

7<sup>th</sup>

# ALDE-CALD SUMMIT



## Bailout, Refugee Crisis and Terrorism: Implications for Regional Integration



30 May to 3 June 2016 | Brussels & Ghent, Belgium

2016



Friedrich Naumann STIFTUNG FÜR DIE FREIHEIT



### CONCEPT NOTE

The European integration process is being shaken by divisions on the bailout extended to Greece, on how to manage the refugee inflow and on how to respond to the recent spates of terrorist attacks. These issues are of course complexly interrelated, which highlights the need for comprehensive, albeit difficult to achieve, solutions. With these issues breeding a new set of problems such as the possibility of Britain’s exit from the European Union (the so-called “Brexit”) and the increasing electoral appeal of populist politicians and political parties, the possible repercussions to the European integration project are becoming more and more difficult to ignore.

Economic crisis, refugees and terrorism are also issues that confronted the Asian region in the past, and persist even up to this day. Almost two decades ago, the Asian financial crisis struck what was until that time the fastest growing region in the world. The plight of the *Rohingya* refugees has captured the attention of the world and tarnished Myanmar’s otherwise glowing democratic achievements. *Jemaah Islamiyah* and more recently, ISIS, were claimed to have links in the Asian region, which also has its fair share of horrific terrorist attacks in recent years.

The commonalities between Europe and Asia with regard to these issues, and the potentials presented by the sharing of experiences and lessons learnt, inspired the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Group and the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD) to choose the theme “Bailout, Refugee Crisis and Terrorism: Implications for Regional Integration” for its 7<sup>th</sup> biennial summit.

Previous ALDE-CALD summits were held alternately between Europe and Asia since 2004. Prior to these, a meeting between European and Asian liberals was also set under the auspices of European Liberal Democrat and Reform Group (ELDR) and CALD in 2002. These gatherings aimed to discuss the challenges and opportunities for liberals and democrats in the two continents, and are organized in cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF), the German foundation for liberal politics. The table below shows the previous ALDE-CALD summits.

No.	Year	Venue	Theme
0	2002 (ELDR-CALD)	Seoul, South Korea	Common Challenges for Liberals and Democrats in Asia and Europe (I)
1 <sup>st</sup>	2004	Brussels, Belgium	Common Challenges for Liberals and Democrats in Asia and Europe (II)

2 <sup>nd</sup>	2006 (CALD- ALDE-LI)	Manila, Cavite, Tagaytay Philippines	Migration, Population and the Globalization of Labor: Challenges and Liberal Responses from Asia and Europe
3 <sup>rd</sup>	2008	Brussels, Belgium	Liberal Responses to Global Challenges (Climate Change, Human Trafficking and Child Prostitution and Assaults to Human Dignity)
4 <sup>th</sup>	2010	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	Reinvigorating the Global Economy: Successes and Lessons from Asia and Europe
5 <sup>th</sup>	2012	Brussels and Antwerp, Belgium	Trade: From Patronage to Partnership
6 <sup>th</sup>	2013	Manila, Philippines	Global Power Shift: Implications for Asia-Europe Relations

For its 7<sup>th</sup> summit on 30 May – 3 June 2016, ALDE-CALD returns to Europe with the general objective of learning from each other's experiences on crucial issues towards the advancement of the regionalization process in both regions. More specifically, the objectives of the summit are as follows:

- To draw lessons from the European responses to the economic crisis, refugee issue and terrorism, and how these impact on regional integration;
- To share relevant experiences from Asia on these issues and how they affect the regionalization process;
- To tackle possible areas of cooperation between ALDE and CALD, with the hope of further institutionalizing and strengthening relations between these organizations; and
- To provide an opportunity for CALD to meet and discuss with other Brussels-based institutions such as the European Liberal Forum (ELF), European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS), Open VLD among others.

