

Equal Treatment of Single-Person Households in the EU

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

- Notes that one of the pillars of liberalism is respect for individual liberties.
- Reaffirms that individual liberties are not limited to freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, integrity of the human body and other fundamental human rights but also includes the basic right to be treated as an individual.
- Considers that following this premise, governments must treat every person as an individual and every person is entitled to be judged by the same laws and to abide by the same obligations.
- Notes that according to the latest European Commission report on demographic trends, 27% of the households in the EU are (voluntary or involuntary) single-person households, predominantly women and elderly persons.
- Recalls the acknowledgement by the European Commission that single-person households are at higher risk of poverty.
- Observes that the European Commission promotes measures to support families with children, notably in the context of the European Alliance for Families.
- Recalls that the Commission should be neutral with regard to the size and composition of households and therefore specific policies should address not only the increased risk of poverty for single-person households, but also seek to eliminate any discrimination on grounds of household size or composition.

Calls on:

- The European Commission to advocate a thorough analysis of the legal and material treatment of single-person households in the EU, for example as regards inheritance tax, insurances, pensions, rents and conditions of employment;
- The European Commission to review all EU legislation in this regard, and to ensure that discrimination against single-person households is tackled;
- The Member States to take up their responsibility and to fully respect individual liberties.

Resolution:

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Single Person
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Category:

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