

liberal

bulletin

FIRST ISSUE 2023

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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. The ALDE Party provides an increasingly vital link between citizens and the EU institutions. The ALDE Party is made up of more than seventy member parties and many individual members from across Europe.

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# EDITORIAL

Dear liberal friends,

In almost exactly 12 months, citizens across Europe will have the opportunity to vote on our shared European future. For us liberals, looking back at everything that has happened since the last European Parliament elections took place in 2019, the 2024 elections come at a pivotal moment in time.

Here at the ALDE Party Secretariat, we have already started the necessary preparations for the upcoming campaign. One of the key items we have been working on is the electoral manifesto which sets out the liberal vision on what we believe Europe should look like in the years to come. You can learn more about the manifesto process in the pages of this Liberal Bulletin.

This spring also marks another, much more sombre anniversary. In February, it was 12 months since the beginning of Putin's unprovoked military aggression against Ukraine. Since the very first days of the war, Europe's liberals have worked hard to provide support and concrete help to Ukraine, and we continue to work closely with our member parties to ensure a strong Ukraine in a strong Europe.

This year also marks 30 years since the creation of the European Single Market. Dedicated advocates of the project, we invited some of our liberal leaders to share their national perspectives on what these past three decades have meant for Europe. However, surveys conducted by the ALDE Party demonstrate that Europeans are growing increasingly pessimistic about the future, with many voters feeling angry, anxious and frustrated. The upcoming European elections are one way to show that Europe's liberals are listening and delivering on what matters.

Last but not least, I want to take this opportunity to say goodbye. After 11 years of leading the Secretariat, I decided to step down earlier this spring as Secretary General to embark on a new adventure. It was a decision of mixed feelings: the excitement of a new opportunity balanced with the sadness of leaving behind an organisation and staff I have been proud to lead and develop. Europe's liberals have achieved so much during this past decade and the party has grown to be a major player in pan-European politics. And, I know we still have the potential to achieve so many great things.

Thank you for all your support over the years. I wish you the very best.



**Jacob Moroza-Rasmussen**  
ALDE Party Secretary General  
2012-2023

 @MorozaR

# EUROPEAN SINGLE MARKET TURNS 30

In January 1993, a new era for the European project began. The launch of the Single Market made everyday life easier for consumers and businesses, creating jobs and economic growth. Today, 30 years later, it stands as one of the EU's greatest achievements.

Ensuring the free movement of goods, services, people and capital across borders has created opportunities for millions of citizens and increased European competitiveness, with the EU now the world's largest trading bloc.

European liberals have always been advocates for a functioning Single Market. Indeed, as part of the Conference on the Future of Europe, we called for completing and promoting the Single Market as well as a Digital Single Market to ensure a resilient and innovative future for our Union.

To mark three decades of these four key freedoms, we asked some of our liberal leaders for their perspectives on what the European Single Market has meant for their country and the continent as a whole.



## Dita Charanzová MEP

ALDE Party Vice-President

“Almost nineteen years ago, the Single Market became a reality for the Czech Republic, allowing citizens to live, work, and travel wherever they wish in Europe. Joining the Single Market served as a launching pad, not only for the prosperity of our businesses and enterprises, but also for the rise of freedom and democratic values. The Single Market enabled smooth transition from a planned economy to a modern, prosperous, market-based one. Czech businesses thrived, becoming globally renowned, and transforming into world leaders in their sectors.

For the future, however, we cannot take the Single Market for granted. Current attempts to weaken Single Market rules are threatening and can harm the level playing field in Europe. We have to ensure that we continue to strengthen the Single Market and its four freedoms, and to fight against the urges of isolationism and protectionism.

The years ahead will be extraordinarily challenging and it will test our ability of competitiveness, unity and resilience. To succeed, the Czech Republic and Europe need a stronger Single Market.”



## Svenja Hahn MEP

ALDE Party Vice-President

“The Single Market is the heart and core of the EU. Free movement between Member States, free trade and the right to move, study, live and work freely within the Union is what made Europe economically strong and brought Europeans closer together.

The Single Market is getting your favourite Danish yoghurt in a German supermarket, making new friends studying in Barcelona and surfing on your phone during your Greek beach holiday without extra charges.

All EU citizens and Member States benefit as a society and economy from the Single Market. Through the Single Market, the EU has grown into an economically strong, global player. As member of the European Parliament’s Internal Market Committee, I work on legislation to bring the EU closer together, because the Single Market still has a lot of potential and areas to grow. It is time to unleash its full potential to succeed in the challenges of our time.”

