

Finnish PM Matti Vanhanen ELDR-campaign launch in Brussels 15.4.2009

Dear liberal friends,

We are facing a massive historical swing both in economy and in politics.

A few decades ago the world order shifted from the planned economy to a period of total market capitalism. Both of these doctrines have now failed. First socialism and now free-for-all capitalism have come to an end.

Today, most of the European countries and the US are searching for a new way economy. In it the State plays a stronger role but the principles of the market economy are respected.

This is also a way for the European Liberals to take. A collective responsibility coupled with market economy. I - personally and as a liberal politician - have always been in favour of having the best of both worlds.

Global economy must be regulated in order to avoid mistakes that we have now seen. The State should set the rules for the markets to follow. This way we promote the welfare of our citizens in a sustainable way.

We all agree that Europe must be the leading economic force, a home of expert industrial production. But we cannot base our society on the economy alone.

At the same time we must bear our social responsibility as humans and as politicians. European Union must be a community of values with strong commitment to those who are weaker than us.

Both socialism and pure capitalism have now shown their weaknesses. There is a clear need for an alternative between the two. There is room in the middle for us liberals to take.

ELDR often balances the power between bigger political groups. We should use our position – our standing in the middle – to promote our values between the market-minded on the right and the socialists on the left.

Dear friends,

We need a stronger state also to fight the global warming. Greener society cannot be built by market forces alone.

Despite the economic crisis, we must keep our climate goals clear. We have opportunities for more efficiency, green growth and new jobs. Investing in clean energy and new technologies must be part of the European recovery.

The climate change demands unified action across Europe. Europe must become an efficient low carbon economy and take the lead in conservation, renewable energy and market instruments.

Copenhagen summit is an important step on the way to the greener world. It is necessary to get all the key partners to agree on the main elements of the deal.

It is important that the European Union gives a positive signal about its commitments. We must contribute a fair share to support the developing world.

It is also crucial that we work together with our non EU-partners. The US with its new leader Obama is a key partner, but also other major players, like China, India and Russia, must be on board with us.

Our political heritage requires us to take a lead on climate change, no matter how hard it is. We owe it to our children.

Dear friends,

With these words I want to wish us all a great success in the coming elections. Not only are we responsible for our own voters, but also for Europe and the globe as a whole.

As you all know from sports and politics, alone we fail, together we succeed.