## PROGRAMME

**30 May 2016, Monday**

*Arrival in Brussels*

Variable

Arrival in Brussels

Check-in at the hotel of delegates

**Thon Hotel EU**

Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 75

B-1040 Brussels, Belgium

Tél.: +32 (0)2 204.39.11

Fax: +32 (0)2 204.39.12

Email: [eu@thonhotels.be](mailto:eu@thonhotels.be)

Web: <http://www.thonhotels.com/hotels/countrys/belgium/brussels/thon-hotel-eu/>

**31 May 2016, Tuesday**

*Meetings with Brussels-based Liberal Organizations and Other Relevant Institutions / ALDE-hosted Welcome Dinner*

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08:30 – 09:00

Assembly at the hotel lobby and leave for ALDE Party Headquarters

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09:15 – 09:30

Registration

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09:30 – 11:30

**Panel Discussion at ALDE Party Headquarters**

*ALDE Party and CALD: Context and Contrasts*

*This panel discussion will discuss the similarities and differences in the political contexts and organizational operations of ALDE Party and CALD, with the goal of learning from each other's relevant experiences and practices. Some questions for consideration of the panelists include: (1) How can a political party network be a significant player in regional politics?; (2) How do ALDE Party and CALD provide assistance to their members?; (3) Do ALDE Party and CALD have organizational innovations and best practices that can help in ensuring their effectiveness and viability?; and (4) What are possible areas of collaboration between ALDE Party and CALD?*

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The **Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party** is the party for liberal democrat values in Europe. It consists of 57 member parties and many individual members from 37 countries across the region. Website: [www.aldeparty.eu](http://www.aldeparty.eu)

Rue d'Idalie 11 - Box 2  
B-1050, Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 (0)2 551.01.65

*Welcome Remarks*

**Hon. Hans van Baalen, ALDE MEP (Netherlands)**

President, ALDE Party  
Chair, Delegation for Relations with South Africa  
Member, CPDE Conference of Delegation Chairs +  
AFET Committee on Foreign Affairs  
SEDE Subcommittee on Security and Defence

*Session Chair*

**Mr. Andrew Burgess**

Political Adviser, ALDE Party

*Panelists*

**Mr. Didrik de Schaetzen**

Head of the Communication Unit, ALDE Party

**Ms. Jayanthi Devi Balaguru**

Central Committee Member, Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia  
Vice Chairperson, CALD Women's Caucus

**Mr. Celito Arlegue**

Executive Director  
Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats

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11:45 – 14:00

Luncheon Meeting  
*Hosted by the European Liberal Forum*  
*Venue: ALDE Party Headquarters*

*Session Chair*

**Ms. Jaslyn Go**

International Liaison and Central Executive Committee Member  
Singapore Democratic Party

*Luncheon Address*

11:45 – 12:00

*Myanmar under the New NLD Government*

**Dr. San Shway Wynn, MP**

Chairperson, Health and Sports Development Committee  
House of Representatives, Myanmar

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12:00 – 13:00

*Lunch*

13:00 – 14:00

*European Political Foundations and Liberal Perspectives on European Integration*

*This session will provide an insight into the work of European political foundations, the cooperation between liberal think tanks and research institutes, and their vision on European integration.*

*Drawing from 2015 ELF publication on the same topic, this session will also look into how the European liberals respond to intensifying challenges to regional integration. While liberals traditionally have a strong pro-European profile, the regional context has changed considerably to the point that the feasibility and desirability of further European integration are now being put into question. Possible discussion topics include: (1) What are the most pertinent issues and problems in the European Union and how should the liberals respond to them?; (2) How can the liberals advance regional integration even in the midst of economic crises or terrorist threats?*

The **European Liberal Forum (ELF)** is the foundation of the European Liberal Democrats, the ALDE Party. It is made up of a number of European think tanks, political foundations and institutes. A core aspect of its work consists in issuing publications on Liberalism and European public policy issues. It also provides a space for the discussion of European politics, and offers training for liberal-minded citizens. Website: [www.liberalforum.eu](http://www.liberalforum.eu)

