

LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL
209th Executive Committee Meeting

The Hague, The Netherlands
November 21-23, 2025



Welcome to
Liberal International

209th Executive Committee Meeting

Nieuwe of Littéraire Sociëteit De Witte
24 Plein 2511 CS Den Haag Netherlands

209th

Executive Committee Meeting

The Hague, The Netherlands
21-23 November, 2025





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209th

Executive Committee Meeting

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Code of Conduct

Liberal International is committed to providing a safe, respectful and welcoming environment for all, regardless of race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, age or mental or physical disability. This Code of Conduct identifies the standard of behaviour expected of all event participants, as well as the consequences of unacceptable behaviour. It applies to all events and event-related activities. All event participants, including registrants, speakers, staff, volunteers, observers, guests, media and others, are expected to help us maintain a positive event experience for everyone.

Expected Behaviour

Participants must conduct themselves at all times in a manner consistent with the values of Liberal International.

- Be considerate, respectful, and collaborative.
- Refrain from demeaning, discriminatory or harassing behaviour.
- Be mindful of your surroundings and of your fellow participants.
- Alert event organisers if you witness unacceptable behaviour.

Unacceptable Behaviour

- Unacceptable behaviour includes intimidating, harassing, abusive, discriminatory, derogatory or demeaning conduct.
- Harassment is a course of vexatious comment or unwelcome conduct.
- Harassment includes offensive oral or written remarks, gestures, display of images or other conduct that demeans, belittles, insults, derides or humiliates an individual or group, or that perpetuates or reinforces pejorative stereotypes.
- Sexual harassment is vexatious comment or unwelcome conduct because of sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.
- Sexual harassment includes unnecessary physical contact, unwanted touching, intrusive sexual questions, comments of a sexual nature, comments about bodies or appearance, and unwelcome sexual solicitations or advances.

What to do if you are Subject to or Witness Unacceptable Behaviour

Please notify an event organiser immediately. They will help contact the appropriate officials with Liberal International, security, or law enforcement; they can help arrange to safely escort you or others if needed, or they can otherwise assist you with the situation at hand. Event organisers can be identified by their Yellow Staff Badge.

Consequences of Unacceptable Behaviour

Unacceptable behaviour will not be tolerated. Event organisers may take any action they deem appropriate, including expulsion without refund, and potential involvement of law enforcement officials.



Prof. Karl-Heinz Paqué President of Liberal International

Dear liberal friends, dear delegates,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to The Hague for the 209th Executive Committee Meeting of Liberal International. I am delighted that so many of you have travelled from across the world to join us as we continue strengthening our global liberal family.

Our sincere gratitude goes to our co-hosts, the Volkspartij voor Vrijheid en Democratie (VVD) International, for their warm hospitality and steadfast partnership. The Hague - city of justice and international law - is a fitting place for us to reaffirm our commitment to human dignity, open societies, and the rule of law.

This meeting comes at a critical time. Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine is soon entering its fourth year. Its human cost grows by the day, testing both our resolve and the very foundations of our liberal rules-based international order. At the same time, uncertainty looms over the long-term commitment of the United States to European security and reminds us that Europe must strengthen its own capacity to defend democracy and preserve collective security.

Beyond Europe, authoritarian regimes continue to silence dissent, persecute opposition forces, and suffocate civic space. From political prisoners to targeted activists, liberals around the world face unprecedented pressure. And yet, in each of these struggles, we also see extraordinary courage - proof that our aspirations for freedom and justice endure.

Similarly, we see encouraging signs of liberal renewal and momentum. The Netherlands are a prime example for that and are a powerful reminder that liberalism can win - and win convincingly - when it speaks with clarity, credibility, and optimism. Both our member parties, VVD and D66, secured strong results, demonstrating once again that voters trust liberal leadership to steer their country through uncertainty. Their success sends an encouraging signal to liberal parties everywhere: our ideas remain not only essential to addressing the challenges of our time, but also capable of winning hearts and minds.

Against this backdrop, our meeting here in The Hague carries exceptional weight. Over the coming days, we will deliberate on resolutions, assess new membership applications, and engage in discussions on defending democracy, strengthening good governance, advancing climate and fair trade policies, and reinforcing human rights protections. The programme before us - rich with contributions from our committees, partners, and member parties - reflects the breadth and strength of our global liberal community.

I am particularly proud of the active role our network continues to play in safeguarding human rights, supporting democratic movements, and offering viable liberal solutions to the political, economic, and security challenges of our time. This Executive Committee Meeting is another step in ensuring that Liberal International remains the leading global voice for freedom.

To all delegates – thank you for the work you do in your countries and within our organisation. To all our partners – thank you for your invaluable contribution to this Executive Committee Meeting. Your engagement here in The Hague strengthens our shared mission and ensures that liberal values not only endure but continue to inspire across continents.

I wish us all a productive, engaging, and inspiring meeting. Let us reaffirm, together, our commitment to building a more liberal, prosperous, and safer world.



Dilan Yeşilgöz-Zegerius VVD Party Leader

Dear Liberal Friends, Dear Colleagues,

It is my great honour, on behalf of the People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD), to welcome you to The Hague for Liberal International's 209th Executive Committee Meeting.

The Hague is known around the world as the international city of Peace and Justice. It is a place where the ideals we hold dear are not just debated but lived: respect for the rule of law and a belief that international cooperation is the surest path to lasting peace. Few cities capture the spirit of liberalism so clearly, which makes The Hague a truly fitting setting for the Committee Meeting.

Together with Liberal International President Karl-Heinz Paqué, the Bureau, and the Secretariat under the leadership of William Townsend, we hope this gathering will spark candid discussions, fresh thinking, and renewed energy. The challenges before us which includes defending democracy and responding to conflict, demand not only conviction but cooperation. This meeting gives us an opportunity to shape a liberal response that is both principled and pragmatic.

Let our time in The Hague strengthen our shared commitment to freedom, justice, and international partnership which are the very foundations on which Liberal International was created, and the values that must continue to guide us in the years ahead.

Welcome to The Hague!



Programme of Events

Friday 21 November

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
ALL DAY	Arrival of Bureau, Secretariat, and Delegates	The Hague, the Netherlands
10:00 Netherlands-time	Urgency Resolution Deadline	
13:00-16:00	Bureau Meeting <i>By invitation</i>	VVD HQ, The Hague
4:00 – 16:30	Liberal International Human Rights Committee Field Visit: International Criminal Court, The Hague <i>Open to LI human rights committee members only – pre-registration essential.</i>	ICC
18:00 – 19:30	Membership World Café <i>Full membership:</i> El Adl, Egypt Le Faso Autrement, Burkina Faso Moderateme, Denmark NEOS, Austria <i>Observer membership</i> Citizens' Alliance, Gambia Ruta del Cambio, Nicaragua PSN, Democratic Republic of Congo <i>Cooperating organisation:</i> Europe-Georgia Institute (EGI), Georgia Egyptian Democratic Association (EDA), Egypt	Grote Zaal, Nieuwe of Littéraire Sociëteit De Witte, The Hague
19:30-22:00	Welcome Reception Alva Finn, Executive Director. European Liberal Forum Rein Jansons, International Secretary, VVD <i>Hosted by the European Liberal Forum</i>	Grote Zaal, Nieuwe of Littéraire Sociëteit De Witte, The Hague



Programme of Events

Saturday 22 November

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Master of Ceremonies: Lennart Salemink , LI bureau member, VVD		
ALL DAY	Arrival of Delegates	Nieuwe of Littéraire Sociëteit De Witte, The Hague
08:00	Breakfast	Delegates' hotel
08:15-10:15	Registration and Issuance of Votes Jonathon Yates , Event Organiser and Office Administrator, Liberal International Evelina Jáfs , Staff Intern, Liberal International Tess Meijerink , Staff Intern, VVD International Mara Bonné , Staff Intern, VVD	Nieuwe of Littéraire Sociëteit De Witte, The Hague
08:45-10:15	209th Executive Committee Meeting: administrative session one - Welcome from LI President - Opening - Apologies - Adoption of the agenda - Appointment of voting scrutineers - Adoption of minutes of the 208th Executive Committee meeting - Report of the president, bureau, and secretary general - Tabling of Resolutions - Tabling of membership applications and review of disaffiliations - Treasurers' and Financial reports - 2025 Prize for freedom declaration (<i>Baroness Brinton</i>) Contributors: - Prof. Dr. Karl-Heinz Paqué, Liberal International President	Grote Zaal



