

Kosovan Independence

The European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party, convening in Helsinki, Finland, on 13-15 October 2010:

Whereas:

- The ELDR Party has always maintained that the only possible solution for the conflict over Kosovo would be the recognition of Kosovo's independence. The same conclusion was reached in 2007 in the report of UN special envoy, former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari. The people of Kosovo have expressed their sovereign will in a referendum. Therefore the ELDR Party, which for years has included among its members the Liberal Party of Kosovo, and more recently the AKR - Alliance for New Kosovo, welcomed the declaration of independence of Kosovo on 17 February 2008.

Noting that:

- Serbia started talking to the Kosovan government;
- Although most democratic countries recognised Kosovo, Serbia applied to the International Court of Justice of the United Nations for a ruling on whether the unilateral declaration of Kosovo was in accordance with international law. Now, that The Hague Court has ruled that this statement "did not violate international law or any applicable laws of international law" this is a confirmation of the right of the people of Kosovo to self-determination;

Therefore the ELDR Party:

- Congratulates the people of Kosovo, its Parliament, its authorities, the Liberal Party of Kosovo and the AKR - Alliance for New Kosovo, with whom we share a brotherly relationship, on this ruling that guarantees its sovereign will.
- Welcomes the ruling of the International Court of Justice of the United Nations in The Hague that will protect the democratic right of self-determination.
- Expresses its conviction that the international community should protect those processes, when the democratic will of a people is clearly expressed. The right to choose must have the support of democracies on all continents.
- Urges all democratic nations to recognise Kosovo, not only because it avoids what the US Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton,

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called "practical problems" but also because without recognition, the people of Kosovo are stateless. Recognition also means joining all democratic European and worldwide countries that gave support to this process.

- Demands a unitary EU position on Kosovo, confirming the will to carry out a common Foreign Policy.

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