*Discussants*

**Ms. Susanne Hartig**

Executive Director, European Liberal Forum

**Mr. Igor Caldeira**

Former Secretary General of LYMEC, Movimento Liberal Social

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16:00 – 17:30

**Roundtable Discussion at the European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS)**

*EU-Asia Relations at a Glance*

*This roundtable discussion will tackle key regional and global issues that impinge on EU-Asia relations, drawing from the research/policy/political expertise of resource persons from both EIAS and CALD. Possible discussion questions include: (1) How did EU-Asia trade relations change in recent years, particularly in the wake of the Eurozone crisis?; (2) Are there possible areas of cooperation between EU and Asia in addressing global terrorism?; (3) How did the EU position itself in relation to critical strategic and political issues in the Asian region?; and (4) What are the recommended courses of action to move EU-Asia relations forward?*

The **European Institute for Asian Studies (EIAS)** is a leading Think Tank and Policy Research Centre, which promotes dialogue and understanding between the European Union and Asia on affairs of

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strategic regional and global importance. It brings together all relevant stakeholders from the institutional level, diplomatic missions, academia, the corporate sector, civil society, the media and all other important segments of society. [www.eias.org](http://www.eias.org)

67, Rue de la Loi 26, 10th Floor,  
1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 (0)2 230.81.22

*Welcome Remarks*

**Mr. Axel Goethals**  
Chief Executive Officer  
European Institute for Asian Studies

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17:30 – 19:00

**Reception at the Open VLD Headquarters (TBC)**

The ***Open Vlaamse Liberalen en Democraten (Open VLD)*** or simply the VLD, is a liberal Flemish political party in Belgium. The party was created in 1992 from the former Party for Freedom and Progress (PVV) and politicians from other parties. The party led the government for three cabinets under Guy Verhofstadt from 1999 until March 2008. Website: [www.openvld.be](http://www.openvld.be)

Melsensstraat 34  
B – 1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 (0)2 549.00.20

*Welcome Remarks*

**Hon. Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck**  
International Secretary, Open VLD Party  
Former Minister of State, Belgium  
Former President, LI and ELDR

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19:30 – 21:30

**7<sup>th</sup> ALDE-CALD Summit Welcome Dinner**

*Hosted by the ALDE Group  
Venue: Restaurant Cospaia  
Rue Crespelstraat 1  
1050 Brussels*

*Welcome Remarks*

**Hon. Hans van Baalen, ALDE MEP (Netherlands)**  
President, ALDE Party  
Chair, Delegation for Relations with South Africa  
Member, CPDE Conference of Delegation Chairs +  
AFET Committee on Foreign Affairs  
SEDE Subcommittee on Security and Defence

*Keynote Address*

**Hon. Martin Lee**

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Founding Chairperson, Democratic Party of Hong Kong  
Individual Member, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats  
and Liberal International

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21:30 Return to the hotel

### 1 June 2016, Wednesday

*Observation of ALDE Group Meeting / ALDE-CALD Summit Day 1 / FNF Dialogue Programme and Dinner*

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08:30 – 09:00 Assembly at the hotel lobby and leave for European Parliament (EP)

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09:00 – 10:30 Observation of ALDE Group Meeting  
*Venue: Room JAN 4Q1*

10:30 - 12:00 Parliamentarium Tour

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12:00 – 14:00 Lunch  
*Hosted by the ALDE Group*  
*Venue: Members' Salon*

#### *Luncheon Addresses*

**Hon. Anneli Jäätteenmäki, ALDE MEP (Finland)**

Vice-President, European Parliament  
Member, BURO Parliament's Bureau +  
ENVI Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

**Hon. Sam Rainsy, MP**

Minority Leader, Cambodian National Assembly  
President, Cambodia National Rescue Party

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14:15 – 14:30 Registration  
*Venue: ASP A7F387*

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14:30 – 15:15 **OPENING SESSION**

