

# BuStim

liberal



- Interview with new President **Svenja Hahn**
- Liberals kick off new EU mandate
- Global election updates

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**The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party** is the party representing liberal democrat values across Europe. With our member parties throughout Europe, we are translating the principle of freedom into politics, economics and across all other areas of our societies. ALDE Party provides an increasingly vital link between citizens and the EU institutions. ALDE Party is made up of 76 member parties from across Europe.

Liberal Bulletin is a publication of the ALDE Party. It is published twice a year.

Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party, EUPP

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**Publisher:** Didrik de Schaetzen

**Layout:** Juan Vadillo

With the financial support of the European Parliament. The sole liability rests with the author. The European Parliament is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

# EDITORIAL

**Dear liberal friends,**

Eight months might feel like a blink of an eye, but it's a long time in politics. When I wrote the editorial for the last issue of the Liberal Bulletin, the ALDE Party Secretariat was in full campaign mode, scrambling together the pieces of the future EU puzzle that would define the course of our actions for the weeks ensuing 9 June.

In the meantime, the super election year has come and gone. More than 70 countries across the world went to the polls, ten of which were contested by our members. While we lost ground and representation in some member states, we saw an appetite for liberal values grow significantly in countries like **Slovakia, Portugal, Belgium, Austria, Ireland** and the **United Kingdom**, where our **Lib Dems** achieved their best-ever result in a general election.

Liberals are in government in 15 countries around Europe, holding ministerial roles that have the power to shape our everyday lives. As we set off on a new EU mandate, we should remind ourselves that our drive and optimism are still badly needed in the global political space. The pages of the Bulletin in your hands are dedicated to the next generation of European liberals: from our members of the tenth European Parliament to our Commissioners in the driving seat to renew Europe.

In October, we also ushered in a new era for our party as **Svenja Hahn** was elected ALDE Party President with an extraordinary 97% of support from delegates. Svenja has long been part of our liberal family, passing through our youth wing LYMEC and women's empowerment programme the Alliance Of Her. In this long feature interview, you will appreciate why there is simply nobody better placed to fill the shoes of our now former co-Presidents, Timmy Dooley and Ilhan Kyuchyuk.

I want to send a heartfelt thanks to you for the continued support through what has been a tricky but defining year. Ahead of the festive period and another five busy years ahead, I wish you a happy new year and I hope to be able to welcome you all to our offices in Brussels, your second home.

**Didrik de Schaetzen**  
ALDE Party Secretary General

 @DdeSchaetzen



# SVENJA HAHN

## LEADING LIBERALS BACK INTO POWER

From student protests to parliamentary sessions in Strasbourg, from grassroots activism to European manifestos, from the Alliance Of Her Academy to the ALDE Party Presidency, Svenja Hahn's political journey is an inspirational story. We sat down with the tenth leader of European liberals to track her rise to office, grasp her future vision and meet the person behind the politician.



If you thought that politics these days is a boring affair, think again. Because there is always a passionate, optimistic liberal for every self-serving populist delivering deadpan statements to an audience looking for easy answers.

Svenja Hahn is no different. Now a seasoned European lawmaker into her second mandate, her story is one guided by passion and hard work, one which finds its foundations in getting engaged with grassroots movements, raising awareness on social injustice, and becoming a powerful and hopeful voice for expression.

**"I joined politics because I was mad! And I think a lot of people join politics because they're upset: there's something in their environment or in their community that they want to change."**

In her case, it all started in June 2009 at the age of 20, as students across Germany staged nationwide strikes to denounce an educational system they called underfunded and unfair. More than 100,000 activists in over 70 cities blocked the entrances to institutional buildings, occupied administrative offices and marched in parades over several days of protest.

**"I thought to myself 'they're not making education better by keeping people away from getting one – but also, you're not doing anything to make the situation better. Who are you to complain?'. And then I was like, well, if I don't agree with the means, I need to go where I can make a difference."**

**"And that was politics."**

**"WE NEED TO REACH OUT AGAIN TO THE HEARTS AND TO THE MINDS OF PEOPLE"**



## “THERE IS A FORCE FOR POSITIVE CHANGE, AND THAT IS US LIBERALS”

When Svenja was elected to lead fellow young liberals as LYMEC President in 2018, it would mark the start of a trajectory which would culminate a year later with her election as a Member of the European Parliament.