Programme of Events

	- William Townsend, Liberal International Secretary General - Art Eggleton (Canada); Ahmad el Hariri (Lebanon); Luz Poblete (Chile); Sidi Tiémoko Touré (Côte d'Ivoire), LI bureau members - Senator Mardi Seng (Cambodia), CALD Chairman - Manfred R Eisenbach and Lennart Salemink, Liberal International Treasurers	
10:15-10:45	Welcome Address: Dilan Yeşilgöz MP , VVD Party Leader Prof. Dr. Karl-Heinz Paqué , Liberal International President	Grote Zaal
10:45-11:00	Executive Committee Meeting Official Photo	Staircase
11:00-11:15	Coffee Break <i>Screening: Ukraine</i>	Pleinzaal
11:15-12:00	Defending Democracy in an Era of Political Manipulation <i>Organised by the Liberal International Human Rights Committee</i> Moderated by: - Claudia McKoy, Canadian Group of Liberal International Panellists: - Pavle Grbović MP, President of the Movement of Free Citizens, Serbia - Bart Groothuis MEP, VVD, the Netherlands - Puma Shen MP, DPP, Taiwan	Grote Zaal
12:00-13:30	Working Group on Resolutions administrative session two <i>Chaired by:</i> Prof. Juli Minoves , Liberal International President of Honour	Grote Zaal



Programme of Events

	<i>Supported by:</i> Mariam Ghibradze, LI Human Rights Programme Manager	
13:00-13:45	The African Liberal Development Programme LI-DLDP programme pilot meeting <i>by invitation</i> Contributors - Henrik Bach Mortensen, Liberal International Vice President - Bent Nicolajsen, Programme Manager, Danish Liberal Democracy Programme (by video link) - William Townsend, Liberal International Secretary General - Minister Sidi Tiémoko Touré, Liberal International Vice President, Minister of Animal and Fisheries Resources of Cote d'Ivoire	Pleinzaal
13:30-14:30	Lunch	Pleinzaal
14:30-15:30	Shock and Yawn: How do Liberals Navigate the Politics of Perpetual Crisis and Insecurity Moderated by: - Fatimazhra Belhirsch MP, D66, the Netherlands Panellists: - Ahmad el Hariri, Secretary General, Future Movement, Lebanon - Yevheniia Kravchuk MP, Servant of the People, Ukraine - Pedro Urruchurtu, Director of International Relations, Vente Venezuela - Fan Yun MP, DPP, Taiwan	Grote Zaal
15:30-15:45	Coffee Break <i>Screening: Syria</i>	Pleinzaal
15:45-16:30	Introduction to new and applicant member parties	Grote Zaal



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Programme of Events

16:30-17:30	Securing the Blue Economy: Liberal Pathways for Trade and Climate <i>Organised by the Liberal International Climate and Fair Trade Committees</i> Moderator: Francisco Winters, Chair, LI Fair Trade Committee Contributors: - Dr Hakima el Haite - Minister Sidi Tiémoko Touré, Liberal International Vice President, Minister of Animal and Fisheries Resources of Cote d'Ivoire - Marty Smits, Former member of the national board of D66, the Netherlands	Grote Zaal
17:30-17:45	Japan's Liberal Compass in an Age of Power Politics Yosuke Suzuki MP Deputy Director-General, International Department, Constitutional Democratic Party, Member of House of Representatives, Japan	Pleinzaal
17:45-18:30	How do Liberals Win the War of Attention, Beat the Populists, and Win Elections Matthew McMillan, President, Buzzmaker	Pleinzaal
17:30-18:30	Briefing from the legal team of 2024 LI Prize for Freedom Laureate, Victoire Ingabire Umuhoza <i>Organised by the Liberal International Human Rights Committee, by invitation only</i>	Nieuwe of Littéraire Sociëteit De Witte, The Hague
19:30-22:00	Gala Dinner – The Spanish Court <i>Awarding of the 2024 Liberal International Prize for Freedom Victoire Ingabire Umuhoza</i> Master of Ceremonies: Lennart Salemink, LI bureau member, VVD Words of welcome on behalf of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom - Prof. Dr Karl-Heinz Paqué Awarding of 2024 Prize for Freedom	Het Spaansche Hof



Programme of Events

- Baroness Sal Brinton, Chair, Liberal International Human Rights Committee
- Dr Phil Bennion, on behalf of the nominating party, Liberal Democrats, UK

Hosted by FNF Europe

Programme of events – 209th Executive Committee Meeting

Sunday 23 November

08:30-09:30	Registration and Issuance of votes Jonathon Yates , Event Organiser and Office Administrator, Liberal International	Nieuwe of Literaire Sociëteit De Witte, The Hague
09:00-10:00	25 Years of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda - Judith Pallarés Cortés, Secretary General of the Andorran Institute of Women - Tirza Drent, Secretary-General IFLRY - Hania Knio, President IFLRY - Myrna Mneimneh, President AHLN - Khadija Oum Bachair El Morbabit, President INLW - Astrid Thors, Deputy President Liberal International <i>Organised by INLW, IFLRY, and AHLN</i>	Grote Zaal
10:00-10:15	Coffee Break <i>Screening: Venezuela</i>	Pleinzaal
10:15-10:45	HRC Toolkit Launch Markus Löning , Founder and Director of Löning – Human Rights & Responsible Business Mariam Ghibradze , LI Human Rights Programme Manager	Grote Zaal
10:45-11:30	Successes and Challenges of Coalition Governance Moderator Dave Bryant , Member Democratic Alliance and Member of the LI Climate Justice Committee Panellists - Eva De Bleeker MP, Open VLD, Belgium - Henrik Frandsen MP, Parliamentary Group Leader and International Affairs Spokesman, Moderaterne, Denmark	Grote Zaal



Programme of Events

	- Ryan Smith MP, Member of the International Relations Committees of the Federal Parliament, Democratic Alliance, South Africa <i>Organised by the Democratic Alliance</i>	
11:30-12:30	209th Executive Committee Meeting: administrative session three - Presentation and voting on amended resolutions - Voting on membership application - Date and time of next Meeting - 210th Executive Committee - Closing address of the LI President Contributors: - Prof. Dr Karl-Helz Paquó, President, Liberal International - William Townsend, Secretary General, Liberal International	Grote Zaal
12:30-13:00	Keynote: María Corina Machado and/or Edmundo González Urrutia Introduced by Felix Maradiaga, President, RELIAL	Grote Zaal
13:00-14:00	Grab and go lunch	Pleinzaal
<u>Formal ExCom Programme Ends</u>		
14:00-16:00	ALDE-CALD Security in the Indo-Pacific and Europe: Developments, Issues and Challenges <i>Organised by the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe and the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats – see delegate guide for full programme agenda</i> Session Chairs: - Lito Arlegue, CALD Executive Director, Philippines - Andrew Burgess, Senior Political Adviser, ALDE Party, Belgium - Jaslyn Go, CALD Women's Caucus Chair, Singapore Speakers: - Francis Abaya, CALD Secretary General, Former Member of House of Representatives, Philippines - Phillip Bennion, Vice President, Liberal International, Former Member of European Parliament, United Kingdom - Devin O'Shaughnessy, Senior Manager for International Programmes, Liberal Democrats, United Kingdom - Baroness Sal Brinton, Vice President, ALDE Party, Chairperson, LI Human Rights Committee, United Kingdom - Mardi Seng, CALD Chairperson, Senator, Cambodia Panellists: - David Chalmers – Chair of Liberal Democrats Federal International Relations Committee, United Kingdom - Yevheniia Kravchuk MP, Vice President, ALDE Party	JOVD HQ, The Hague



Programme of Events

- Member of Parliament, Ukraine
- **Henrik Bach Mortensen**, Vice President and Chairman Working Group on Security and Defence, Liberal International, Denmark
- **Puma Shen MP**, DPP, Member of the Legislative Yuan, Taiwan
- **Chung-kai Sin**, CALD Individual Member, Former Member of Legislative Council, Hong Kong
- **Yosuke Suzuki MP**, Deputy Director-General, International Department, Constitutional Democratic Party, Member of House of Representatives, Japan
- **Fan Yun MP**, DPP, Member of the Legislative Yuan, Taiwan, Co-Chair, Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China



Introduction to Panels

Defending Democracy in an Era of Political Manipulation

In today's rapidly evolving technological landscape, the intersection of digital surveillance, artificial intelligence (AI), and deepfakes presents significant challenges to security, democracy, and human rights. As governments and corporations increasingly deploy AI to monitor populations, manipulate information, and influence elections, the fundamental principles of privacy, freedom of expression, and democratic integrity are at risk.