#### *Session Chair*

**Hon. Hans van Baalen, ALDE MEP (Netherlands)**

President, ALDE Party  
Chair, Delegation for relations with South Africa

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Member, CPDE Conference of Delegation Chairs +  
AFET Committee on Foreign Affairs  
SEDE Subcommittee on Security and Defence

*Opening Keynote Address*

**Hon. Guy Verhofstadt, ALDE MEP (Belgium)**

Leader of the ALDE Group

*Opening Speeches*

**Ms. Bulgan Bayasgalant**

Chairperson, CALD Youth

Civil Will Green Party, Mongolia

*on behalf of CALD Chairperson Oyun Sanjaasuren*

**Mr. Armin Reinartz**

Regional Project Manager

Southeast and East Asia Office

Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom

*Opening Keynote Address*

**Hon. Abhisit Vejjajiva**

Former, Prime Minister of Thailand

Leader, Democrat Party, Thailand

*Photo Session*

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15:15 – 16:30

### **SESSION 1: THE BATTLE TO SAVE GREECE: BAILOUT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS**

*In June 2015, Greece became the first developed country to default on an IMF loan payment – opening the possibility of an ouster in the Eurozone and even in the EU. At that time, the country owes its creditors more than 300 billion Euro; its GDP shrank by a quarter over five years, unemployment is over 25% and youth unemployment over 50%. This sorry economic state was, to a large extent, of Greece's own making, but the harsh austerity measures imposed on the country in recent years are also partly to blame.*

*The case of Greece renews the debate on bailout and its implications for an already struggling economy. In this session, the following questions may be addressed: (1) Do the austerity measures that go with bailout packages address or worsen an economic crisis? (2) In what instances do bailout conditionalities work (or alternatively, do not work)?; and (3) What lessons and policy recommendations can be drawn from European and Asian experiences with bailout and austerity measures?*

*Session Chair*

**Hon. Saumura Tioulong, MP**

Cambodia National Rescue Party

Vice Chairperson, Cambodia's National Assembly's

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Chairperson, IPU Standing Committee on Sustainable Development,

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Finance and Trade

*Speakers*

**Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Karl-Heinz-Paqué**

Deputy Chairman, Board of Directors,  
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom  
Dean, Faculty of Economics and Management, University of Magdeburg  
Minister of Finance (ret.), Saxony-Anhalt

**Hon. Kiat Sitttheamorn**

Deputy Leader, Foreign Affairs and Economics  
Democrat Party, Thailand  
Former President of Thailand Trade Representative

*Open Forum*

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16:30 - 16:45

Coffee / Tea Break

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16:45 – 17:45

**SESSION 2: REFUGEE CRISIS: MORALITY VS. ECONOMICS?**

*A politically unstable Middle East has sent the largest wave of refugees to Europe in recent decades. Most of the refugees are fleeing the destruction and violence caused by the civil war in Syria and by the rise of ISIS; some can be considered more as economic migrants. The entry of a large number of people will inevitably raise many worries: “that cultures will be swamped by aliens, economies will be overburdened, social benefits will have to be curbed and even that terrorists will creep in.”*

*On the other hand, there are countries like Germany which demonstrated a more welcoming attitude to the refugees, albeit this comes with a political price. In this session, the new “iron curtain” created by the refugee wave will be discussed, particularly in terms of the divisions it caused amongst liberals. The following questions may be considered: (1) How can liberals defend their positive stance on refugees amidst the rise of populist politicians or political parties? (2) How can the pressures and the risks that go with migration be properly managed so that migration improves the lives of both the immigrants and their hosts?; and (3) What lessons and policy recommendations can be drawn from European and Asian experiences with refugees and economic migrants?*

*Session Chair*

**Hon. Anneli Jäätteenmäki, ALDE MEP (Finland)**

Vice-President, European Parliament  
Member, BURO Parliament's Bureau +  
ENVI Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

