



**Resolutions adopted by the ELDR Party
Council**

Dresden, 20 May 2011

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1. Registration of Political Parties in Russia

The European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party Council, convening in Dresden, Germany on 20 May 2011

Notes

- The ELDR Party resolution "People's access to the electoral system in Russia" adopted in November 2009;
- The approaching 2011-2012 Parliamentary and Presidential elections in Russia;
- Persistent refusal by the Russian authorities to register new political parties under the pretext of various technical formalities thus limiting people's access to elections.

States

- That Russian authorities continue to violate their international obligations (the Charter of the Council of Europe and OSCE guiding documents) regarding freedom of association and genuine political competition.

Expresses

- Deep concern that without free access of people and their political associations to electoral procedures, elections in Russia would be held in a non-competitive environment.

Calls on

- The institutions of the European Union, Council of Europe and OSCE to demand registration of new political parties by the Russian authorities.

2. Stop Persecution of Russian Human Rights Activist

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Notes with deep concern

- Reports on political reprisals against Oleg Orlov, Russian human rights activist, winner of the European Parliament's Sakharov Prize, Chair of the "Memorial" Human Rights Centre, for voicing criticism of Chechen authorities about the investigation into the murder of human rights activist Natalya Estemirova in 2009;
- That trials initiated by Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov, the latest of which is set to resume in June, are clearly politically motivated, raise serious questions on the functioning of the Russian judicial system, and demonstrate the desire of the Chechen authorities to prevent Orlov voicing his opinion.

Calls upon Russian authorities to

- Stop trials and harassments against Oleg Orlov and other human rights defenders and properly investigate such attacks and trials;
- Properly investigate the murder of Natalya Estemirova and bring the perpetrators to justice.

States that

- ELDR will continue to closely monitor events in Russia

3. Armenian Prisoners

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- Reaffirming ELDR Congress resolution on political prisoners in Armenia in its entirety;
- Underlining the impact of the ELDR resolution on releasing 8 political prisoners;
- Stressing the continuous custody of 6 remaining political prisoners;
- Acknowledging the aspiration of Armenian people to live in a society based on European values;
- Demands the Armenian authorities to release immediately and unconditionally all political prisoners;
- Calls upon ALDE to raise the prospects for EU visa-bans for Armenian officials involved in politically-motivated abuse of the justice system;
- Calls on ALDE to insist this issue be treated as priority in EU-Armenia dialogue;
- Calls on ELDR member parties to raise this issue as a priority in the framework of parliamentary cooperation of their national parliaments with the Parliament of Armenia;
- Asks ELDR secretariat to report back on this issue on the next ELDR Congress.

4. Financial and Economic Policy of the European Union

The European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party Council, convening in Dresden, Germany on 20 May 2011

Having regard to the

- European Council conclusions of March 2011;
- Statement by the Eurogroup and the ECOFIN Ministers from May 16 2011;
- Statement on Informal Executive Board Meeting on Managing Director released by the International Monetary Fund on May 15 2011.

Endorses the decision of the above mentioned parts to grant financial assistance in response to the Portuguese authorities' request of 7 April 2011.

Encourages the stepping up of efforts by European and national institutions to effectively respond to the needs of returning to a path of fiscal austerity and control of inflation marked by the targets of public deficit reduction in the framework of the European Commission's strategy.

Envisages a more ambitious financial and economic policy at EU level that avoids these situations occurring again in the future.

5. In defence of Schengen

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Against the background of the recent decisions to re-introduce custom border controls as well as the proposals of some ministers of the interior to “reform” the Schengen accord in order to allow for more internal border controls in the future, the ELDR party:

- Reminds all its members to honour their allegiance to European cooperation and integration;
- Defends the four freedoms that make up the heart of European integration;
- Opposes any introduction of permanent border controls between Schengen member states, regardless of their scope, focus or intensity;
- Calls for the strengthening of Frontex as well as for intensified cooperation of law enforcement agencies through Europol;
- Calls for a common framework for legal migration to Europe as well as common legal and humanitarian standards for asylum proceedings;
- Welcomes the communication of the Commission in view of strengthening the Schengen System.
- Opposes any reform of Schengen that leads to more controls and less freedom of movement.