



**Resolutions adopted by the ELDR
Party Council**

**Rome, Italy
12th March 2010**

The European External Action Service

The European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party, convening in Rome, Italy on 12th March 2010:

Whereas:

- The Lisbon Treaty aims at strengthening the EU's role in world affairs by i.a. the creation of the posts of President of the European Council and High Representative for Foreign Affairs/Vice-President of the European Commission (HR);
- -The natural disasters in Haiti and Chile have demonstrated the need for swift and effective EU action;
- Developments in Afghanistan, Iran and the Middle East equally call for bold and courageous responses from the EU.

The ELDR Party calls:

- On the HR to swiftly present a comprehensive and ambitious proposal for establishing the External Action Service (EEAS), in full respect of the Treaty provisions and especially of its article 27¹;
- Upon the European Union as well as the Member States to set aside self-interest and prejudice so as to seize this unique opportunity to build an efficient diplomatic instrument;
- Upon Member States' Governments and Parliaments to view this EEAS as complementary to national diplomatic services, and to make full use of its advantages.

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2008:115:0013:0045:EN:PDF>

The Situation in Cuba

The European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party, convening in Rome, Italy on 12th March 2010

Having regard to:

- Previous statements on Cuba from the ELDR Party and the EU
- The joint statement by the EU and the USA calling on the Cuban government to fulfil its human rights obligations;
- The Cuban government's reaction to the demands of political prisoners in general and the death of Orlando Zapata in particular;

ELDR Party:

- Supports the democratic aspirations of the Cuban people and profoundly regrets that the Cuban government is not open to the justified demands of its citizens, especially the young generation, who have seen their hopes for economic and social development stifled for too long;
- Condemns the authorities' efforts censorship of the media;
- Calls for the immediate release of all those solely detained for peacefully exercising their rights to free expression, association, and assembly or on the basis of the political orientations;

Calls on all ELDR Party members to promote initiatives at the national and European levels in order to increase the international pressure on the Cuban dictatorial regime.

The Situation in Iran

The European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party, convening in Rome, Italy on 12th March 2010:

Having regard to:

- Previous statements on Iran from the ELDR Party and the EU
- The suppression of the Iranian people by its government
- The continuous Iranian delay to fulfil international demands on their nuclear activities

The ELDR Party:

- Strongly condemns media censorship and the use of violence by the authorities against demonstrators that are seeking to exercise their freedom of expression and right to peaceful assembly
- Calls for the immediate release of people detained for peacefully exercising their rights to free expression;
- Calls on the authorities to investigate and prosecute government officials and members of the security forces responsible for the killing, abusing, and torturing dissidents or their family members, demonstrators and detainees;
- Deplores the fact that the Iranian Government has again rejected all attempts to compromise over the nuclear issue;
- Asks the EU High Representative for Foreign relations to initiate a serious debate at the EU level to determine the future course of action, including the possibility of introducing further targeted sanctions that do not harm the general population of Iran.

Regional Elections in Russia

The European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party, convening in Rome, Italy on 12th March 2010:

Noting:

- The ELDR Party resolution “Russian Elections” adopted in November 2009²;
- That regional elections are taking place this Sunday (14th March 2010) and ELDR’s member party, Yabloko is not being allowed to run in the regions of Sverdlovsk and Kaluga;
- That despite President Medvedev’s statements on access to participating in elections, the Yabloko Party continues to be discriminated against.

Calls on the Russian authorities to:

- Take urgent remedial measures in ensuring free and fair elections and maximum public control over voting;
- Observe Russia’s obligations to ensure democratic standards under its membership of the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

Will:

- Raise this issue with the ALDE Groups in the Council of Europe and the European Parliament.

² <http://www.eldr.eu/en/resolutions/2009/11/russian-elections>

Italian Regional Elections

The European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party, convening in Rome, Italy on 12th March 2010:

Whereas:

- Italy will hold elections for 13 regional councils on 27-28th March 2010;
- National and regional laws mandate that 180 days before the vote, collecting signatures to present lists should begin on forms approved by the Interior Ministry or by Regions, and that on six occasions those provisions have been patently violated;
- Law 43/1995 regulating elections has been violated on five issues;
- Six regional electoral laws were changed over the last 12 months;
- Some lists of candidature have received preferential treatment over others, notably in favour of the ruling party.

Considering that:

- Radicali Italiani publicly alerted competent institutions;
- As of 11th March 2010, the public broadcasting service RAI, violating the provisions adopted by the Parliamentary Committee that Oversees public TV, has cancelled the electoral campaign from its programmes.

Calls on:

- ELDR members to support all initiatives to bring the “Case of Italy” before competent international jurisdictions to denounce the systematic violations of civil and political rights of Italian citizens.

Italian Immigration Policies

The European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party, convening in Rome, Italy on 12th March 2010:

Considering that:

- On March 11, during her official visit to Italy the UN Commissioner for human rights Ms. Navya Pillay, denounced the policies on immigration carried out by the Italian government, for the criminalization of the status of illegal immigrants and for forcing migrants to return to Libya contrary to the international law;
- On the same day, the Minister of the Interior Roberto Maroni admitted that the renewal of the documents for legal immigrants in Italy does not happen in the mandatory 20 days, but in around 101 days.

Calls on the Italian Government to:

- Respect international law in dealing with immigrants coming to Italy, with a specific focus on the rights of asylum seekers;
- Respect the terms for the renewal of the documents of legal immigrants in Italy, as an instrument for integration in the labour market.

Calls on EU Member States:

- To respect the principles of the UN convention on refugees;
- To start implementing a common immigration strategy.

Consolidation of the Union for the Mediterranean

The European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party, convening in Rome, Italy on 12th March 2010:

Having regard to:

- The ELDR resolution of 20th November 2009 about the Mediterranean Region³;

Considering that:

- Sixteen years after the launch of the “Barcelona Process”, the goal of a free trade area in the Mediterranean is far from being reached.

Notes with deep concern that:

- While association agreements between the EU and the Mediterranean countries have given financial and technical support to move towards trade liberalisation, this has been done too slowly;
- Since the creation of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) in 2008, only three decisions have been taken: the election of a General Secretary, the establishment of a Secretariat based in Barcelona and the approval of the statutes, and deplores that no action programme has been agreed.

Calls on:

- ELDR Party members, ahead of 7th June UfM Summit to support the UfM initiative with the goal of conflict resolution and the development of economic and social relations between the EU and the Mediterranean countries;
- The dual presidency of the UfM to apply these goals without delay.

³ Resolution adopted in Barcelona on 20th November 2009,
<http://www.eldr.eu/en/resolutions/2009/11/the-mediterranean-region>

Visa liberalisation for Kosova

The European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party, convening in Rome, Italy on 12th March 2010:

Noting that five EU member states still hesitate to recognise the Republic of Kosova.

Believing that the European perspective of Kosova and South Eastern European countries is a key factor for peace, stability and progress in that part of Europe, including the full integration of all ethnic communities in Kosova and the free movement of people within South Eastern Europe (SEE) and EU member states.

Calls:

- For visa liberalisation for the remaining SEE countries, including Kosova, as soon as they comply with all the benchmarks as set out by the European Union.
- Upon the EU to make Kosova part of this process as soon as possible.