This panel will explore the ethical and political ramifications of AI and digital surveillance technologies in the context of elections, international conflicts, and political manipulation. It will also discuss how liberal democracies can balance security needs with the protection of human rights, emphasizing the dangers of unchecked surveillance, the spread of deepfakes, and the use of AI to undermine trust in democratic institutions.

Shock and Yawn: How do Liberals Navigate the Politics of Perpetual Crisis and Insecurity

In an age defined by rolling emergencies—war, democratic backsliding, geopolitical confrontation, and humanitarian strain—liberals face a dual challenge: addressing genuine crises while resisting the political fatigue, apathy, and polarisation that such conditions inevitably produce. Provocatively titled and drawing on the first-hand experiences of liberals from countries with whom LI has demonstrated long-standing campaigns of support, Shock and Yawn explores how liberals can maintain strategic focus and promote public engagement when insecurity is no longer the exception but the global norm.

Liberal voices from Ukraine, Lebanon, Venezuela, and Taiwan, examine what it means to uphold liberal values in societies living with persistent instability. From Ukraine's defence of sovereignty under full-scale invasion, to Lebanon's struggle with state dysfunction and social fragmentation, to Venezuela's battle against authoritarian entrenchment and economic implosion, to Taiwan's constant navigation of existential pressure from across the Strait—each speaker brings a perspective forged in environments where, today, crises are not episodic but structural.

Our compelling speakers will consider how liberals around the world can avoid both paralysis and desensitisation: How can political movements sustain international solidarity when global attention oscillates between intense alarm and weary indifference? What strategies allow liberals to respond to emergencies without normalising them? And how can the global liberal family show consistent, credible support for partners whose struggles symbolise the larger fight for freedom?

Introduction to Panels

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Securing the Blue Economy: Liberal Pathways for Trade and Climate

The blue economy is emerging as a critical space where trade, ocean governance, and climate action intersect. However, current trajectories risk reinforcing inequalities: large-scale actors often dominate access to marine resources, while vulnerable coastal communities—especially women, youth, and small-scale fishers—bear the heaviest costs of climate change. Integrating climate justice into maritime trade and governance is therefore essential to ensure that the transition to a sustainable blue economy is fair, inclusive, and resilient.

This panel will explore how trade can be a tool not only for economic growth but also for equity, sustainability, and empowerment. Fair trade principles and liberal international cooperation will be at the heart of the discussion, examining how global rules and local realities can align to deliver meaningful benefits.

How do Liberals Win the War of Attention, Beat the Populists, and Win Elections

Political success today hinges on capturing—and keeping—the public's attention. For liberals, we face a daunting landscape dominated by populist messaging, emotional provocation, and fragmented media ecosystems. With Matt McMillan, the award-winning global political and public affairs consultant and president of Buzzmaker, this panel explores the highs and lows of recent elections how liberal parties and leaders can break through the noise, communicate compellingly, and reconnect with voters who feel overwhelmed, disillusioned, or seduced by simplistic answers to complex problems.

A veteran consultant for a number of LI member parties, the discussion will examine what truly resonates with today's audiences, how to frame liberal values in ways that inspire rather than lecture, and which campaign tactics can counter the populist playbook without mimicking it. Ultimately, the panel asks: how can liberals reclaim the narrative, mobilise support, and translate attention into electoral victory?



Introduction to Panels

25 Years of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda

This session marks the 25th anniversary of the Women, Peace & Security (WPS) Agenda, offering a platform to reflect on progress, challenges, and the evolving role of liberal actors in advancing gender equality and youth participation in peace and security. Adopted through UN Security Council Resolution 1325, the WPS Agenda recognized for the first time the vital role of women in preventing conflict, building peace, and sustaining inclusive governance.

Twenty-five years later, the global landscape is transformed by new conflicts, digital insecurity, climate threats, and shrinking civic space. Against this backdrop, liberal organizations reaffirm their commitment to equality, human rights, and inclusive governance as essential principles for peace.

Through keynote reflections, global expert video contributions, and an interactive World Café dialogue, participants will explore diverse regional and generational perspectives on women's and youth's roles in peacebuilding and political leadership. Together, they will formulate concrete recommendations for the Liberal International Human Rights Committee to strengthen the WPS Agenda's implementation across liberal networks worldwide.

Successes and Challenges of Coalition Governance

South Africa's 2024 national elections saw LI full member the Democratic Alliance enter a landmark Government of National Unity (GNU) with the African National Congress and several other political parties. This historic partnership marks a profound shift in the country's political landscape, ushering in a new era of collaborative governance, complex consensus-building, and the need for principled leadership to drive reform and maintain stability within a broad and ideologically diverse coalition.

Liberal parties around the world often find themselves as junior partners in coalition governments—able to deliver meaningful policy influence but rarely emerging from these arrangements politically unscathed. Drawing on their experience as parliamentarians from parties of government, some experienced some not, in different contexts this panel examines what can make coalitions succeed for liberals, where they strain, and how our parties can safeguard their identity, advance their agenda, and maintain public trust while working within multi-party executive structures.

Drawing on comparative experiences, including the early lessons from South Africa's GNU, the discussion will explore strategies for effective negotiation, mechanisms for resolving internal conflict, approaches to shared governance, and the long-term impact of coalition participation on party credibility and electoral prospects.

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Security in the Indo-Pacific and Europe: Developments, Issues and Challenges (by invitation)

The participation of the Indo-Pacific Four (IP4) - Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand - in the July 2024 NATO Summit in Washington, D.C. highlights how these countries increasingly view their security as intertwined with Europe's, especially amid Russia's aggression against Ukraine. As former Prime Minister Kishida warned, "Ukraine today may be East Asia tomorrow." With major flashpoints in the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea, simultaneous crises in Europe and the Indo-Pacific could overstretch U.S. military resources, leaving both regions vulnerable. Peace and stability in the two regions are therefore deeply interconnected.

NATO has recognized the need for stronger dialogue with the Indo-Pacific, stressing that developments in the region directly affect Euro-Atlantic security and that cooperation with like-minded partners is essential to upholding the rules-based international order. In this context, CALD, the ALDE Party, Renew Europe, and the UK Liberal Democrats will host a special session alongside the 209th Executive Committee Meeting of Liberal International titled "Security in the Indo-Pacific and Europe: Developments, Issues and Challenges." The session will outline recent security developments, discuss shared challenges and potential areas for cooperation, and analyze obstacles to deeper interregional security collaboration.



Introduction of Applicant Members

LI secretariat received 9 membership applications in total from political parties and civil society organisations. After an initial review, the applications were presented to the LI bureau for consideration after which the bureau gave its recommendation to each applicant.

The applications to be presented to the 209th Executive committee are as follows:

Full member:

1. NEOS (Austria) - membership upgrade
2. Moderaterne (Denmark)
3. El Adl (Egypt) - membership upgrade
4. Le Faso Autrement (Burkina Faso) - membership upgrade

Observer member:

1. Citizens' Alliance (Gambia)
2. Ruta del Cambio (Nicaragua)
3. Peuple au Service de la Nation (Democratic Republic of Congo)

Cooperating organisation:

1. Europe-Georgia Institute (Georgia)
2. Egyptian Democratic Association (Egypt)

At this year's ExCom, the membership process will be divided in three parts over three days to ensure that all delegates have the opportunity to meet and talk to each party in small groups and in front of the plenary before voting takes place on Sunday 23 November. You can find daily agenda below:

Friday 21 November - Pre-plenary Membership World Café

7 tables will be set up in the session room:

- 1 table for parties seeking membership status upgrade (observer to full membership).
- 6 tables for the new applicant parties and cooperating organisations.
- Tables will be designated and differentiated with numbers and party/organisation names.
- Each table will have a facilitator to ensure smooth discussion flow.