As party members in Germany voted her as one of the top candidates for the 2019 European elections, political commentators labelled her as *“the new European face of the FDP”*.

**“As young liberals, we were fighting for a better future: young people were out on the street demanding change to protect the environment and drive digitalisation forward.**

**“So when the opportunity arose for myself to stand as a candidate, I took it, because I’m in politics to make a difference. For me, it was always a dream: if I would have run for political office one day, it would have been the European Parliament.”**

An integral part of her journey was presented through the Alliance Of Her. The culture of empowerment and best practice sharing with other aspiring liberal women provided her with the skills and confidence needed to achieve her political dream.

For her, success means making a difference and leaving a lasting impact. Even through her unusual mandate, dominated by a global health pandemic, wars, the climate crisis, disinformation, the rise of autocratic regimes and extreme political polarisation.

It was within this backdrop that Svenja took a leading role within the liberal group in the European Parliament and drove change on legislation such as the EU’s AI Act, ensuring the protection of citizens’ rights in the world’s first legal framework of its kind.

**WATCH THE FULL INTERVIEW ON YOUTUBE**





**“MY GOAL IS FOR LIBERALS TO COME BACK STRONGER IN THE 2029 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS”**

But away from the policy work, meetings and committee room, she enjoys engaging in honest, open conversations with citizens, especially in her home city of Hamburg.

**“We should never underestimate the impact we have as politicians on people’s lives, not only for the legislation that we’re working on for the citizens, but also for the way we interact with people. And that is something I draw a lot of energy from.**

**“I personally always feel very happy when I go to schools to talk to young people and they tell me I motivated them to be active and stand up for what they believe in. That’s when I feel the proudest to be a politician.”**

Keen to find compromises and engage in the – sometimes – difficult policy discussions, Svenja was entrusted by the Bureau to lead the development of the ALDE Party Manifesto for the 2024 European elections, crafting our plan to deliver a more liberal Europe in the coming years.

Presenting her candidacy for ALDE Party President at the last Congress in Portugal, she unveiled her vision to lead the party into a future of new opportunities. By focusing on our security and defence and continuing to support free trade, she believes we can create a strong economy that safeguards our democratic and social values and ensure freedom for all European citizens.

**“My goal is for liberals to come back stronger in the 2029 European elections: we need to be a strong force in order to drive change in Europe. I want to start a broad listening process within our members, to analyse where we are and to make a strategy on where we need to go.**

**“I want liberals to thrive again. We need to reach out again to the hearts and to the minds of people. We see liberals are winning elections where they bring a message of hope to people that even if the times feel very dire, there is a force for positive change, and that is us liberals.**

**“We need to be louder. Because there’s so much we need to fight for, together!”**



**PICK YOUR FAVOURITE...**

- MUSIC ARTIST.....**TAYLOR SWIFT**
- FOOD.....**MY GRANDMA’S RICE PUDDING**
- POLITICAL ROLE MODEL.....**MARGARET THATCHER AND BARACK OBAMA**
- HOLIDAY DESTINATION.....**THE BEACH**
- SUBJECT IN SCHOOL.....**HISTORY**
- ICE CREAM FLAVOUR.....**MANGO**

# US ELECTIONS

## NOT THE END OF THE WORLD

Whether you like it or not, President-elect Donald Trump's clear and sweeping victory is an astounding expression of democracy. Looking back at the last two decades of American and European politics, there are lessons to be learned if we want to make a difference in our citizens' lives, writes **Dan Barna**, Member of the European Parliament's Delegation for relations with the US.

First, conventional wisdom no longer applies to present-day politics.

After President Obama's victory in 2008, everyone was hailing that the United States had entered a post-racial era. Then Trump was elected, leading pundits to proclaim that the Democrats must bring forward a new generation of politicians. Yet President Biden won the election at age 78. On January 7, 2021, Trump was all but *"politically dead, never again to set foot in the Capitol or even in Washington."* Now, America has elected Trump again.