Latvijas  
Attīstībai



## Ivars Ijabs MEP

“A prime example of how the EU Single Market has benefitted Latvia is the country’s timber industry. The industry accounts for over 20% of Latvia’s exports, with 75% of it going to other EU Member States. Access to the Single Market has enabled Latvian timber companies to expand their business and increase their competitiveness, providing a significant boost to the country’s economy.

However, challenges remain. One of them is the need to ensure a level playing field across all Member States to avoid unfair competition. We need to ensure that the benefits of the Single Market are evenly distributed across all Member States, particularly for countries that are still catching up in terms of economic development. The rise of protectionism and nationalism in some EU countries could also undermine the principles of the Single Market.”



© European Union 2019



## Margrethe Vestager

European Commission Executive Vice-President

“The Single Market is the world’s largest trading bloc. It has for thirty years been the fundament of the EU. It provides opportunities for millions of businesses as well as for consumers in Europe. The past two years has shown us that Europe’s ability to absorb shocks and overcome crises, relies on a strong Single Market. The Single Market also plays a crucial role in finding solutions to tackle climate change, ensure clean energy sources and develop digital solutions to make it happen.”



VENSTRE



## Morten Løkkegaard MEP

“ Danish trade with fellow EU countries has never been greater. Soon, trade may reach around €250 billion annually. New figures show that 1/6 of Danish jobs are directly dependent on exports within the EU’s Single Market.

However, the European Single Market is today much more than economic growth. In the past years, security has become an essential part of the Union - also in cyberspace. The increasing threat from hackers demands closer cooperation on cybersecurity, which recently resulted in an update for the directive on cybersecurity. Shortly, more legislation will follow.

Looking forward, we must reap all the benefits of the Single Market, especially in view of the economic instability following the energy and inflation crisis. Member States have yet to realise a huge potential. The Commission estimates that completing the service market can create almost €300 billion in growth yearly. Conclusion: we need to urgently remove national barriers and enforce EU legislation to boost our economies. ”



## Catharina Rinzema MEP

“ The European internal market has been part of the Dutch economic success. With the Port of Rotterdam, the Netherlands is the main entry point of goods to the internal market. The open borders within Europe allow us to work and travel freely, contributing to the creation of many jobs and opportunities for our citizens.

The internal market is also good for our consumers. Whether it concerns cars, food or toys, European rules make sure that our products are safe. Thanks to the EU, we have more prosperity and we know that whatever we buy in the store can be trusted.

Several crises have challenged our Single Market in recent times. As a response, we need to show our resilience and reduce barriers for SMEs in order to boost our overall competitiveness. ”



# ANGRY, ANXIOUS & FRUSTRATED: HAVE EUROPE'S VOTERS LOST HOPE?



The European quality of life has never been higher. 30 years of the European Single Market have not only brought opportunities for Europeans but also, according to the European Parliament, increased exports of goods from 671 billion to 3.4 trillion EUR. But, the question is whether we will be able to say this in 10 years' time.

As part of the ALDE Party surveys conducted regularly since 2019, we have discovered that after generations of growth, Europeans now believe today's youth will be worse off than the generation of their parents (Figure 1). The series of crises in the recent years, from COVID-19 to the Ukraine war, and the looming threat of climate change, have all contributed to the feeling of decreasing quality of life.

In fact, according to our research, almost half (47%) of the respondents are unsure if their situation will ever improve (Figure 2). Only 9% feel that their situation is already better than

before, while 7% project a better life only after 2025.

This sentiment also translates into the feelings – and possibly behaviours – of voters. Our survey from February 2023 shows that voters are feeling frustrated (36%), angry (33%) and anxious (31%) (Figure 3). Less than one fifth (17%) describe themselves as hopeful, and shockingly only 5% feel happy. These numbers convey a powerful message of discontent which will undoubtedly influence upcoming elections, whether at local, national or European level.

The question is, what can we do about the situation?

We believe that the starting point is to understand and acknowledge that people are hurting and worried. As our research shows, most voters don't feel like they are heard by politicians.