Delegates will be organised into 7 different groups (formed in the room) which will rotate clockwise every 13 minutes. Time will be kept on a big screen for everyone's attention. Applicant parties will have 3 minutes to introduce themselves to delegate groups followed by a 10-minute Q&A in each group.

Introduction of Applicant Members

Session timeline

Friday, 21 November 2025

18:00 to 19:30 - Seven 15-minute sessions

19:30 to 19:35 - Wrap-up by facilitators

Saturday, 22 November 2025

08:45-10:15 - Official tabling of membership applications to the ExCom

15:45-16:30 - A shortened plenary Q&A session will take place

Sunday, 23 November 2025

11:30-12:30 - Voting on membership

Once the agenda reaches of point for voting, all applicant parties will be asked to leave the plenary room. Voting will proceed one party at a time per the session chairperson's instructions. The applicant parties will be invited back into the room once the voting process is completed and the outcome will be announced.

Full member applicants:



Observer member applicants:



Parties upgrading to full member status:



Cooperating Organisation:



Voting

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Issuance of Votes:

During the 209th Executive Committee Meeting in The Hague, eligible voting delegates will be able to vote on important organisational matters that determine the direction of LI ranging from new and upgrading member parties, resolutions, amendments and other statutory elements. The LI secretariat will prepare your party's paper votes in advance of the ExCom and the international officer or authorised person will be responsible for signing and collecting the votes at registration. Do not lose your voting cards – they cannot be reissued. Once your selected voting delegate has signed for your party's votes they are responsible and should ensure that they are present at all voting sessions. If your voting delegate is not in the session during voting, they cannot give their votes to another member of your delegation. Patrons & Bureau members each have a personal vote and cannot take proxy votes of another patron/bureau member.

Voting Delegates:

According to the Liberal International constitution, one basic delegate per member organisation, plus one additional delegate for parties that were entitled to fifteen votes or more under the rule of Article 19 (c) (i and ii) at the most recent Congress is granted at the Executive Committee. Observer Organisations and Cooperating Organisations will each have a maximum of three nonvoting delegates at the Congress, and one non-voting delegate at the Executive Committee.

For members who have not yet paid their fees:

Noting the upcoming Executive Committee meeting, LI must draw the attention of member parties who are yet to pay their 2025 membership subscription to Article 47. 4 of LI's governing constitution, which states that fees must be received by 1st May and that voting rights shall be suspended if membership fees have not been paid at the commencement of the Executive Committee meeting. In March-April 2025, your international officer received a dedicated email with your party's 2025 membership fee, a statement of account, and a detailed cover letter reflecting some of our key achievements following last year's 64th congress in 2024. If you did not receive your invoice at the beginning of the year, or your party's International Officer has changed since then, please do not hesitate to contact the LI secretariat: office@liberalinternational.org



Resolutions: Amendments & Voting Process:

As set out in the LI standing orders, the following regulations and procedures apply to amending and voting on executive committee resolutions during the executive committee meeting:

Process:

All amendments to draft resolutions were circulated to the international officers of LI member parties in accordance with the constitutional deadline - four weeks before the start of executive committee meeting.

- All correctly formatted and submitted amendment texts were then circulated to international officers of LI member parties two weeks before the start of executive committee meeting.
- At the opening of the ExCom administrative session, resolutions, including Urgency resolutions, are formally tabled by the president to the committee.

Working Groups:

The role of the working groups is to discuss and address any factual conflict in the texts submitted.

Alterations:

- Only Amendments to draft resolutions may be altered within the group.
- Updates may be made if factual circumstances have changed since the submission deadline.
- Similar amendments may be merged.
- Acceptance of altered or merged amendments is at the discretion of the Chair.

There is no formal voting process in working groups:

- The Chair may gauge support for amendments or resolutions through a show of hands of the principal delegates present.
- Right of Proposers: If the original proposer does not accept an alteration, the matter must be decided by the full Executive Committee.

Limitations:

Amendments to draft resolutions cannot be proposed after the deadline or during ExCom sessions.

Exception – Urgency Resolutions: These texts, circulated via email to the ExCom delegates after the deadline 10:00am local-time the day before the ExCom begins and subject to bureau discretion, may be amended or altered within the working groups.

Plenary:

Once the working group has concluded its business all resolutions and any disputed amendments must be sent to the Sunday morning plenary session to be formally voted on by the ExCom.

Speakers' Profiles

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Welcome Reception



Alva Finn

Executive Director
European Liberal Forum

Alva Finn is a passionate leader with over twelve years of experience in policy. Prior to joining ELF, Alva was the Secretary General of Social Platform, the largest civil society network working on social and equality issues in Europe.

Alva also worked at Save the Children, Mental Health Europe, and the Irish Mission to the UN in Geneva.

Rein has been a board member at the VVD since 2023, serving as the party's International Secretary.

Prior to joining the board he volunteered in different roles within the party, notably also as a trainer.



Rein Jansons

International Secretary, VVD

Speakers' Profiles

209th
Executive Committee Meeting
The Hague, The Netherlands
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Master of Ceremonies



Lennart Salemink
Treasurer, Liberal International

Lennart Salemink is the Treasurer of Liberal International and Director of NDW-NTM. He studied political science, business, and public administration. Within the national presidency of the VVD, he was responsible for international affairs. Lennart began his career at the VVD in 2009, working at the party headquarters. Since then, he has served as a policy advisor on foreign affairs for the VVD in parliament and as chief political advisor to the Minister of Infrastructure and the Environment.

Admin Session One

Prof. Dr. Karl-Heinz Paqué is the chairman of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) and a member of the Freie Demokratische Partei (FDP) federal executive committee. Prof. Dr Paqué was elected Deputy President of Liberal International in 2018. In addition to serving as minister of finance to the state of Saxony-Anhalt between 2002-06.

Prof. Dr Paqué is today the Chair of International Economics at the Otto-von-Guericke-University of Magdeburg and Dean of the faculty of economics and management. Prof. Paqué was elected President of Liberal International in 2024 at the 64th Congress in Santiago de Chile.



Prof. Dr. Karl-Heinz Paqué
President, Liberal International



Speakers' Profiles



William Townsend
Secretary General, Liberal International

William Townsend has worked in international relations and liberal politics for over ten years. Prior to joining the Liberal International (LI) secretariat, William managed local, national, and international elections for the Liberal Democrats (UK), planning target seat campaigns to deliver some of the party's best-ever results ahead of the Liberal Democrats entering coalition government for the first time in 2010.

Following a stint at a global consultancy working on cross-party advocacy campaign around the 2011 presidential elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo, William took up a position at the Royal African Society, researching and writing on African politics and collaborating with international experts.

Sidi Tiémoko Touré was appointed Minister of Animal and Fisheries Resources in 2021. In 2006, Alassane Ouattara, then President of the Rally of Republicans (RDR), appointed him Chief of Staff until 2011. Upon Ouattara's accession to the presidency, Mr Touré became the Chief of Staff of the President. In this capacity, he was also a member of Côte d'Ivoire's National Security Council until 2015.

He entered the government in May 2015 as Minister Delegate to the President of the Republic in charge of Youth Promotion and Youth Employment, and has since held various ministerial posts, serving as Minister of Youth Promotion, Youth Employment, and Civic Service in 2016-2018 and Minister of Communication and Media in 2018-2021.



Sidi Tiémoko Touré
Vice President, Liberal International



Speakers' Profiles



Mardi Seng

Chairperson, Council of Asian Liberals
and Democrats

Mardi Seng is the Chairperson of the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD). In the February 2024 Cambodian senatorial elections, Mr. Seng was one of three representatives of the opposition who were elected. Mr. Seng will be returning to the senate, where he has previously served as secretary of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Mr. Seng has previously functioned as the treasurer of the Sam Rainsy Party (SRP), in which capacity he managed four electoral campaigns and elections in different provinces. Prior to his involvement in politics, Mr. Seng worked for US banks for 15 years, focusing on Compliance, Audit and Risk Management.

Ahmad Al-Hariri, the General Secretary of Lebanon's Future Movement, is a seasoned leader with a deep commitment to advancing liberal values and political reform. Throughout his career, Ahmad has worked across various sectors, most notably with the Expatriates Sector, where he played a pivotal role in strengthening ties with Lebanese communities both within Lebanon and across the globe.