Second, remember the opening scene of the acclaimed series *"The Newsroom"*, when Will McAvoy (brilliantly played by Jeff Daniels) rants about how *"America is not the greatest country in the world"*? At one point, he turns to the liberal panel guest and asks, *"If liberals are so smart, how come they lose so goddamn often?"*

During the 2024 campaign, American liberals ignored legitimate concerns and problems that citizens wanted solved. Issues such as immigration and inflation were treated as if they weren't real. In these elections, Trump represented a candidate of change, contrasting with an administration seemingly incapable of improving people's lives and, more importantly, incapable of listening to them when they voiced their problems.

And don't think for a second that there was any doubt about what Trump stands for. Even more astonishing are his approval ratings; since his election in 2016, Trump's approval has risen from 30% to 50%. In the 2024 elections, US and European voters demonstrated their willingness to look past "bad" traits in search of someone promising action. Do we feel that liberals performed well in this year's EU elections?

Third, the world is not coming to an end. Whether we like it or not, US citizens made their choice, and respecting that choice is our duty. We may disagree on policy and politics, but we all have to coexist on this planet.

This new version of Trump seems more organised and appears to come to the White House with an actual agenda. What can we do in the meantime? What everyone says we should do: become strategically autonomous.

But we didn't need Trump's re-election in order to act. A strong EU is our objective, regardless of who sits in the White House. We criticised Trump during his first term for urging European nations to fulfil their NATO obligations instead of living up to them.

A strong Union is a valuable partner to the US and its president, benefiting not only us but also our neighbouring countries, especially war-ridden Ukraine.

For liberals, the work for the next election starts now. There are important lessons to be learned from Trump. He decided to run for re-election immediately after his last defeat, as discussed in Bob Woodward's book *"War"*. This is no time to wallow in sorrow; if we want to matter again, we must engage and act.



USR.

@DanBarnaUSR

DAN BARNÄ MEP

ALDE Party and Renew Europe Vice-President

# LIBERALS BEGIN NEW CHAPTER IN PORTUGAL

European liberals elected new leadership, adopted key resolutions and took part in a number of high-level political debates as they gathered in the seaside town of Estoril for the annual ALDE Party Congress on 4-6 October.

In a scene-setting opening ceremony, liberal heavyweights including Luxembourg's Foreign Minister **Xavier Bettel** and Iniciativa Liberal leader **Rui Rocha** delivered keynote speeches on the future of European liberalism.

Panellists untangled the results of the European elections, brainstormed solutions to ensure Ukraine wins Putin's war of aggression as soon as possible and shared personal experiences and success stories from ministerial roles across European governments in three inspiring debates. Congress delegates also adopted ten resolutions on various key issues ranging from election standards in Georgia and Venezuela to the impact of floods on the climate crisis and the situation in the Middle East.

Candidates for the ALDE Party Bureau took part in a Q&A session before the election booths opened. Over 97% of delegates voted in **Svenja Hahn** as ALDE Party President, while six candidates were elected to the role of Vice-President.

*"With the biggest conflict of our time coming between autocracy and democracy, we have nothing less to do than fight back. I want us liberals to win, to be a force for progress, to be a promise for a better future,"* President Hahn told members in her acceptance speech.

SCAN TO READ ADOPTED  
RESOLUTIONS



## ELECTED VICE-PRESIDENTS



**YOKO ALENDER**  
ESTONIA



**YEVHENIIA KRAVCHUK**  
UKRAINE



**LUCIA PLAVÁKOVÁ**  
SLOVAKIA







**JOUNI OVASKA**  
FINLAND



**SAL BRINTON**  
UNITED KINGDOM



**RIK DAEMS**  
BELGIUM



# RENEW EUROPE COMMISSIONERS SHAPE KEY EUROPEAN PRIORITIES

The priorities of this new Commission closely mirror what ALDE Party fought for in the European elections. Amid increased geostrategic rivalries and instabilities, the new College of 27 Commissioners will strive to ensure our priorities: security, prosperity and democracy in Europe.

