

## Expose

### Positions of the ELDR Party on Social Policy

Through its growing pan-European network, at the end of 2010 comprising 58 Member Parties and 73 Members of European Parliament, the ELDR Party has been able to influence the European agenda, both in past and present. The output is, however, not merely confined to Europe and the EU. With around half of the member parties in positions of government in their respective countries, it follows quite naturally that the viewpoints of European Liberals have a very concrete impact on the implemented policies; locally as well as globally.

You are kindly invited to browse through our full selection of resolutions in our Policy Centre. As a small *aperitif* and guide for exploration, however, find below a small resumé of the ELDR Party's views on the areas of *Social Policy*.

#### Social Policy

European Liberal Democrats have constantly been in the forefront of acknowledging pressing issues within the area of social policy. In [2001](#) and [2002](#), we adopted comprehensive resolutions on the need to end exclusion in matrimonial law for same-sex couples in all European countries, in order for people to make their own choices on how to live their lives, as well as a call for an immediate end to salary and employment discrimination based on gender. Liberals will not compromise on what is obvious: regardless of whether one is a man or a woman, there should be equal pay for equal jobs – and all should be allowed *de facto* possibilities of combining successful careers with children. Gender equality is a natural feature for modern liberal societies, and the European Liberals will continue to work for remaining inequalities to be leveled across Europe.

In [2010](#), the ELDR Party decided to address the daunting tasks ahead for Europe posed by the challenges of a rapidly ageing society. Through the Theme Resolution *Liberal Solutions to the Challenges of Demographic Change*, the ELDR Party recommends inter alia the need to introduce sustainable and flexible pension schemes as well as to combat youth unemployment in order to maintain European economic competitiveness and avert inter-generational battles; the need to make the most of the European free movement to find better ways of integrating both intra-European and foreign-born migrants into the European societies to ensure sufficient work force in an ageing society and the need to find new and better ways to prosper in today's globalised world. This can i.a. be done through improving the pan-European business climate and increase investments in education, training and sharing of best practice among EU countries as well as between EU countries and emerging markets.

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Social Policy

#### Years:

1976 - 2010

#### Policy areas:

- Social Policy
- Health Policy

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## Health Policy

Europe's Liberal Democrats support the extension of the EU Single Market to health care so as to provide the highest possible standards of care and treatment in Europe ([2009 manifesto](#)). In a similar vein, liberals also called in [2009](#) for the European Commission to develop plans to finance major European hospitals to deal with research and development of treatment into rare diseases and highly specialized health care in order to pool and enhance expertise on specific health care issues.

Treatment of diseases includes malaria and in ELDR policy developed in [2009](#) greater financial support was called for in malaria research in order to enable further testing and research related to vaccines, malaria drugs and insecticides. Liberals believe an improvement in health infrastructure and the training and transfer of medical personnel in diagnosing malaria is also necessary for effective treatment to be ensured.

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