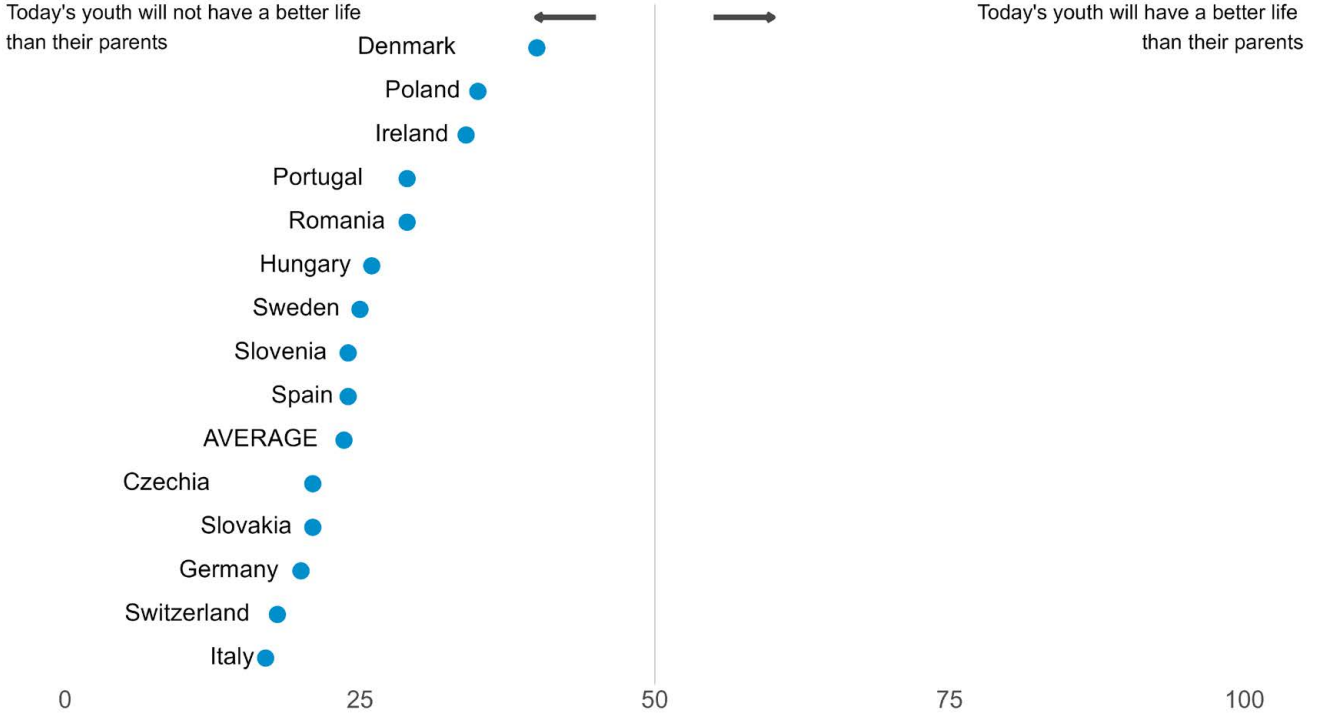
In fact, 67% of our respondents feel that public officials don't care what they think, and 57% feel they have no say over the decisions taken by their governments (Figure 4). If liberal politicians put people first in their communications and truly listen to their concerns, they can gain voters' trust and deliver on topics that matter to us all. By doing so, new, innovative ideas can be born which in turn can lead to dynamic ideas and renewed leadership – and eventually regaining the lost confidence of Europeans.

Since its creation 30 years ago, the Single Market has delivered on its promise of a better life for Europeans. Let's not become the generation that lets that promise die.

For more information on the ALDE Party survey project, get in touch with Head of Research & Empowerment **Max Sundermann** ([msundermann@aldeparty.eu](mailto:msundermann@aldeparty.eu)).

