

Exposé

Policies of the ELDR Party on European democracy

A continuous development of the European Union and its institutions towards further integration and democratization has been at the forefront of ELDR policies throughout the history of the party and has frequently been strongly reiterated.

Since the year of the party foundation in 1976, European Liberal Democrats have continuously been advocating the need for improvements in the Union's electoral system, based on the principles of proportional representation and universal suffrage.

To highlight a few examples; [in 2003](#), the ELDR Council in Brussels, Belgium called for the possibility of electing some of the members of the European Parliament (MEP) from an EU-wide list. Numerous resolutions on a reform of the European electoral system including the introduction of the right of co-decision by the Parliament on European legislation have been adopted. In order to de-nationalize European elections, steps towards a European citizenship would also be needed as expressed in European liberal policy documents adopted in [2002](#) and reiterated in [2009](#).

Already early into the existence of the European Liberals, voices were raised for institutional reforms and a further development of Europe towards a liberal democracy based on liberal political and economic principles. European Liberals have always argued ahead of time for the drafting of proposals how to reform the Community and eventually bring it towards today's state; a true European Union (ELDR Congress in Venice [1982](#), emphasizing the need and opportunity for it again after the fall of the iron curtain in 1990).

In 1985 ELDR demanded a gradual integration of a common foreign and security policy into the Community structure. In the same year, the abolition of border controls within the European Community was demanded as well as to work towards a completion of a real internal market including elimination of trade barriers and the creation of a European energy policy. Particularly the latter point proves to be visionary – but yet to be achieved – in view of the ongoing discussions on the importance of a European energy security concept in the year 2010.

Already throughout the early 1990's, resolutions were adopted ([1992](#), [1995](#)) calling for greater transparency in the decision making process of the European Council and demanding the EU to become a member of the European Convention on Human Rights. This eventually became reality in 2010. That leaders meeting called likewise on the member states to arrive

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at a common visa-, asylum- and immigration policy. Here, the EU still has some way to go

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