His efforts have been instrumental in promoting Future Movement's principles, fostering collaboration, and expanding the party's network internationally. With extensive knowledge of MENA issues, he brings a nuanced understanding of regional challenges and opportunities for liberal progress. An avid reader, Ahmad combines strategic vision with a passion for cross-cultural dialogue and youth empowerment.



Ahmad Al-Hariri

Vice President, Liberal International

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Art Eggleton

Vice President, Liberal International

Art Eggleton served the people of Canada and the City of Toronto in public office for over 45 years. Starting as a member of City Council in 1970, becoming Mayor of Toronto (1980-1991), a Member of Parliament (1993-2004) for the riding of York Centre, including a cabinet minister for 9 years, and a Member of the Canadian Senate from 2005 till retirement in 2018.

He currently serves as a Vice-President of Liberal International and head of its Canadian affiliate.

Manfred R. Eisenbach is an active member of the Free Democratic Party (FDP Germany) since late 1968 and of its international relations committee for many years, and he is sitting on the FDP federal board as a co-opted member for almost 40 years now. His engagement in the field of international liberal cooperation has been extensive: he served as LI treasurer (2014-2018), is a long-standing member of LI Executive Committee and ALDE (former ELDR) Council as well a delegate to those organisations' congresses for many years.

Furthermore, he is serving as secretary-general of the German Group of LI (DGLI) since 2007 and chairman of the Society for Freedom & Liberty since 2014. Mr. Eisenbach was elected as Treasurer of Liberal International in 2022.



Manfred R. Eisenbach

Treasurer, Liberal International

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Luz Poblete

Vice President, Liberal International

Luz Poblete has significant experience in political leadership. She had the privilege of spearheading the constitutional process in Chile, playing a key role in fostering inclusive and democratic dialogue. Her four-year tenure as Secretary General of Evópoli further solidified her capabilities in building networks and strengthening alliances. Ms Poblete has a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the Latin America and Caribbean region.

Ms Poblete currently works as the General Secretary of the Faculty of Economics and Business at Universidad San Sebastian. Prior to her political involvement, Ms Poblete has extensive experience as a consultant, working across several different fields.

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Welcome Address



Dilan Yeşilgöz-Zegerius MP
VVD, Party Leader

Dilan is the party leader and parliamentary group chair of the VVD. Before this, she served as Minister of Justice and Security. In that role, she worked tirelessly every day to make the Dutch streets safer and to defeat organised crime.

Before becoming a minister, Dilan was active as, consecutively, a municipal councillor in Amsterdam, a Member of Parliament, and the State Secretary for Energy & Climate.

Defending democracy in an era of political manipulation

In 2015, Ms. Claudia McKoy founded UpSurgence, a public policy firm that designs and implements innovative policies for government agencies through co-design. UpSurgence facilitated the City of Brampton's first trade mission to Nigeria, establishing a foundation for a Brampton-Lagos cybersecurity agreement.

Currently, on behalf of Peel Regional Police, UpSurgence is collaborating with community leaders, industry experts, and social services to develop Canada's first statement of principles on AI adoption for law enforcement to reduce disparities and uphold human rights.



Claudia McKoy
Canadian Group of Liberal
International (CGLI)

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Puma Shen MP
DPP, Taiwan

Puma Shen is a legislator in the Legislative Yuan of Taiwan, specializing in criminal law and sociology of law. His areas of expertise include white-collar crime, juvenile delinquency, and cognitive warfare. After obtaining his doctoral degree from the University of California, Irvine in 2017, Puma returned to Taiwan to focus on research regarding influence operations and CCP infiltration.

With a background in law and human rights advocacy, Shen is deeply passionate about social justice and human rights issues. He has dedicated himself to the advancement of human rights, previously serving as the vice chairman of the Taiwan Association for Human Rights.

Bart Groothuis is a member of the European Parliament on behalf of the Dutch People's Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD), which is part of Renew Europe.

In Parliament, he focuses on cybersecurity, especially in his role as Rapporteur of the NIS II Directive, disinformation & foreign interference, economic security and security & defence.

Before Bart became a member of the European Parliament in February 2020, he was Head Cybersecurity for the Dutch Ministry of Defence.



Bart Groothuis MEP
VVD, The Netherlands

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Pavle Grbović MP

President of the Movement of Free
Citizens, Serbia

Pavle Grbović is the president of the Movement of Free Citizens (PSG) and a member of the Serbian parliament.

Working Group on Resolutions - Admin Session Two

Dr. Juli Minoves was served as president of Liberal International between 2014-2018. Starting his professional life as a diplomat, Dr Minoves served his country in many Ambassadorial posts, including to the United Nations, the United States of America, United Kingdom, Spain, and the World Trade Organisation.

Among his political feats, he is one of the signatories of the Rome Statutes that founded the International Criminal Court.



Dr. Juli Minoves

President of Honour, Liberal International

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Mariam Ghibradze

Human Rights Programme Manager,
Liberal International

As human rights programme manager and membership officer, Mariam supports in implementing the programmatic work of Liberal International's human rights committee, and on the other hand, provides support to LI membership. Before joining LI, Mariam worked for the Europe-Georgia Institute (EGI) as a Programme Manager, researching women's political representation in the Georgian political experience, focusing on historical perspectives and current participation in Georgian politics.

Mariam has also hosted a podcast "Women in Politics" under the initiative of the EGI and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom South Caucasus.

The African Liberal Development Programme

Henrik Bach Mortensen has been engaged in international political affairs for many years: Chairman of the Danish Institute of Parties and Democracy (DIPD) and involved in democracy projects and partnerships in Latin America, South Africa, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Ghana, Egypt, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and in Europe. Board member of the Danish-Taiwanese Society. Chairman of the ALDE policy committee on EUChina relations. Member of the RENEW Task Force for elections to the European Parliament in 2024.

Has been a delegate to the UN General Assembly and member of policy committees in the OECD and board member of EU institutions related to education and the labour market. Involvement in US politics through Conventions and Primary elections. He is a member of the Danish Liberal Party (Venstre).



Henrik Bach Mortensen

Vice President, Liberal International

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Bent Nicolajsen
Programme Manager, Danish Liberal
Democracy Programme

Bent Nicolajsen is the Programme Manager, Danish Liberal Democracy Programme. DLDP is an independent organisation, established by Venstre, The Liberal Party of Denmark, with the aim of supporting the development of political parties in new democracies. Currently, DLDP works in Kenya, Moldova, North Macedonia and South Africa.

The work of DLDP is funded by the Danish MFA through the Danish Institute for Parties and Democracies. Nicolajsen has been coordinating the work of DLDP since 2013.

Shock and Yawn: How do Liberals navigate the politics of perpetual crisis and insecurity

Fatimazhra Belhirsch is a former Member of the Senate for D66, member of the Benelux Parliament and board member of the Committee on Peace and International Security of the Interparliamentary Union.

She previously worked at the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, the Interior, and Justice, and has built expertise in areas including human rights, security, emancipation, and the rule of law.

As a lawyer and former civil servant, she combines her head with her heart and is committed to legislation that contributes to equal opportunities and trust in democracy.



Fatimazhra Belhirsch MP
D66, The Netherlands



Speakers' Profiles



Yevheniia Kravchuk MP
Servant of the People, Ukraine

Yevheniia Kravchuk is a Ukrainian Member of Parliament, Deputy Chair of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Humanitarian and Information Policy and Vice-President of the ALDE Party. She holds a journalism degree of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv and is an alumna of the FLEX (Future Leaders Exchange) program.

Before entering politics, she worked in journalism, media production, and political communications, including as head of the Servant of the People party's press office.

Kravchuk is a dedicated advocate for Ukraine's European future and plays a leading role in strengthening cooperation with liberal allies across Europe.

Fan Yun is a member of the Legislative Yuan of the Republic of China (Taiwan) for the Democratic Progressive Party, DPP, since 2020. Previously she was an Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology, National Taiwan University, where she completed an MA, and served as Ambassador-at-Large of Taiwan.

She holds a PhD in sociology from Yale University in the United States. Her research interests include social movements, civil society and gender politics. Among other things, FAN participated in the Wild Lily student's movement for democracy in 1990 and in the 2014 Sunflower movement protesting a trade pact with the People's Republic of China.



Fan Yun MP
DPP, Taiwan



Speakers' Profiles



Pedro Urruchurtu

Director of International Relations,
Vente Venezuela

Pedro Urruchurtu is a political scientist, activist, and international relations coordinator for the Comando Con Venezuela.

