

## Drugs Policy

### The European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party convening in Palermo, Italy on 23-25 November 2011

Noting that

- The Liberal Democrats, convening in Birmingham, have voted to establish a panel to consider decriminalising the use of all drugs under UK legislation;
- The Global Commission on Drug Policy released a report in June 2011 stating that the “global war on drugs has failed”, and that governments should look to “end the criminalisation, marginalisation and stigmatisation of people who use drugs... especially cannabis”;
- The War on Drugs continues to claim thousands of innocent lives in different areas of the world, starting for example from Mexico.

Calls for

- The criminalization of drugs is economically very costly, due to costs stemming from the often-lengthy judicial and law enforcement processes. This serves as a further incentive to decriminalize drugs.
- All members to take a common stand on this issue and to put forward a resolution that asks for the establishment of a similar panel in each European country.
- All members to take a common stand and to promote a single European policy on this issue;
- All members to take into account the Dutch example of distinguishing between soft and hard drugs.
- ELDR and ELDR Member parties to cooperate more closely with all Liberal and liberal-oriented political parties to support an evidence-based policy which may encourage wider reforms in other countries.
- Calls for a decriminalization of drugs, especially cannabis.
- All members to prioritise children and young persons in the drug prevention work.
- A deeper cooperation between member states and the EU in order to combat organized crime and trade in drugs.

**Resolution:**

Drugs Policy

**Year and Congress:**

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**Category:**

Social Policy

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