*Speakers*

**Hon. J.L.M. “Chito” Gascon**

Chairperson, Commission on Human Rights  
Philippines

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**Mr. Ivanpal Singh Grewal**

Political Secretary to Minister in the Prime Minister's Department  
Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia

*Open Forum*

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17:45 End of Summit Day 1 and leave for FNF-hosted Dialogue Programme / Dinner

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18:15 – 18:30 Registration

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18:30 – 22:00 Dialogue Programme / Dinner  
*Hosted by FNF European and Transatlantic Dialogue, Brussels  
Venue: Brasserie Leopold, Rue de Luxembourg 35, 1050 Brussels*

**FNF Dialogue Programme on US-EU-Asia Trade Agreements**

*The United States has been in the middle of trade negotiations with the EU and Asia – the so-called Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), respectively. These trade agreements, however, have proved to be controversial for all parties involved – generating debates on a variety of issue-areas such as agriculture, environmental protection, intellectual property, market access, physical goods and services.*

*The purpose of this dialogue programme is to understand at a deeper level the current developments and the key issues in the TTIP and the TPP. Some of the possible questions that may be addressed include: (1) What are the most controversial provisions of the TTIP or TPP?; (2) What are the similarities and differences between these two agreements?; and (3) What are some possible recommendations to further improve the TTIP or TPP?*

*Session Chair*

18:30 – 18:40 **Hon. Saumura Tioulong, MP**  
Cambodia National Rescue Party  
Vice Chairperson, Cambodia's National Assembly Committee on Foreign Affairs  
Chairperson, IPU Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

*Opening Remarks*

18:40 – 18:50 **Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. Karl-Heinz-Paqué**  
Deputy Chairman, Board of Directors, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom  
Dean, Faculty of Economics and Management, University of Magdeburg  
Minister of Finance (ret.), Saxony-Anhalt

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*Speakers*

18:50 – 19:05	<b>Prof. Dr. Frank Hoffmeister</b> Head of Unit, Investigations II, Anti-Circumvention, Directorate for Trade Defence, Directorate General for Trade, European Commission Deputy Head of Cabinet of former Trade Commissioner Carel de Gucht, Tutor, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom
19:05 – 19:20	<b>Hon. Kiat Sitttheamorn</b> Deputy Leader, Foreign Affairs and Economics Democrat Party, Thailand Former President of Thailand Trade Representative
19:20 – 20:00	Open Forum
20:00 – 22:00	<i>Dinner</i>
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22:00	Return to the hotel

**2 June 2016, Thursday**

*ALDE-CALD Summit Day 2 / Excursion to Ghent / Farewell Dinner*

08:00 – 08:30	Assembly at the hotel lobby and leave for EP
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08:30 – 09:00	Registration / Distribution of badges <i>Venue: ASP A5G1</i>
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09:00 – 10:15	<b>SESSION 3: EUROPE AFTER PARIS AND BRUSSELS: COPING WITH TERRORIST THREATS</b>  <i>The recent terrorist attacks in key European capitals Brussels (March 2016) and Paris (November 2015) have shocked the world. While global terrorism has been on the rise for years, Europe has been largely spared from well-orchestrated attacks resulting in massive destruction and large number of casualties. The tendency to link these horrific attacks with other issues, particularly migration and religion, has led to a new set of concerns (i.e. rise of extremism) which threaten liberal principles and practices.</i>  <i>In this session, the threat of terrorism to Europe and Asia will be assessed and analyzed. The following guide questions may be considered: (1) How can liberals effectively respond to terrorism and the extremist politics it breeds?; (2) Are there possible areas of cooperation between Europe and Asia with regard to terrorism response?; and (3)</i>

*What lessons and policy recommendations can be drawn from European and Asian responses to terrorism?*

*Session Chair*

**Mr. Deddy Sitorus**

Special Staff of the Minister,  
Ministry of State-Owned Enterprises, Indonesia  
Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle

*Speakers*

**Hon. Javier, Nart, ALDE MEP (Spain)**

Member, Committee on Foreign Affairs  
and Subcommittee on Security and Defence

**Ms. Jayanthi Devi Balaguru**

Central Committee Member, Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia  
Vice Chairperson, CALD Women's Caucus

**Hon. Urmas Paet, ALDE MEP (Estonia)**

Substitute Member, Committee on Foreign Relations  
and Subcommittee on Security and Defence

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10:15 – 10:30

Coffee / Tea Break

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10:30 – 11:30

**SESSION 4: LESSONS LEARNT FROM EUROPE AND ASIA**

*This concluding session adopts a talk show format, allowing more flexibility for the session chair to discuss a variety of issues and questions regarding the topics of the previous sessions. The session chair allots a short time for each of the previous session chairs to summarize the discussions in their respective panels, and then he/she ask them to share their views on a variety of questions in a free-flowing conversation and debate.*

*Session Chair:*

**Mr. Willem Vanden Broucke**

Head of Unit, Interinstitutional Relations & Networking Unit  
Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Group

*Summaries of Session Chairs of the Three Previous Sessions*

**Hon. Saumura Tioulong, MP**

Cambodia National Rescue Party  
Vice Chairperson, Cambodia's National Assembly's  
Committee on Foreign Affairs  
Chairperson, IPU Standing Committee on Sustainable Development,  
Finance and Trade

**Hon. Anneli Jäätteenmäki, ALDE MEP (Finland)**

Vice-President, European Parliament

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Member, BURU Parliament's Bureau +  
ENVI Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

**Mr. Deddy Sitorus**  
Special Staff of the Minister  
Ministry of State-Owned Enterprises, Indonesia  
Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle

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11:30 – 12:30

**CLOSING SESSION**

*Session Chair*

**Hon. Sin Chung Kai, MP**  
Deputy Chairperson, Democratic Party, Hong Kong  
Individual Member, Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats

*Closing Keynote Address*

**Hon. Hans van Baalen, ALDE MEP (Netherlands)**  
President, ALDE Party  
Chair, Delegation for Relations with South Africa  
Member, CPDE Conference of Delegation Chairs +  
AFET Committee on Foreign Affairs  
SEDE Subcommittee on Security and Defence

*Closing Speeches*

**Ms. Bulgan Bayasgalant**  
Chairperson, CALD Youth  
Civil Will Green Party, Mongolia  
*on behalf of CALD Chair-Party*

**Mr. Armin Reinartz**  
Regional Project Manager  
Southeast and East Asia Office  
Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom

*Photo Session*

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12:30

Return to the hotel

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14:00

Pick-up from the hotel and packed lunch in the bus

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14:00 – 15:00

Travel to Ghent

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15:00 – 19:00

Programme in Ghent

"Historical Tour of the Medieval City of Ghent"

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The history of Ghent begins in the year 630, when St Amandus chose the site of the confluence (or 'Ganda') of the two rivers, the Lys and the Scheldt, to construct an abbey. Nearly 1400 years of history are still palpable in the city today: a medieval castle surrounded by a moat, an imposing cathedral, a belfry, three beguinages... Nowhere else does one find so much history per square metre than in the historical heart of Ghent!

From the year 1000 to around 1550, Ghent was one of the most important cities in Europe. It was bigger than London and second only to Paris in size. The 60,000 inhabitants it had in the 14th century clung forcefully to their rights: earls and princes discovered that the proud and rebellious people of Ghent would not relinquish their hard-won privileges and freedoms without a fight.

Until the Battle of the Golden Spurs in 1302, the city was ruled by a number of rich merchant families. Because they mostly chose the side of the French king against the Count of Flanders, the people gave them the nickname 'Leliearts', derived from the lily on the French coat of arms. As the trades and guilds gained more political power in the 14th century, Ghent came to acquire a more democratic government.