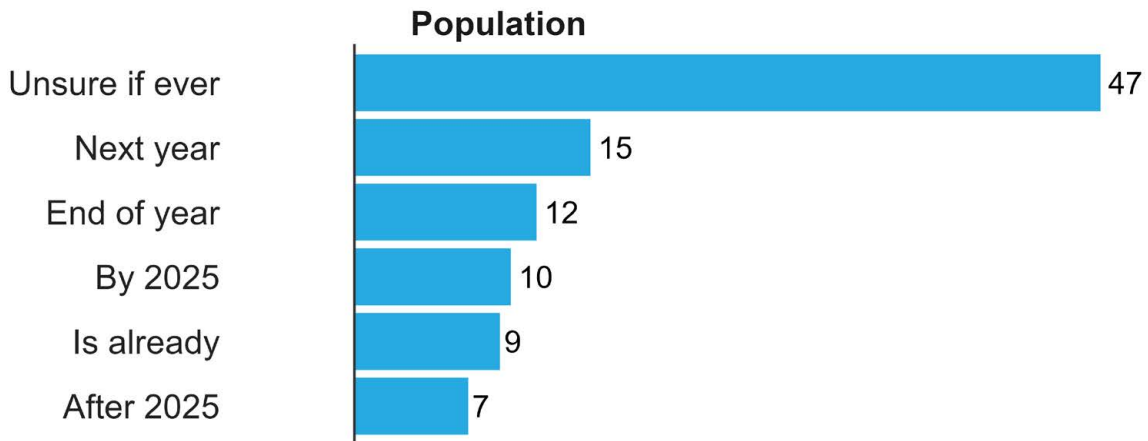
**Figure 1**

Question: Here are some pairs of statements. For each pair, please indicate which choice comes closer to your point of view. Share of respondents choosing position closer to 'will have better life' (0-4). February 2023, country n ~ 800



**Figure 2**

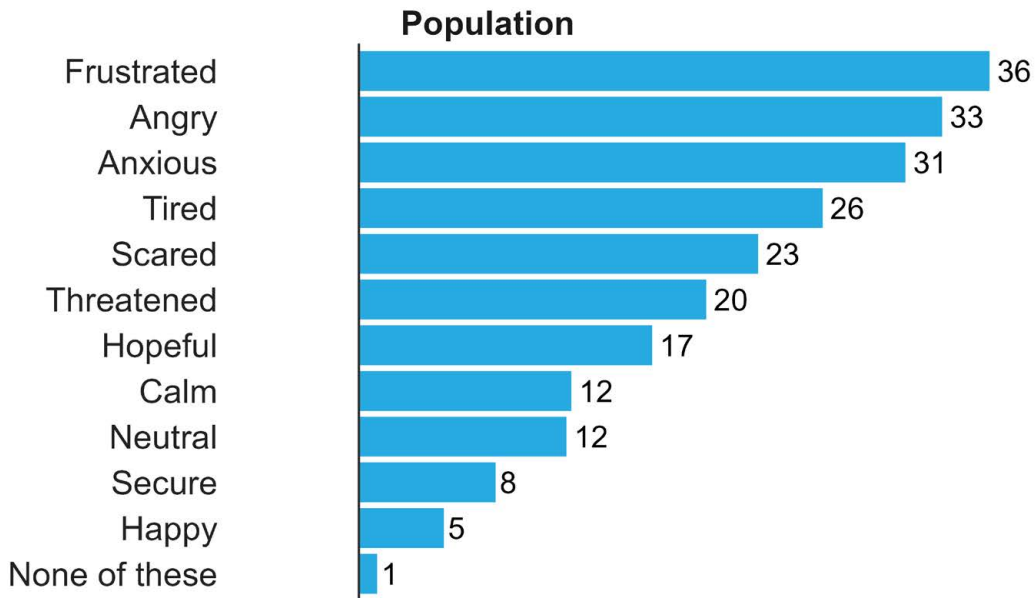
Question: When do you expect your personal economic situation will improve? Share of respondents choosing the option, Weighted EU average, February 2023, n = 11220





