

## **ALDE Prime Ministers meeting, Copenhagen, November 13**

The *Single Market* has brought wealth to all of Europe and strengthened our competitiveness in the World. We must now deepen and expand the Single Market to make sure that it continues to deliver growth and jobs in modern economies.

Our focus should be on free movement of services and making the European economy digitally competitive. We must strengthen mutual recognition and common standards for services within the Single Market recognizing that services constitute an increasingly important part of our economy; promote free data flows and free exchange of digital services; foster development of digital infrastructure that enables our citizens and industry to use the full potential of the digital economy; make sure our strong data protection rules allow European innovation and growth to flourish.

Our competitiveness and prosperity is reinforced by *free trade* at the global level. Europe itself is a testament to how trade liberalization brings both prosperity and peace among free people. European nations have significantly benefitted from the process of globalization and the increase of free trade during the previous decades.

In today's global environment, Europe must step up as a strong defender of multilateralism and the free trade agenda. It is now paramount that the EU keeps up its ambitious policy through promoting and modernizing the rules based international trading system while pushing forward new trade and investment deals with key markets fully exploiting global value chains and the digital economy.

When it comes to foreign investments and unfair trading practices, we must not be naïve and a fair playing field should be ensured. However, resorting to protectionism and new barriers for trade is never the answer.

In the fight against *climate change* EU is a global leader. We remain committed to tackling climate change and promoting green growth and taking them to the next level.

Europe must continue to push for the green transition of our economies. Our political leadership will help pave the way for European business solutions setting standards at global level.

Our partnership with the nations of *Africa* must be rebuilt. The EU and its Member States spend billions on development aid, but more effort should be devoted to boosting investments and strengthening the role of the private sector.

We should support Africa in building a true African free trade area which can serve as the bedrock for future African jobs and prosperity. Enabling innovative start-ups, entrepreneurs and businesses to develop market driven solutions to local challenges will be key.

Our goal should be to create a full, equal and mutually benefitting trade and investment partnership between Africa and Europe which will ensure a future for new African generations on the African continent.

We agree to meet again in Helsinki in February 2019.

Copenhagen, November 13, 2018

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