With five highly-qualified Commissioners for five important portfolios, liberals are well represented to ensure that our values and policies are reflected at the highest levels of European diplomacy and policymaking.



**KAJA KALLAS**

European Commission Vice-President/High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

- **Strengthening** and **coordinating** the EU's security and defence policy to deliver a European Defence Union
- **Forging** a new united and assertive common foreign policy to respond to rising global threats
- **Shaping** a strategic approach towards EU's neighbours and candidate countries



**STÉPHANE SÉJOURNÉ**

European Commission Executive Vice-President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy

- **Coordinating** a new EU industrial strategy with more investment, innovation and a bolder use of the Single Market
- **Strengthening** the EU economy and competitiveness to bridge gaps with global economic and political competitors
- **Managing** the twin digital and green transitions to ensure the EU meets its climate and environmental targets



**HADJA LAHBIB**

Commissioner for Preparedness, Crisis Management and Equality

- **Strengthening** EU civil preparedness and crisis response to increasing risks, from climate hazards to military threats
- **Boosting** diplomatic efforts by promoting the respect of international law and humanitarian principles
- **Defending** and **upholding** the rights of minorities with new Anti-Racism, LGBTIQ and Gender Equality strategies



**MARTA KOS**

Commissioner for Enlargement

- **Overseeing** EU accession negotiations and incentivising structural reforms in candidate countries
- **Developing** institutional reform policies aimed at ensuring EU institutions are enlargement-ready
- **Ensuring** Ukraine's accession and reconstruction paths through the implementation of the Ukraine Facility



**MICHAEL MCGRATH**

Commissioner for Democracy, Justice and Rule of Law

- **Tackling** disinformation, corruption, foreign interference and attacks to the rule of law in all EU Member States
- **Protecting** the fundamental rights of citizens and consumers to further develop the EU Single Market
- **Monitoring** the application of the EU Charter and EU accession to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)



# ALDE PARTY MEMBERS IN THE 10TH EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Following the 2024 European elections, our liberal group in the European Parliament Renew Europe has 77 Members, including 51 from 24 different ALDE Party members.

Our MEPs will continue working towards turning liberal ideas and proposals into actions serving our priorities in the tenth European Parliament mandate.