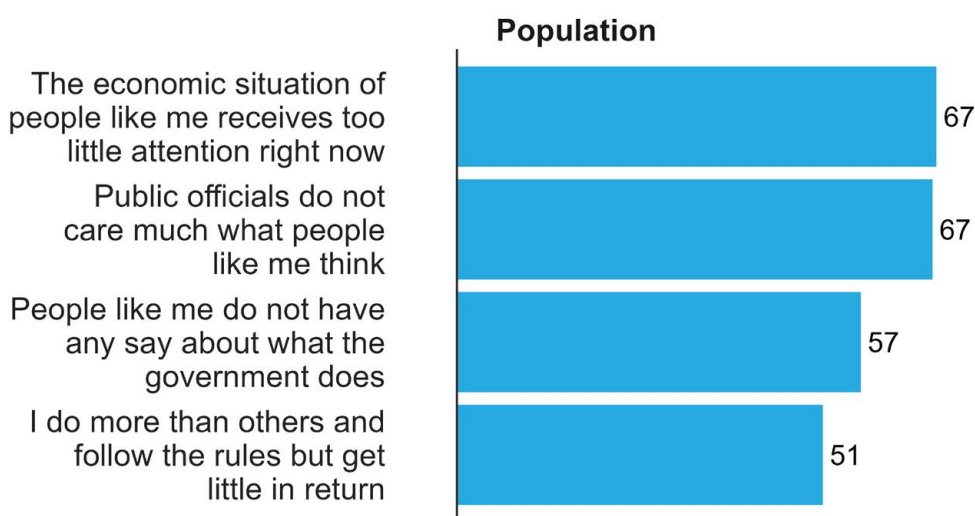
**Figure 3**

Question: Which of the following words most closely describes how you feel about the situation in your country right now? If more than one applies, you may select up to THREE. Weighted EU average, February 2023, n = 11220



**Figure 4**

Question: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Share of respondents selecting, Weighted EU average, February 2023, n = 11220



The referenced survey was conducted with Dynata between 15 and 27 February 2023 in CZ, DE, DK, ES, HU, IE, IT, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK. Total sample size: 11,220

# ALDE PARTY MANIFESTO TAKES SHAPE

With the 2024 European elections on the horizon, ALDE Party is hard at work developing an electoral manifesto to set out our liberal vision to address the main challenges that Europeans are currently facing.

To kickstart the inclusive and consultative process, a Manifesto Drafting Committee was convened in late 2022. The Committee includes representatives from ALDE Party full member parties and is chaired by **Svenja Hahn MEP**, ALDE Party Vice-President.

In early 2023, the Committee hosted expert workshops to gather expertise from civil society, policy experts, academia and the private sector on key issues such as the economy, climate and rule of law.

Later this year, we will hear from citizens during a series of town hall events organised in cooperation with our member parties across the EU. Finally, the manifesto will be up for adoption to the ALDE Party Congress as we launch our 2024 election campaign.

Keep reading to find out more about the manifesto journey, or check out our Manifesto webpage:

 [www.aldeparty.eu/manifesto2024](http://www.aldeparty.eu/manifesto2024)



# ALDE PARTY MANIFESTO

COMING TOGETHER FOR EUROPE



**Svenja Hahn MEP**

ALDE Party Vice-President



*The conflict of our time is autocracy versus democracy. Worldwide, autocrats are trying to undermine democracy and attack our European values. Ahead of the European elections in 2024, we must ensure that ALDE Party is running on a Manifesto that addresses the concerns of citizens all over Europe. In times of uncertainty, we need solutions that address issues such as climate change, protecting the rule of law, boosting the economy or fostering innovation made in Europe.*

*As Vice-President of ALDE Party, I am delighted to be chairing this process to prepare our liberal family for the upcoming elections. Together with representatives of ALDE member parties, policy experts and European citizens, we are finding liberal solutions to the most pressing issues of our time.*



## February 2023

Expert workshops gather external inputs

## From March 2023

Feedback discussed and manifesto drafting

## Final step

Our member parties adopt the manifesto

## From June 2023

Citizens share their thoughts at town hall meetings



Join our  
Manifesto  
video  
journey!

# OUR 2024 MANIFESTO DRAFTING COMMITTEE

IN CHARGE OF DRAFTING AND PREPARING THE 2024 ALDE PARTY MANIFESTO

## Svenja Hahn MEP

Chair & ALDE Party Vice-President,  
FDP, Germany

## Eva Maria Poptcheva MEP

Ciudadanos, Spain

## Anna Stürgh

NEOS, Austria

## Charles Goerens MEP

Demokratesch Partei, Luxembourg

## Marija Golubeva

Kustība Par, Latvia

## Dr. Grigol Gegelia

Lelo for Georgia, Georgia

## Henrik Bach Mortensen

ALDE Party Vice-President, Venstre, Denmark

## Jouni Ovaska MP

Keskusta, Finland

## Dan Barna MP

USR, Romania

## Yiannos Lakkotypis

Vice-President, DEPA, Cyprus

## Dan-Aria Sucuri

President, LYMEC

## Sean O'Curneen

Secretary General, Renew Europe CoR

## Lennart Salemink

International Secretary,  
VVD, The Netherlands

## Jolan Vereecke

Mouvement Réformateur, Belgium

## Alva Finn

Executive Director,  
European Liberal Forum

## Stientje van Veldhoven

Former Minister, D66, The Netherlands

## Sissel van Run-Kvist

Radikale Venstre, Denmark

## Yoko Alender MP

Reformierakond, Estonia



Manifesto Drafting Committee expert workshops, February 2023

# LIBERALS STAND WITH UKRAINE: ONE YEAR ON

It has now been over a year since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. During that time, the war has taken a massive cost on people, infrastructure and environment. The impact of the war has been felt across Europe and worldwide.