He also serves as the international affairs coordinator for Vente Venezuela, and as a member of the Liberal International's Human Rights Committee.

He spent over 400 days in captivity at the Argentine Embassy in Caracas, besieged by the Venezuelan regime, until he and his colleagues managed to escape in a carefully coordinated rescue operation led by the United States.

Securing the blue economy: Liberal Pathways for Trade and Climate

Francisco Winter is the Country officer for Chile, Latin America and the Caribbean at World Bank Group. He is responsible for conducting the technical dialogue with the Government and supervising the portfolio of projects and operations that the Bank implements in the country.

In addition, he is responsible for coordinating with multilateral organizations such as APEC, the COP and the Pacific Alliance where Chile is leading their Presidency for 2019 to 2020. Prior to joining the World Bank, he was president of the NGO Postgraduates for Chile, leading the job of advising postgraduates applicants and delivering scholarships to vulnerable people. He also served as a Chief of Staff of the Chilean International Development Agency.



Francisco Winters

Chair, Liberal International
Fair Trade Committee

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Dr. Hakima el Haité
President of Honour,
Liberal International

Dr. Hakima el Haité is a member of the executive board of Mouvement Populaire, Morocco and the former president of Liberal International. Dr. El Haité is an engineer and has two PhDs and is an internationally recognised leader in the fields of environment, sustainable development & climate change. She currently advises Heads of State and multinational CEO's concerning climate issues.

Dr. El Haité was the former Minister of Environment for the Kingdom of Morocco. She was elected vice president of COP 21 (Paris Agreement) and appointed as Special Envoy and UN High-Level Champion of the International Climate Conference (COP 22). In 2023 UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres appointed Dr El Haite to the UN Advisory Board of Eminent Persons on Zero Waste.

Marty Smits is a Dutch impact entrepreneur active in solar energy and circular batteries in Southern Africa and Europe. He is chair of the board of Friends of The Earth The Netherlands (Milieudefensie). He is active member and former vice-chair of D66 and was the parties head of policy/programmatic development from 2011 to 2016. In that roll he co-authored the parties manifesto for the 2012, 2014 and 2017 elections.

As a partner and member of global social impact leadership team at The Boston Consulting Group he lead a global partnership with the NGO World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). In that roll he co-authored reports on sizing and developing the blue economy, with a global scope and in regional deepdives on Mediterranean, Western Indian Ocean and Melanesia.



Marty Smits
Former Member of the
National Board of D66

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Japan's Liberal Compass in an Age of Power Politics



Yosuke Suzuki is a Japanese politician currently serving as a member of the House of Representatives. He represents the Tokyo proportional representation block and is a member of the Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP).

Yosuke Suzuki MP

Deputy Director-General, International Department, Constitutional Democratic Party, Member of House of Representatives, Japan

How do liberals win the war of attention, beat the populists, and win elections

Matthew McMillan is an award winning global political and public affairs consultant. He is the President of BuzzMaker and the founder of GECT.vote. He has worked in 40 countries around the world at the highest levels of campaigns. He has advised 18 former and current heads of government.

He is the winner of 54 Pollie Awards for outstanding political communication given by the American Association of Political Consultants (AAPC). In 2021, Mr. McMillan was named the "Political Consultant of the Year" by the Napolitan Victory Awards.



Matthew McMillan
Buzzmaker



Speakers' Profiles

25 years of the women, peace, and security agenda



Astrid Thors
Deputy President,
Liberal International

Astrid Thors is a lawyer, a Finnish politician and the former Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) High Commissioner on National Minorities (2013-2016). Ms. Thors was elected Deputy President of Liberal International in 2024 at 65th Congress in Santiago de Chile.

Ms. Thors has extensive experience in international politics and human rights. She served parliamentary terms in the European Parliament (1996-2004) and in the Finnish Parliament (2004-2013), where she was the Finnish Minister of Migration and European Affairs (2007-11). She was also elected vice-president of ELDR (now ALDE) 2011-13.

Khadija is the Founder of the INLW Morocco Chapter and has been recognized by Forbes Middle East as one of the Most Influential Arab Businesswomen in Family Businesses.

Khadija is a member of Lib Dems political party since October 2024, was elected as a member of Lib Dems Overseas Executive Team in November 2024, and a member of Lib Dems International Security Working Group since June 2025.

Khadija is a Former President of the Mouvement Populaire Political Party Women's Wing in Morocco, and the Former Regional President of the Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Morocco (AFEM).



Khadija Oum Bachair
EL MORABIT
President, INLW and
Non-Executive Vice President,
Liberal International



Speakers' Profiles



Hania Knio
President, IFLRY

Hania Knio is the President of the International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY), representing more than 100 youth political organizations worldwide. Originally from Lebanon, she brings lived experience of youth political participation in complex socio-political contexts to her global leadership.

A clinical psychologist, international trainer, and author, Hania specializes in youth leadership, gender equality, and peacebuilding. She authored *Surviving Politics*, a youth-leadership booklet developed with the Council of Europe and the European Youth Foundation.

Myrna Mneimneh is a Lebanese politician and human rights advocate. She is the President of the Al Hurriya Liberal Network (AHLN), International Secretary and Political Bureau Member of the Future Movement, and Vice Chair of the Human Rights Committee at Liberal International. She also leads the Arab Youth Union for Freedom and Democracy and the founder of WoMENA, an initiative to empower Women in politics in the MENA.

Myrna holds two master's degrees in Political Science and Modern and Contemporary History, bachelor's degrees in Industrial Psychology and Geopolitics, and a Diploma in Global Diplomacy – Diplomacy in the Modern World from SOAS, University of London. She speaks Arabic, French, English, Spanish, and Turkish.



Myrna Mneimneh
President, AHLN

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Judith Pallarés Cortés
Acció per Andorra

Judith Pallarés Cortés is the current Secretary General of the Andorran Institute of Women since January 2025. She has served as Minister of Social Affairs, Youth and Equality (2021–2023) and previously as Minister of Public Service and Administrative Reform (2019–2021). From 2015 to 2019, she was a Member of Parliament, where she also took part in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. In 2023, she led the new party “ACCIÓ per Andorra” as its head of list in the national elections.

Tirza Drent is a Dutch political organiser and the Secretary-General of the International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY), where she works to strengthen the leadership and influence of young people in global liberal politics. She holds a Master's degree in International Relations and brings a strong academic focus on political settlements, justice, and inclusive governance.

With experience working across regions and youth movements, Tirza applies an analytical and feminist lens to questions of peace, power, and political participation. She is deeply committed to advancing young women's leadership and believes that feminist, youth-led approaches are essential for building secure, resilient, and democratic societies.



Tirza Drent
Secretary-General, IFLRY



Speakers' Profiles

LI HRC Toolkit Launch



Markus Löning
Founder and Managing
Director of Löning – Human
Rights & Responsible Business

Markus leads a strategic development and oversees all consultancy activities as well as the development of new tools and products at Human Rights & Responsible Business. Having worked with businesses, governments, and organizations in over 70 countries, Markus is recognized as a leading expert on practical and political aspects of business and human rights.

He is frequently invited as expert speaker on responsible business conduct and addresses lawmakers, business leaders and representatives of international NGOs and trade associations around the world.

Successes and Challenges of Coalition Governance

Dave Bryant is a member of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament and the Democratic Alliance's Chairperson for the Standing Committee on Local Government, Environmental Affairs, and Development Planning. Before becoming a member of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, he served as Shadow Minister of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment in the South African National Assembly and as a councillor at the City of Cape Town, where he chaired committees on the environment, planning, sustainability and resilience. He is an active member of the International Climate Parliament and is keenly interested in environmental and climate change issues.



Dave Bryant
Democratic Alliance, South Africa,
Member of the LI Climate Justice
Committee



Speakers' Profiles



Eva de Bleeker MP
Open VLD, Belgium

Eva de Bleeker's career began as an economic researcher at a consulting firm in Oxford, she developed a strong belief in evidence-based policy and in empowering people who work, create, and undertake.

Now serving as a member of the Flemish Parliament and of her party's executive board, she strives to strengthen liberalism in both Flanders and Brussels. Known for her practical approach to policy - right down to advocating a ban on grass tiles in parking lots for better accessibility - she also nurtures passions outside politics.

