

Support Civil Society and Genuine Democracy in Hungary

The Council of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 2-3 of June 2017:

Noting:

- the European Parliament resolution of 17 May 2017 on the situation in Hungary;
- that the Hungarian Parliament on 4 April 2017 adopted a comprehensive amendment on the Law on Higher Education that curtailed the academic freedom and seeks to expel the Central European University from Hungary;
- the Hungarian government has submitted new legislation to the Parliament seeking to redefine civil society organisations as “foreign financed organisations”;
- the Hungarian government has launched a so-called ‘national consultation’ which is in reality an anti-EU propaganda campaign, filled with leading questions and false claims;
- that under the government of Viktor Orbán there is a continuing process on destruction and restriction of democracy and rule of law in Hungary during the last seven years;
- that Hungary has fallen back in rankings of freedom of press and media in the last years;
- there is a growing opposition and new protest movements mobilising against the government’s anti-democratic measures and legislation.

Calls for:

- ALDE Party member parties and ALDE representatives in the European Parliament and in the Council of Europe to uphold pressure on the Hungarian government and condemn the deconstruction of democracy and rule of law in Hungary, the government’s intention to curtail academic freedom, and the redefining of civil society organisations as “foreign financed organisations”;
- ALDE Party member parties and ALDE MEPs in the European Parliament to maintain strong vocal support for the civil society and the liberal opposition in Hungary, in particular continue pushing for the activation of Article 7 of the Treaty of the European Union until achieving the goal of the European Parliament resolution of 17 May 2017;

Resolution:

Support Civil Society and Genuine Democracy in Hungary

Year and Congress:

Ljubljana, Slovenia 2017

Category:

Urgency

Page:

1

- the Hungarian government to retract the proposed law of 'Foreign Financed Organisations' and cease the registration of NGO's relieving them of the mandatory identification as "foreign financed organisations";
- the Hungarian government to recognise and immediately implement the recommendations of the European Commission relating to Lex CEU;
- the EPP to expel Fidesz from its membership;
- on the European Commission to establish an EU mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights as proposed by the European Parliament on 25 October 2016, applicable to all levels of government.

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Urgency

Page:

2