

## **A Balanced Environment and Forest Related Policy in the EU**

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party convening in Dublin, Ireland on 8-10 November 2012

### **Notes**

- the fact that forests are affected by a broad array of EU policies among which the influence of environmental policy and initiatives has a greater impact than that of other EU sectoral policies;
- the increasing importance of European forests due to climate change impacts and changing needs in the energy sector;
- the enormous potential European forests bring to overall economics and especially to the growth of the European green economy.

### **States**

- that the successful history of long term planning in forestry combined with national regulations will continue to constitute a solid basis for sustainable forest management within the European Union;
- that along with the traditional production of wood and other forest products, the new generation deliverables in the forest sector, such as biochemicals, medicines, textile fibres and cosmetics, are of increasing value;
- that the forests make a positive contribution to employment and rural development;
- that forests are environmental actors of fast-growing importance, playing key roles as regulators of climate, sources of clean water, in protection against natural disasters and as reservoirs of renewable energy sources;
- that forests contribute strongly to the overall goal of the EU becoming the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based green economy in the world.

### **Calls on**

- the Member States, the European Parliament and the Commission to value highly the sustainable forestry performed largely within the European Union;
- all stakeholders to contribute to the further strengthening of European sustainable forestry and, in order to guarantee the multifunctional role of forestry, to finding a balanced adaptation of environmental aspects of forest policies and strategies covering the European Union, while paying strict attention to the different regional conditions for forestry across Europe, which would allow the forests' economic potential to

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support the development of competitiveness and growth of the Member States and the whole Union.

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