Henrik Frandsen is the Chair of the group in parliament and speaker on international affairs. Member of the Folketing for The Moderates in South Jutland greater constituency from November 1st 2022. Candidate for The Moderates in all nomination districts in South Jutland Greater Constituency, 2022.



Henrik Frandsen MP
Moderaterne, Denmark



Ryan Smith MP
Democratic Alliance, South Africa

Ryan Smith is a South African politician and has been a Member of Parliament (MP) for the Democratic Alliance (DA) since 14th June 2024. He is also the Democratic Alliance's Spokesperson on International Relations and Cooperation.



Speakers' Profiles

Keynote Address



María Corina Machado
Nobel Peace Prize Winner 2025
Vente Venezuela

María Corina Machado, Venezuela's leading opposition figure and LI Prize for Freedom Laureate, was awarded the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize.

She was awarded the 2019 Liberal International Prize for Freedom for her dedicated efforts over many years to bring democracy to Venezuela, in spite of the risks she has faced.

Introduction by

Félix Maradiaga is a globally recognized academic, human rights advocate, and pro-democracy leader, known for his steadfast defense of liberty and democracy in some of the most challenging environments in the world.

Currently, Felix is the President of the Red Liberal de América Latina (RELIAL), the most significant network of liberal organizations in the region.

In recognition of his efforts, Félix was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2023 and 2024, supported by a coalition led by the International Republican Institute (IRI) and Senator Bill Cassidy.



Felix Maradiaga
President, RELIAL



Information about The Hague

Vaccination Requirements

The Netherlands has no special vaccine mandates for short-term visitors.

Visa Information

The Netherlands is part of the Schengen Area.

- Visitors from visa-exempt countries (including most of Europe, the US, UK, Canada, Australia, and Japan) may enter visa-free for up to 90 days within a 180-day period.
- Travelers requiring a Schengen visa should apply in advance at the relevant Dutch embassy or consulate.
- Passport validity must extend at least 3 months beyond the planned departure from the Schengen area.

Weather

Late November in The Hague is cold, damp, and windy, with short daylight hours and frequent overcast skies.

Temperatures: Daytime highs: 7–10°C | Nighttime lows: 2–5°C

Rain & Cloud Cover

- November is one of the wettest months of the year.
- Expect light rain or drizzle, often intermittent rather than heavy.
- Cloudy or partly cloudy skies are typical; sunny breaks are possible but short-lived.

Wind

- The Hague's coastal location means it can feel colder than the temperature suggests.
- Winds are often moderate; gusty days are common.

Communications

- Country Code: +31
- Internet: High-speed internet is standard throughout the country; Wi-Fi is widely available in hotels, cafés, and public spaces.

Emergency Contacts

- General Emergency (Police, Fire, Ambulance): **112**
- Non-Emergency Police Line: **0900 8844**



Information about The Hague

Airport Information

Most international travelers arrive via Amsterdam Schiphol Airport (AMS), about 40–45 minutes from The Hague by direct train.

Transportation to The Hague:

- Train: Direct and frequent from Schiphol to Den Haag Centraal or Den Haag HS.
- Taxi/Rideshare: Available but expensive; travel time ~35–45 minutes depending on traffic.
- Buses and shuttles: Available but less common for direct airport-to-city travel.

Transportation

Transportation between the various venues in the programme is not provided.

Walking:

Most venues for the programme are located within a ten-minute walk of one another.

Public Transport:

The Hague offers efficient tram, bus, and regional rail services operated mainly by HTM and NS. OV-chipkaart or contactless payment can be used on most services.

Trains:

Frequent trains connect The Hague to Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Utrecht, and other major Dutch cities. Travel is generally fast, reliable, and cost-effective.

Taxis & Rideshare:

Taxis are widely available but relatively expensive. Rideshare options such as Uber operate in major Dutch cities, including The Hague.

Cycling:

The Netherlands is extremely bike-friendly. Renting a bicycle is an easy and popular way to get around.

Electricity and Power Sockets

The Netherlands uses Type C and Type F plugs. Voltage: 230V | Frequency: 50Hz

Travelers from countries with different voltage standards may need both a plug adapter and a voltage converter.



List of Participants

Sr. No.	Last Name	First Name	Affiliation	Country
1	Pallarés Cortés	Judith	ACCIÓ	Andorra
2	Mneimneh	Myrna	AHLN	Lebanon
3	Al-Kuwatli	Bassam	Ahrar - The Syrian Liberal Party	Syria
4	BURGESS	Andrew	ALDE Party	Belgium
5	KRAVCHUK	Yevheniia	ALDE Party	Ukraine
6	BRINTON	Sal	ALDE Party	United Kingdom
7	Razafindravahy	Allan	Arche de la Nation (ADN)	Madagascar
8	Marukyan	Edmon	Bright Armenia Party	Armenia
9	Babayan	Anna	Bright Armenia Party	Armenia
10	McMillan	Matthew	Buzzmaker	United States of America
11	Abdiqani Ibrahi	Abdirahman	CAHDI PARTY	Somalia
12	NUNE HASSAN	NAFISO	CAHDI Party	Somalia
13	MOHAMUD MUHUDIN	HABIBO	CAHDI Party	Somalia
14	MIRE DHOORE	ABDIWALI	CAHDI Party	Somalia
15	MOHAMED SAMATAR	DAHIR	CAHDI Party	Somalia
16	IBRAHIM	KADRA	CAHDI Party	Somalia
17	Suzuki	Yosuke	CALD	Asia
18	Sin	Chung-kai	CALD	Asia
19	Seng	Mardi	CALD	Cambodia



List of Participants

Sr. No.	Last Name	First Name	Affiliation	Country
20	Arlegue	Celito	CALD	Philippines
21	Abaya	Francis Gerald	CALD	Philippines
22	Go	Jaslyn	CALD	Singapore
23	Hellman	Mikaela	Centerpartiet	Sweden
24	N'Dehi	Magloire	Centre ESD	Côte d'Ivoire
25	McKoy	Claudia	CGLI	Canada
26	Gatto	Daniel	CGLI	Canada
27	Zimmer	David	CGLI	Canada
28	Kunz	Michael	CGLI	Canada
29	Kasongo	Mpongo John	CGLI	Canada
30	Njie	Mariamama	Citizens Alliance	The Gambia
31	Diab	Raffie Raif	Citizens Alliance	The Gambia
32	Savage	Aja Marie	Citizens Alliance	The Gambia
33	Thit	Kimhun	CNRP	Cambodia
34	Lim	Michelle	CNRP	Cambodia
35	Alexander-Theodotou	Katherine	Cypriot Liberal and Unity Movement	Cyprus
36	van Oort	Hilke Bram	D66	The Netherlands
37	de Vries	Laura	D66	The Netherlands
38	ten Brummelhuis	Muriel	D66	The Netherlands
39	Jansen	Maartje	D66	The Netherlands



List of Participants

Sr. No.	Last Name	First Name	Affiliation	Country
40	Belhirsch	Fatimazhra	D66	The Netherlands
41	Smiths	Marty	D66	The Netherlands
42	Smith	Ryan	Democratic Alliance	South Africa
43	Bryant	Dave	Democratic Alliance	South Africa
44	Shen	Puma	Democratic Progressive Party	Taiwan
45	Fan	Yun	Democratic Progressive Party	Taiwan
46	Aly Ahmed Mohamed	HossamEldin	Egyptian Democratic Association	Egypt
47	Elsayed	Ahmed	El Adl Party	Egypt
48	Soliman	Yehya	El Adl Party	Egypt
49	Dominique	Munongo Inamizi	Ensemble pour la Republique	DRC
50	Olivier	Kamitatu Etsu	Ensemble pour la Republique	DRC
51	Laansoo	Sten	Estonian Reform Party	Estonia
52	Finn	Alva	European Liberal Forum	Belgium
53	Melashvili	George	Europe-Georgia Institute	Georgia
54	Pfeil	Dirk	FDP	Germany
55	Rentschler	Rudolf	FDP	Germany
56	Martinez	Lester	FDP Switzerland	Switzerland
57	Hans	Johanna	FNF	Germany
58	Weingärtner	Matthias	FNF	Germany
59	Al Majali	Ayah	FNF	Jordan