The people of Ukraine have bravely battled for their country, defending freedom and democracy for all of us. They continue their fight under the courageous leadership of President Volodymyr Zelensky.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky meets Renew Europe President Stéphane Séjourné in the European Parliament, February 2023

Since the invasion, we have been proud to see liberals stepping up to the task to show their support. Our liberal Prime Ministers, European Commissioners and national party leaders have been staunch advocates of a European future for Ukraine, pushing for tougher sanctions on Russia and more aid for Ukrainian defenders.



ALDE Party co-Presidents **Timmy Dooley** and **Ilhan Kyuchyuk** have led several missions to Ukraine, witnessing firsthand the destruction of war and the incredible resilience of its people.



*"The war in Ukraine is not just a conflict between two countries – it is a battle between democracy and autocracy, between freedom and brutality. The ALDE Party stands on the side of democracy, and we will do everything in our power to support Ukraine and its people in this fight."*

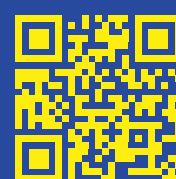
ALDE Party Co-President **Ilhan Kyuchyuk**, February 2023



*"As the European political home of President Zelenskyy, the ALDE Party stands with Ukraine in this crucial moment. We will support Ukrainians for as long as it takes, and we are committed to defending their right to freedom and democracy."*

ALDE Party Co-President **Timmy Dooley**, February 2023

European liberals will continue to stand as resolutely with the Ukrainian people as we did on the first day of the war. The stakes couldn't be higher and all of us need to do our part – for freedom, for democracy and for human rights.



Scan to watch:  
ALDE Party  
co-President  
**Timmy Dooley** reports  
from Ukraine (January  
2023)

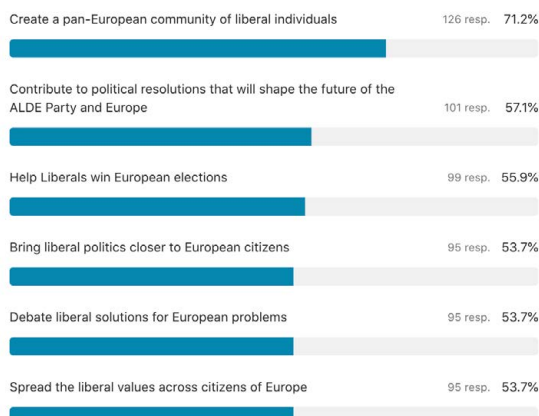
# INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS & LIBERAL ASSOCIATES: INSIGHTS INTO THE COMMUNITY

Towards the end of 2022, our AIM community established a Data & Analytics team to gain insights into the demographics and expectations of Individual Members and Liberal Associates. A survey designed to gather inputs was then launched to gain an overview of the community. Have a look at some of the findings of the survey.

To find out more about the programme, visit [aldeparty.eu](https://aldeparty.eu)

## The main goal for the AIM Programme should be to...

177 out of 178 people answered this question (with multiple choice)



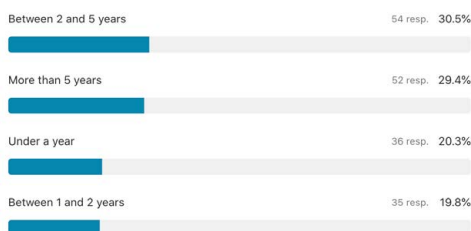
## What is your gender?

177 out of 178 people answered this question



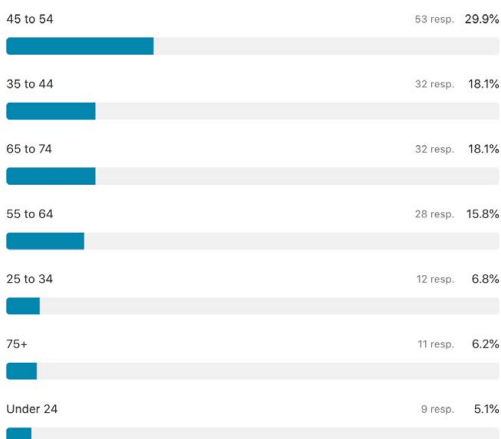
## How long have you been a member of the AIM?

