infrastructure, as well as incentivise the production of clean energy via investments, public procurement, and research and innovation;
- the EU Emissions Trading System, is a cornerstone of the EU's efforts to combat climate change but also welcomes the revision proposed by the Commission to reduce the number of emission allowances so that

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it is in line with economic activity and so that the price of the allowances will lead to the CO2 reductions projected;

- the role of private actors in ensuring the achievement of environmental goals cannot be understated, and that it is crucial that the necessary frameworks exist for the private sector to fulfil their full potential in the environmental area;
- facilitating the development of market solutions, new technology, and green private investment is crucial if we are to reach our common environmental goals;
- it is important that the EU shows global leadership through established climate frameworks and that they, where appropriate, are open to non-EU actors;
- youth participation should play an essential role in climate policy, as it is the youth that will have to face the results of the decisions of today;
- all nations need to participate in fighting climate change through a just sharing of burden, taking economic development, historical emissions and natural circumstances into account;
- processes must be guided, designed, and evaluated by well-funded, independent science;
- to be most effective an effort to simplify environmental taxes and laws is needed.

#### **Calls for:**

- the EU and Member States to remain fully committed to the outcome of the Paris Agreement via an effective multilevel governance approach without which the targets cannot be met;
- the EU to continually aspire to lead international efforts on the environmental stage, and ensure that its frameworks are not based on building an environmental Fortress of Europe;
- the building of bridges and common frameworks between all European countries to promote environmental cooperation towards the agreed international goals of the Paris Agreement;
- the EU to continue the development of the Energy Union with the aim of increasing renewable energy production and establishing a true internal electricity market;
- the crucial role of the private sector to be acknowledged in such co-operations, and that they should seek primarily to facilitate the fulfilment of its potential in the environmental area, through means such as green bonds, the sharing economy, or promoting green research and development;
- the EU to strive for environmental criteria to be considered in project financing and in public investments, to ensure that public funds are used in a way that supports sustainable activities and the development

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of sustainable businesses such as phasing out fossil fuels subsidies, which could reduce global GHG emissions by 20%;

- the promotion of the consideration of environmental and other sustainability aspects in capital markets;
- the encouragement of environmental criteria to be considered in public procurement practices in all EU Member States, thereby increasing the demand for sustainable products and services;
- the EU to strive for increased transparency towards consumers regarding environmental aspects such as chemical content in products, biodiversity protection, recycling opportunities, life length of products, and environmental impacts during production, thereby allowing consumers to make informed choices; care should be taken to avoid this labelling being costly for consumers and leading to higher prices;
- increased consideration of environmental and social impacts during production and supply chains in EU policy development, acknowledging that products purchased by EU citizens are often produced in non-EU countries, with considerable impact on the local environment;
- incentives that support the development of circular economy business models;
- decisive action to push for energy efficiency gains as a key element to a sustainable economy;
- fostering research and development in low emissions technologies and promotion of clean energy production;
- fostering the use of advanced biofuels in order to reduce CO2 emissions;
- the EU to continue to take an active role internationally to further sustainable production practices, increased transparency of chemical use and other environmental aspects in supply chains, and to strive for circular economy business models to be developed globally;
- the EU to act with a strong voice in environmental and climate issues, especially ahead of coming climate negotiations, as well as work towards strengthening the role of youth participation in climate policy-making and addressing the issue of intergenerational justice.

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