List of Participants

Sr. No.	Last Name	First Name	Affiliation	Country
60	Shugaev	Shamil	FNF	Georgia
61	Dobber	Jeroen	FNF Europe	Belgium
62	Grasveld	David	FNF Europe	Belgium
63	Maaten	Jules	FNF Europe	Netherlands
64	Amahirwa	Rémy	For Victoire Ingabire Umuhuza	
65	Munyaneza	Augustin	For Victoire Ingabire Umuhuza	
66	Nsegyumva	Gloria Uwishema	For Victoire Ingabire Umuhuza	
67	Paylan	Sheila	For Victoire Ingabire Umuhuza	
68	Edwards	Iain	For Victoire Ingabire Umuhuza	
69	Loverdos	Jordi Palou	For Victoire Ingabire Umuhuza	
70	Vink	Marianne	For Victoire Ingabire Umuhuza	
71	Ujeneza	Raïssa	For Victoire Ingabire Umuhuza	
72	Al Tawalbeh	Haytham	FNF MENA	Jordan
73	Knio	Hania	IFLRY	Lebanon
74	Drent	Tirza	IFLRY	Netherlands
75	Cazacu	Ruxandra	ILD Romania	Romania
76	David	Cristian	ILD Romania	Romania
77	Krauss	Alexandre	Iniciativa Liberal	Portugal
78	Oum Bachair EL MORABIT	Khadija	INLW	Morocco
79	Richardson	Ruth	INLW	The Netherlands



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83	de Vos van Steenwijk	Margaret	INLW	The Netherlands
84	Eldering	Maria	INLW	The Netherlands
85	Maartens	Lea	JD	The Netherlands
86	Poole	Friso Le	JD	The Netherlands
87	Gonsalves	Hanna	JD	The Netherlands
88	Olthaar	Maria	JD	The Netherlands
89	Kerkvliet	Lennart	JOVD	The Netherlands
90	Wal	Onno de	JOVD	The Netherlands
91	Schalet	Matilda	JOVD	The Netherlands
92	Roodhart	Bram	JOVD	The Netherlands
93	Zanden	Lars van der	JOVD	The Netherlands
94	Kirjas	Emil	LDP MKD	North Macedonia
95	Ouedraogo	Ablasse	Le Faso Autrement	Burkina Faso
96	Minoves	Dr. Juli	LI Bureau	Andorra
97	Uyttebroeck	Anne-Marie	LI Bureau	Belgium
98	Eggleton	Art	LI Bureau	Canada
99	Poblete	Luz	LI Bureau	Chile



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102	Thors	Astrid	LI Bureau	Finland
103	Paqué	Karl-Heinz	LI Bureau	Germany
104	Eisenbach	Manfred R	LI Bureau	Germany
105	Hariri	Ahmad	LI Bureau	Lebanon
106	Elhaite	Hakima	LI Bureau	Morocco
107	Salemink	Lennart	LI Bureau	The Netherlands
108	Bennion	Phillip	LI Bureau	United Kingdom
109	Winters	Francisco	LI Fair Trade Committee	Chile
110	Chalmers	David	Liberal Democrats	United Kingdom
111	Ngan	Larry	Liberal Democrats	United Kingdom
112	Bettsworth	Hannah	Liberal Democrats	United Kingdom
113	von Wiese	Irina	Liberal Democrats	United Kingdom
114	OShaughnessy	Devin	Liberal Democrats	United Kingdom
115	Jåfs	Evelina	Liberal International	Finland
116	Ghibradze	Mariam	Liberal International	Georgia
117	Singh	Vineeti	Liberal International	India
118	Townsend	William	Liberal International	United Kingdom
119	Yates	Jonathon	Liberal International	United Kingdom



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122	Löning	Markus	Löning – Human Rights & Responsible Business	Germany
123	Zanen	Jan Hendrikus Cornelis Van	Mayor of The Hague	The Netherlands
124	Diouf	Victor Sadio	MFA	Senegal
125	Frandsen	Henrik	Moderaterne	Denmark
126	Hedegaard	Casper	Moderaterne	Denmark
127	Donath	Anna	Momentum Movement	Hungary
128	Ouzzine	Mohammed	Mouvement Populaire	Morocco
129	GAVET ELENGO	Melaine Destin	Mouvement Républicain	Republic of Congo
130	Grbović	Pavle	Movement of Free Citizens	Serbia
131	Berry	Peter	NEOS	Austria
132	Holzegger	Ines	NEOS	Austria
133	Neyts	Freddy	OPEN VLD	Belgium
134	Van Ginneken	Laurenz	OPEN VLD	Belgium
135	De Bleeker	Eva	OPEN VLD	Belgium
136	Toh-Emerson	Merlene	Paddy Ashdown Forum	United Kingdom
137	Batchelor	Lesley	Paddy Ashdown Forum	United Kingdom
138	Maamar	Younes	PAM	Morocco
139	Mawas	Kawtar	PAM	Morocco



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144	Coulibaly	Famousa	RHDP	Côte d'Ivoire
145	Duarte	Jonathan	Ruta Del Cambio	Nicaragua
146	Gullestrup	Maria	Social Liberal Party of Denmark	Denmark
147	Wikström	Anders	Svenska folkpartiet i Finland	Finland
148	Grindgårds	Matilda	Svenska folkpartiet i Finland	Finland
149	RUET	Joël	THE BRIDGE TANK	France
150	SEMEGA	HAMED	THE BRIDGE TANK	Mali
151	DIALLO	Cellou Dalein	UFDG	Guinea
152	Eddaqqaq	Elhabib	Union Constitutionnelle	Morocco
153	Moroza-Rasmussen	Jacob	Venstre	Denmark
154	Kofoed	Jesper	Venstre	Denmark
155	Urruchurtu	Pedro	Vente	Venezuela
156	Charles Guillaume van de Vossenber	Olivier	VVD	The Netherlands
157	Hendrik Jansons	Rein	VVD	The Netherlands
158	Bonné	Mara	VVD	The Netherlands
159	Groothuis	Bart	VVD	The Netherlands



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161	Vinck van Vugt	Annemieke	VVD	The Netherlands
162	Peeters	Luuk	VVD International	The Netherlands
163	Meijerink	Tess	VVD International	The Netherlands
164	Odeh	Dania		Jordan

Partners' Profiles

209th
Executive Committee Meeting
The Hague, The Netherlands
21-23 November, 2025



Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party (ALDE) unites political parties and reform parties from all over Europe, working together on the basis of their democratic and reformative ideals on political issues.



Al Hurriya Liberal Network (AHLN) is a network of liberal civil society organizations (CSOs) including political parties, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), think tanks, and active individuals in the Middle East and North Africa.



Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD) offers a unique platform for dialogue and cooperation, is the only regional alliance of liberal and democratic political parties in Asia. The aim is to assess the possibilities for liberal solutions to problems facing Asian democracies.



Democratic Alliance (DA) is a liberal South African political party. As the second-largest party in the Government of National Unity (GNU), DA remains committed to delivering positive change for all South Africans.



Partners' Profiles



Danish Liberal Democracy Programme (DLDP) is the political foundation established by Venstre, the Liberal Party of Denmark, with the aim of strengthening multiparty democracy in developing countries by supporting political parties and democratic structures.



European Liberal forum (ELF) is the official political foundation of the European Liberal Party, the ALDE Party. ELF creates liberal solutions to European problems through evidence-based research, events and training.



**FRIEDRICH NAUMANN
FOUNDATION** For Freedom.
European Dialogue

Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom Europe (FNF Europe) operates offices in Brussels, Prague, Vilnius, and Geneva. By connecting EU experts, civil society, and decision-makers, FNF Europe aims to foster open dialogue and explore liberal policy solutions to European challenges.



International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY) is the global umbrella organisation of liberal youth and student organisations from around the world.



Partners' Profiles



International Network of Liberal Women (INLW) is an association of women from countries worldwide who support the liberal principles.



The JOVD is a leading Dutch liberal youth organization, training the next generation to shape the country of 2050. It promotes political engagement, speaks up on societal challenges, and engages in strategic partnerships with liberal youth movements around the globe. The JOVD is the youth wing of the VVD.



Swedish International Liberal Centre (SILC) is a liberal foundation of the Swedish party, Liberalerna, working with democracy assistance.



VVD International is responsible for the international activities and relations of the Dutch Liberal Party VVD. The main aim of VVD International is realising, maintaining and enhancing relationships with liberal sister parties and organizations around the globe and actively participating in international liberal networks.