## GET TO KNOW OUR NEW MEPS!

NEOS



**Helmut BRANDSTÄTTER**  
X @HBrandstaetter

NEOS



**Anna STÜRGKH**  
X @AnnaSturgkh

open vld



**Hilde VAUTMANS**  
X @hildevautmans

MR



**Benoît CASSART**  
X @BenoitCassart

MR



**Olivier CHASTEL**  
X @OChastel

MR



**Sophie WILMÈS**  
X @Sophie\_Wilmes

MRF



**Taner KABILOV**  
X @titoarjentino

MRF



**Ilhan KYUCHYUK**  
X @ilhankyuchyuk

MRF



**Elena YONCHEVA**  
X @elenayoncheva

radikale B



**Sigrid Friis FRÉDERIKSEN**  
X @Sigridfriis

Venstre



**Asger CHRISTENSEN**  
X @AsgeriEU

Venstre



**Morten LØKKEGAARD**  
X @Loekkegaard\_MEP





**Urmas  
PAET**

X @Urmaspaet



**Jana  
TOOM**

X @JanaToomEE



**Elsi  
KATAINEN**

X @ElsiKatainen



**Katri  
KULMUNI**

X @katrikulmuni



**Anna-Maja  
HENRIKSSON**

X @anna\_maja



**Valérie  
DEVAUX**

X @DevauxVly



**Andreas  
GLÜCK**

X @Andi\_Glueck



**Svenja  
HAHN**

X @svenja\_hahn



**Moritz  
KÖRNER**

X @moritzkoerner



**Jan-Christoph  
OETJEN**

X @jcoetjen



**Marie-Agnes  
STRACK-ZIMMERMANN**

X @MAStrackZi



**Barry  
ANDREWS**

X @BarryAndrewsMEP



**Barry  
COWEN**

X @CowenBarry



**Billy  
KELLEHER**

X @BillyKelleherEU



**Cynthia  
NÍ MHURCHÚ**

X @cynimhurchu



**Ivars  
IJABS**

X @ijabs



**Dainius  
ŽALIMAS**

f dainius.zalimas



**Petras  
AUŠTREVĪCIUS**

X @petras\_petras



**Charles  
GOERENS**

X @ CharlesGoerens



**Raquel GARCÍA  
HERMIDA-VAN DER WALLE**

X @raquelgarciaher

D66



**Gerben-Jan GERBRANDY**  
X @Gerbrandy

D66



**Brigitte VAN DEN BERG**  
X @BrigittevdBerg

VVD



**Malik AZMANI**  
X @MalikAzmani

VVD



**Jeannette BALJEU**  
X @baljeuj

VVD



**Bart GROOTHUIS**  
X @bgroothuis

VVD



**Anouk VAN BRUG**  
X @anoukvanbrug

iniciativa liberal



**João COTRIM DE FIGUEIREDO**  
X @jcf\_liberal

iniciativa liberal



**Ana VASCONCELOS MARTINS**  
X @anavasconcelos.m

USR.



**Dan BARNA**  
X @DanBarnaUSR

USR.



**Vlad VOICULESCU**  
X @vlad\_voiculescu

PS Progresívne Slovensko



**Veronika CIFROVÁ OSTRİHOŇOVÁ**  
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PS Progresívne Slovensko



**Martin HOJSÍK**  
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PS Progresívne Slovensko



**Ľubica KARVAŠOVÁ**  
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PS Progresívne Slovensko



**Ľudovít ODOR**  
X @LudoOdor

PS Progresívne Slovensko



**Michal WIEZIK**  
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PS Progresívne Slovensko



**Lucia YAR**  
X @lucia\_yar

Liberalerna



**Karin KARLSBRO**  
X @KarinKarlsbro

Centerpartiet



**Abir AL-SAHLANI**  
X @AbirAlsahlani

Centerpartiet



**Emma WIESNER**  
X @emmawiesner



# LIBERALS LEAD

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT COMMITTEES

### BARRY ANDREWS

Committee on Development (DEVE)

Promotes, implements and monitors the EU's development, aid and cooperation policy with developing countries



*"At a time of growing inequalities and global insecurity our commitment to eradicating poverty, helping those in dire need, and improving our relations with developing countries is more important than ever."*

Oversees the interpretation, application and compliance of international and European law with EU treaties

*"JURI has an overarching competence for the monitoring of application of Union law, for its simplification and for better law making. I can affirm JURI's commitment to effective functioning of the Union's legal framework and upholding of justice."*

### ILHAN KYUCHYUK

Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI)



### MARIE-AGNES STRACK-ZIMMERMANN

Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE)

Develops European security and defence policy and relations with strategic partners and third countries



*"I intend to work with colleagues across the political spectrum to ensure Europe remains united in responding to the complex range of security threats, and in particular to ensure Member States and allies continue to provide Ukraine with the military capabilities it needs, for as long as it needs."*

# GEORGIA'S STRUGGLE FOR EU INTEGRATION

## A UNITED FRONT AGAINST AUTHORITARIANISM

European and Euro-Atlantic integration is a unifying vision for Georgia, representing their shared aspiration to return to their civilisational home and fulfil the dreams of a democratic, free future. However, this path is being undermined by the ruling Georgian Dream party, which maintains power through authoritarian control and election manipulation, write **ALDE Party leaders from Georgia.**

Recent events illustrate the anti-democratic approach of Georgian Dream starkly. The 26 October elections, pivotal for Georgia's European trajectory, were marred by outright rigging. Independent exit polls, credible reports and statistical analyses reveal severe manipulation: voters faced compromised ballot secrecy, fraudulent identification practices and identity theft.

The ruling party filled election commissions with loyalists, obstructed genuine observers and allowed unauthorised video surveillance to intimidate voters. This election did not merely represent a local power struggle; it mirrored Russian-style tactics – subverting Georgia's democratic will. Even Georgia's President described it as a "Russian conquest."