177 out of 178 people answered this question



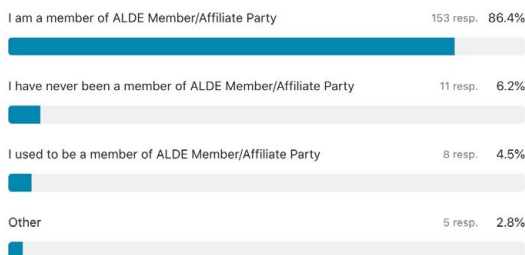
## What is your age range?

177 out of 178 people answered this question



## What is your current relationship with ALDE?

177 out of 178 people answered this question



# WITH EUROPE AND WITHIN EUROPE

*When it comes to Norwegian politics, Venstre is one of the greatest supporters of the country's EU membership, writes party leader **Guri Melby**. But, the party finds itself spending more time defending the European Economic Area than arguing for closer European integration.*

Since January 1994, Norway has belonged to the European Economic Area (EEA). Perhaps the most important international agreement for our country, it grants Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland full access to the internal market, on the condition that the EU market regulations are continuously incorporated into the EEA agreement. Crucially, the agreement gives Norwegian businesses access to the European Single Market on the same footing as EU businesses.

Equally crucial is that the agreement doesn't grant Norway any formal influence on regulations affecting the Single Market. As you all know, these regulations are extensive, which creates a significant democratic deficit. This is one of the many reasons why I am convinced that Norway belongs to the European Union and should apply for full membership of the bloc.

2022 was supposed to be the year when the national debate on Norway's EU membership would truly kick off. Faced

with a drastically changed security situation in Europe following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, our Nordic neighbours Sweden and Finland announced their intention to join NATO. Given the unpredictable situation, it would only make sense for us – as Norway shares almost 200 kilometres of border with Russia – to follow suit with an EU membership application. This would send yet another unequivocal message of democratic strength to Russian and Chinese autocrats.

**“The Norwegian government's ambivalence towards the EU is the wrong medicine based on a poor diagnosis.”**

Public polls indicate that there is an increase in citizens' support for EU membership. Instead of following this lead, however, our government is exploring ways to limit our cooperation with the EU. While ministers publicly state that the EU is more important than ever, leaked documents reveal that internal conferences have focused on arguing whether to decrease Norwegian

contributions to EEA grants aimed at reducing social and economic disparities. Our government followed the EU's lead in meeting with US counterparts to discuss key economic issues, such as the Inflation Reduction Act, but my guess is that the EU had a stronger bargaining position than Norway, who negotiated alone.

The Norwegian government's ambivalence towards the EU is the wrong medicine based on a poor diagnosis. Our times call for political courage, strategic foresight and policies that take us into a green, democratic future that grants people freedom and opportunities. We will get there with Europe and within Europe, as closely integrated as possible.



**VENSTRE**

venstre.no

 @gurimelby



# Alliance



## IN PURSUIT OF A CLOSER RELATIONSHIP

*Two years after Brexit, Northern Ireland must grab the unique opportunities offered by the Windsor Framework, writes Deputy Leader for the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland **Stephen Farry MP**. Though not a substitute for EU membership, dual market access offers the prospect of putting the Protocol wars to an end and growing the economy.*

Northern Ireland can only work on the basis of sharing and interdependence as facilitated by the Good Friday Agreement. This was reinforced by the joint UK and Irish membership of the European Union, and specifically the Single Market and Customs Union, which allowed open borders across these islands.

Brexit, therefore, posed a massive existential threat to Northern Ireland. A hard Brexit necessitates a line on the map somewhere to manage the interface between the UK and EU Single Market. Any such line brings with it a degree of friction and a threat to some individuals' sense of identity.

Accordingly, the particular challenges posed to Northern Ireland necessitate some form of special arrangement for our region. This evolved from the original proposal of the Backstop through to the Northern Ireland Protocol, and now the Protocol's evolution to the Windsor Framework.

**“Northern Ireland must fully capitalise on dual market access,”**

Alliance Party broadly welcomes the Windsor Framework, as it addresses many issues flagged by Northern Ireland businesses and other stakeholders. In doing so, it provides an even softer landing for Northern Ireland from a hard Brexit than the original Protocol. However, even the Windsor Framework is not a comprehensive substitute for Northern Ireland being fully part of the Single Market and indeed, the European Union itself.