Because England blocked the import of raw materials for the vitally important textile industry, Ghent was forced, by sheer necessity, to take England's side (1338-1345) during the Hundred Years' War. Jacob van Artevelde, a rich cloth merchant, led the uprising against Count Louis de Nevers, the vassal of the French king. In 1345, this 'wise man' was murdered by his fellow citizens. His importance is shown by the fact that Ghent is still called the 'City of Artevelde'.

Ghent had to give up its ties with England and embrace the king of France. In 1407 the seat of the Council of Flanders, the highest judicial body in the county, was moved from Bruges to the Castle of the Counts. Dutch became the official language.

Over the centuries the inhabitants of Ghent remained true to their reputation of being headstrong and awkward. They even rebelled against their own child prince, Charles V. But that was a bridge too far: the citizens of Ghent were publicly humiliated and the Klokke Roeland, the symbol of Ghent's independence, was removed from the Belfry. The once powerful city-state had literally and figuratively fallen to its knees.

The economic situation also gradually worsened. The city lost its passage to the sea and the population decreased by half. Only in the second half of the 18th century was there an economic revival. In 1816, under Dutch administration, Ghent acquired its own university and ten years later the city again became a sea port thanks to the Ghent-Terneuzen canal.

Nevertheless, Ghent still continued to sail against the tide: during Belgium's independence struggle many inhabitants remained loyal to the Dutch House of Orange. Ghent later became the continent's first large industrial centre. As a result, it was here that the socialist movement and the first trade union associations appeared.

In 1913, Ghent showed its best side during the World Exhibition.

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Because it suffered little bomb damage during the two world wars, Ghent's historical heritage has remained largely intact right up to the present.

As you'll be able to see with your own eyes...

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19:00 – 21:00

Farewell Dinner  
*Hosted by ALDE Group*

AUBERGE DU PÊCHEUR  
Pontstraat 41  
9831 Sint-Martens-Latem

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21:00

Return to Brussels

**3 June 2016, Friday**

*CALD-LI Consultative Meeting / Departures*

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08:30 – 09:00

Assembly at the hotel lobby and leave for EP

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09:30 – 11:30

CALD-LI Consultative Meeting

*This consultative meeting has two objectives: (1) to discuss issues relating to CALD membership and to come up with proposed charter revisions, drawing from the experiences of LI, ALDE and other comparable organizations; and (2) to provide inputs from CALD members to the draft of 2017 LI Manifesto.*

**Hon. Saumura Tioulong, MP**

Cambodia National Rescue Party  
Vice Chairperson, Cambodia's National Assembly Committee on Foreign Affairs  
Chairperson, IPU Standing Committee on Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade

**Mr. Celito Arlegue**

Executive Director  
Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats

**Mr. Emil Kirjas**

Secretary General, Liberal International

**Mr. Robert Wintraecken**

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Variable

Departure

*The ALDE Group and CALD maintain a long-time established bi-annual ALDE - CALD Summit since 2004, the last having been hosted by CALD in late 2013.*

*The Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) is the liberal/centrist political group of the European Parliament. ALDE is one of the three oldest Groups, dating its unofficial origin back to September 1952 at the first meeting of the Parliament's predecessor, the Common Assembly. It is currently the fourth largest Group in the Parliament and has 70 MEPs from 21 EU states.*

*The Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD) is the regional network in Asia of liberal and democratic political parties. Full member parties include the Democrat Party of Thailand, Democratic Progressive Party of Taiwan, Liberal Party of the Philippines, Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia, Singapore Democratic Party, Liberal Party of Sri Lanka, Cambodia National Rescue Party, Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle, and Civil Will Green Party of Mongolia. Many democrats in Asia have a relationship with CALD, that opened its membership to like-minded individuals, and regularly engages with political parties from Myanmar, Japan and South Korea with which it shares the same democratic values. They also accept individual members ie. the Democratic Party of Hong Kong is represented in CALD by legislators Martin Lee and Sin Chung Kai. The third individual member of the CALD was the late Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid. In 2010, Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi of Myanmar was bestowed an honorary membership.*