Following the elections, pro-European and democratic parties refuse to recognise the legitimacy of elections marred by pervasive fraud and constitutional violations. Under no circumstances will these parties enter the parliament formed from these illegitimate results.

The disturbing parallels extend to laws influenced by Russia, particularly the Foreign Agents Law, which undermines our critical civic organisations and fosters an atmosphere of intimidation. Following its implementation, we've seen increased human rights abuses, limits on freedom of assembly, press censorship and targeted persecution of activists, politicians and journalists.

Nevertheless, Georgian society remains resilient. When the Foreign Agents Law took force, thousands mobilised in unprecedented protests.

This tenacity continues as Georgians focus on securing free elections and unseating Georgian Dream. Acting independently, President Salome Zourabichvili introduced the Georgian Charter – a reform agenda advocating for judicial, security and electoral overhauls. Through these efforts, the opposition united into four main pro-European alliances to contest the ruling party.

Despite these endeavours, the current regime blatantly rigged the election. The opposition's path to a European future now reaches a critical juncture, and decisive action is needed from the international community. The EU, long cherished as a defender of democracy in Georgia, holds its standing by their response to these injustices. We urge the EU to refuse acknowledgment of this fraudulent election, suspending all formal communications with the existing government until credible, free elections are conducted.

Additionally, the EU must extend targeted support to pro-Western opposition groups, collectively holding over 50% of the vote. The EU's imposition of sanctions on Bidzina Ivanishvili and other high-level officials involved in election misconduct, alongside the rechanneling of funds to Georgian NGOs and the independent media, represent necessary steps. The EU must reinforce that accession talks to the European Union will proceed only following truly democratic elections.

Our demands are unequivocal: new elections under international oversight. This is not just a battle it's a disciplined, enduring pursuit for our future. With unwavering support domestically and internationally, Georgia will reclaim its democratic rights.

### ALDE PARTY MEMBERS IN GEORGIA

- Droa!**
- Girchi - More Freedom**
- Lelo for Georgia**
- Strategy Aghmashenebeli**
- Republican Party of Georgia**



# THE LIB DEMS ARE BACK

In July, the Liberal Democrats achieved their best ever general election result with 72 Members elected to the UK Parliament. They held all their seats, including four outstanding by-election victories, unseating four Cabinet Ministers and winning in three Conservative ex-Prime Minister's seats. Lib Dem Europe Spokesperson **James MacCleary MP** outlines the winning strategy behind the party's success.

In this historic election, we in the Lib Dems prioritised winning seats over the national vote share, a big change that had huge practical implications in our first-past-the-post electoral system.

For most of the previous 70 years, we needed to secure more than 100,000 votes to win just one seat in Parliament. In 2019, it took us more than 300,000 votes to win each seat. This year, winning a seat took us just under 49,000 votes.

Under Ed Davey's leadership, our campaign was praised as the most successful in British political history by several political commentators. It successfully combined stunts, policy and personal stories to connect with voters, with our targeted literature and door-to-door canvassing playing a crucial role.

In an election that mostly turned voters away from politics and was dominated by Rishi Sunak's gaffes and inability to connect, Ed's natural ability with people, with warmth and generosity, was a welcome contrast.

Over six weeks, Ed travelled the country. He fell off paddle boards, careened down waterslides and even bungee jumped. But he used these fun stunts to talk about the real issues facing people across the country the cost of care, sewage dumping by water companies and the Tories bringing the National Health Service to its knees.

His campaign got noticed – and set people across the country talking about us, proving that we were listening to their concerns.

Our campaign approach was a definite risk. But we took it thanks to our unprecedented ability to listen and respond to what was happening on doorsteps across the country.

Our volunteers knocked on 2.7 million doors and spoke with 877,489 people. We talked to our top canvassers daily, giving us an immediate sense of what was cutting through. And we adjusted our campaign directly in response to what we heard.