There have been many losses since leaving the EU, such as freedom of movement and European Union funding opportunities. That said, the Windsor Framework does provide Northern Ireland with some unique opportunities in terms of dual market access to both Great Britain and the wider European Union.

With this agreement, Northern Ireland must fully capitalise on dual market access. This means investment in the skills base and pipeline alongside other key economic drivers. Crucially, it also requires

political stability. That's why the failure of some political forces in Northern Ireland to rejoin and sustain the devolved political structures of the Good Friday Agreement is not only disappointing, but deeply damaging. This stalemate has affected our economy, public services and cohesion.

Now, Northern Ireland should grab the opportunity offered by the Windsor Framework. While the pursuit of a closer relationship with the EU should continue, the Framework offers the prospect of putting the Protocol wars to an end and growing our economy, thanks to dual market access.

# Alliance

[allianceparty.org](http://allianceparty.org)

 [@StephenFarryMP](https://twitter.com/StephenFarryMP)

Our member parties have the floor

AOIFE  
MCCOOEY

KATRĪNA  
RUZAIĶE

ELENA  
BURATTI



AN ALDE PARTY FILM

# SHE WILL BE HEARD

SO OFTEN, YOUNG WOMEN IN POLITICS STRUGGLE TO BE HEARD. THIS IS NOT RIGHT.

IN **SHE WILL BE HEARD: THE MOVIE**, MEET AOIFE, KATRĪNA AND ELENA AS THEY EMBARK ON THEIR POLITICAL JOURNEYS, READY TO LEAD AND SUCCEED.



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# MOVERS & SHAKERS



[f @yura.bova.trostanets](#)

## Yuriy Bova

In the days leading up to Putin's invasion, **Yuriy Bova**, Mayor of Trostyanets and leader of Syla Lyudey party, worked tirelessly to organise defence for the small town in north-eastern Ukraine. While his makeshift forces were unable to prevent the invasion, it gave many residents the chance to flee to safety. Today, Bova leads reconstruction efforts in the area, rebuilding vital facilities such as schools.



[t @MuharremDemirok](#)

## Muharrem Demirok

Hailing from the city of Linköping in Sweden, **Muharrem Demirok** brings expertise from over a decade in local politics to his new role as leader of Centerpartiet, having taken on the position in February this year. As leader, his priorities are to re-engage supporters in every part of Sweden, ensure public safety, tackle the climate crisis and focus on education reform.



[t @PatriciaGuaspB](#)  
[t @AdrianVL1982](#)

## Patricia Guasp & Adrian Vázquez Lázara

In January, the refoundation process of Spanish liberal party Ciudadanos concluded with the election of **Adrian Vázquez Lázara** MEP and **Patricia Guasp** as Secretary General and Political Spokesperson, respectively. With the motto 'Free yourself', the new leaders are ready to reboot the party and focus on support for the middle class, while continuing to challenge the two-party deadlock in Spain.



[t @RPourmokhtari](#)

## Romina Pourmokhtari

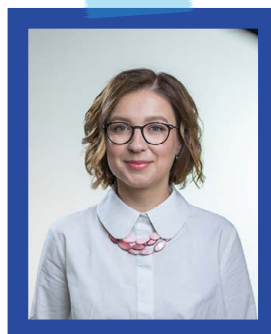
As former President of the Swedish Liberal Youth, **Romina Pourmokhtari** began her fight for liberal values at a young age. Today, she sits in government as Minister for Climate and Environment, where she made history by taking on the role aged 26, becoming the youngest-ever cabinet minister in Sweden. In 2022, she was named Sweden's most powerful politician under 30.



[t @ruirochaliberal](#)

## Rui Rocha

Following an astounding success in Portugal's last parliamentary elections, **Rui Rocha** MP assumed the leadership of Iniciativa Liberal earlier this year. His goal? Break the mold of bipartisanship and obtain 15% of vote share the next time Portuguese voters head to the polls, a bold ambition that would more than triple the party's results as compared to last year.



[t @InnaSovsun](#)

## Inna Sovsun

As Member of Parliament and Deputy Leader of ALDE Party member Golos, **Inna Sovsun** is an outspoken advocate of the Ukrainian fight for freedom. But the work doesn't stop there – despite the war, she submitted a draft law on the legalisation of same-sex partnerships to the Ukrainian parliament earlier this year, saying "it's crucially important for so many people, including those fighting in the military."

*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 in late 2023.*

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

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