Our financial strategy over the past four years was another important factor. We cut spending in many other areas, invested in field support for our top local parties and match-funded literature wherever possible. Crucially, we increased our number of local councillors to 3,100 across the country, leading 68 councils and jointly running another eight.

This result had been four years in the making. As the largest third party in UK history, we will use our increased influence with 72 MPs to be the effective opposition to the Labour government, encouraging them to fix Britain's broken relationship with Europe.

Through our membership of ALDE Party and Liberal International, we will continue to work closely with our liberal sister parties and stand up for our values.



@JamesMacCleary

**JAMES MACCLEARY MP**

Liberal Democrat Europe Spokesperson

# MOVERS AND SHAKERS



**Sigrid Friis Frederiksen**


The lead candidate for Radikale Venstre in the 2024 European elections, **Sigrid Friis Frederiksen** became ALDE Party's youngest elected MEP at 29. A former chair of Radikale's youth wing known for her strong stance on green and sustainable policies, she was one of the European Parliament's negotiators at COP29 in November.

 @Sigridfriis



**Aleksandra Kot**


2024 was a real breakthrough year for 24-year-old **Aleksandra Kot**: she became the youngest member of Parliament in Poland and was recognised as a promising future leader with the European Liberal Forum's Rising Star award. She aims to represent the interests of her generation and increase their engagement in politics.

 @\_olakot



**Kristen Michal**

A seasoned politician, **Kristen Michal** has been active in politics since 1996 and has previously held various ministerial roles, with portfolios including justice, economic affairs, infrastructure and climate. He was promoted to Estonia's top job in July to replace Brussels-bound Kaja Kallas, also becoming the leader of the Estonian Reform Party in the process.

 @KristenMichalPM



**Jan-Christoph Oetjen**


As a Member and former Vice-President of the European Parliament, **Jan-Christoph Oetjen** has been an active advocate for liberal values in the EU and his home country of Germany. The FDP member now serves as President of the European Liberal Forum, an institution that unites liberal think-tanks, political foundations and institutes from across Europe.

 @jcoetjen



**Jouni Ovaska**


**Jouni Ovaska** started his career in Finnish local politics in the municipal council of Hämeenkyrö. A member of Keskusta, he served as the party's Secretary General before being elected to the Finnish Parliament in 2019. In October, Congress delegates elected him as ALDE Party Vice-President, marking a European step in his political journey.

 @JouniOvaska



**Sophie Wotschke**

Serving as the current chair of the Austrian liberal youth JUNOS, **Sophie Wotschke** represents a new generation of politicians in Parliament. In October, after seven years of political activism, she became the youngest member of Austria's National Council at just 26 years of age following the national election.

 @SophieWotschke

These profiles are an editor's pick of some of our liberal movers and shakers. Have a great profile in mind? Share your proposal with us at [communication@aldeparty.eu](mailto:communication@aldeparty.eu) ahead of the next issue.

**To view all our liberal profiles, visit [www.aldeparty.eu/leadership](http://www.aldeparty.eu/leadership)**



# A NEW DIGITAL HUB FOR EUROPEAN LIBERALS

*SOMETHING EXCITING IS COMING ON 1 JANUARY...*

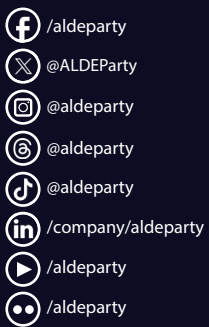
Our website **aldeparty.eu** is getting a fresh look for 2025! With a new visual identity, a more streamlined navigation and enhanced features, every click will make it easier than ever to stay informed, connect with our initiatives and support liberal causes across the continent.

Hover over our interactive map of member parties, read through a comprehensive recap of our policies, check out our wall of liberal leaders and ask our AI-generated chatbot Libby about our adopted resolutions.

And if you want to keep your finger on the pulse of the liberal world, subscribe now to our weekly newsletter **Liberal Insider**, the weekly must-read briefing on **ALDE Party** news and views for our growing community of liberals in-the-know.

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## Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party

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ALDE Party - Produced: November 2024 - With the support of the European Parliament.  
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