



***Manual on
Political Party Identity
and
Ideology***

**National Democratic Institute for International Affairs
Washington, D.C.
March 2008**

The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) is a nonprofit organization working to strengthen and expand democracy worldwide. Calling on a global network of volunteer experts, NDI provides practical assistance to civic and political party leaders advancing democratic values, practices, and institutions. NDI works in every region of the world to build political and civic organizations, to safeguard elections, and to promote citizen participation, openness, and accountability in government.

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BACKGROUND:

Political Party Identity



Manual on Political Party Identity and Ideology

The Central and Eastern Europe program's regional political party development and policymaking initiative, funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), has developed this manual as a tool to clarify political identity and the ways ideologies reflect shared values. Recognizing the importance of competition in democratic systems, the manual does not advocate one ideology over another, but seeks to provide ideological background and present values-driven policy positions through which parties from across the political spectrum may adopt informed policy platforms. Rather than a contribution to the collection of academic work on political identity, this manual is intended for direct, practical application by political party members or political activists.

Using interactive tools like identity questionnaires, the manual explains important characteristics of the three main political ideologies: social democratic, center right, and liberal. Comparative charts of ideological sub-groups help to determine where an individual or party lies on the political spectrum, and charts of common ideological criticisms and their rebuttals provide the basic tools for defending one's beliefs. It is these components of the manual that aim to explain what should distinguish one party or ideology from another, particularly important in political climates where the focus is drawn away from policy.

In addition to underlining the issues that define a particular ideology, the manual presents information on the party internationals, European party groups, political foundations, and sub-party organizations that encompass the values of each ideology. Members of a party international or a party group of the European Parliament align their policies with those of the larger organization, ensuring that they all espouse common values. Individual party institutes and foundations create internal forums for open and transparent policy development processes and educate party members on identity, values, and policy positions. Political parties looking to create or improve their own institutes or foundations can use the manual to find examples of successful organizations in Europe and around the world. Sub-party organizations that target a specific group, such as youth, are effective mechanisms to increase political involvement, especially from those whose voice may be often overlooked.

This manual represents a starting point for parties and individuals to harmonize their beliefs along the lines of a mainstream political ideology. Clearly defined political identity serves to strengthen political parties through its contribution to consistent policies based on common values. Strong political parties with proactive policy platforms are better able to take on leadership roles in governance and provide for the sustainability of democratic development in their country, as well as in a regional context.

Three Sectors of Ideology & Identity

Social Democrat

Social democracy emerged as a powerful force in the early 20th century, basing its beliefs in the philosophy of Karl Marx. Marx, who wrote in the late 1800s, determined that capitalism resulted in the exploitation of the working class by those who owned the means of industry. Marx predicted that this would result in a revolution by the proletariat, establishing a social and economic system of communal ownership of economic production. The reformist socialists of the early 20th century, who would later evolve into the social democrats, believed that reform within the capitalist system, rather than revolution, would best form a sustainable democratic society. In the 1920s, the social democratic party in Sweden became the first major party of its kind in Europe to take power through elections, implementing a series of policies to improve living conditions of their constituents. The Swedish economy recovered from the Great Depression by reinforcing these mechanisms, which influenced other nations to do the same. Today, social democrats continue to pursue similar platforms, and consider redistribution of wealth through taxation and a welfare state a tenet of social justice.

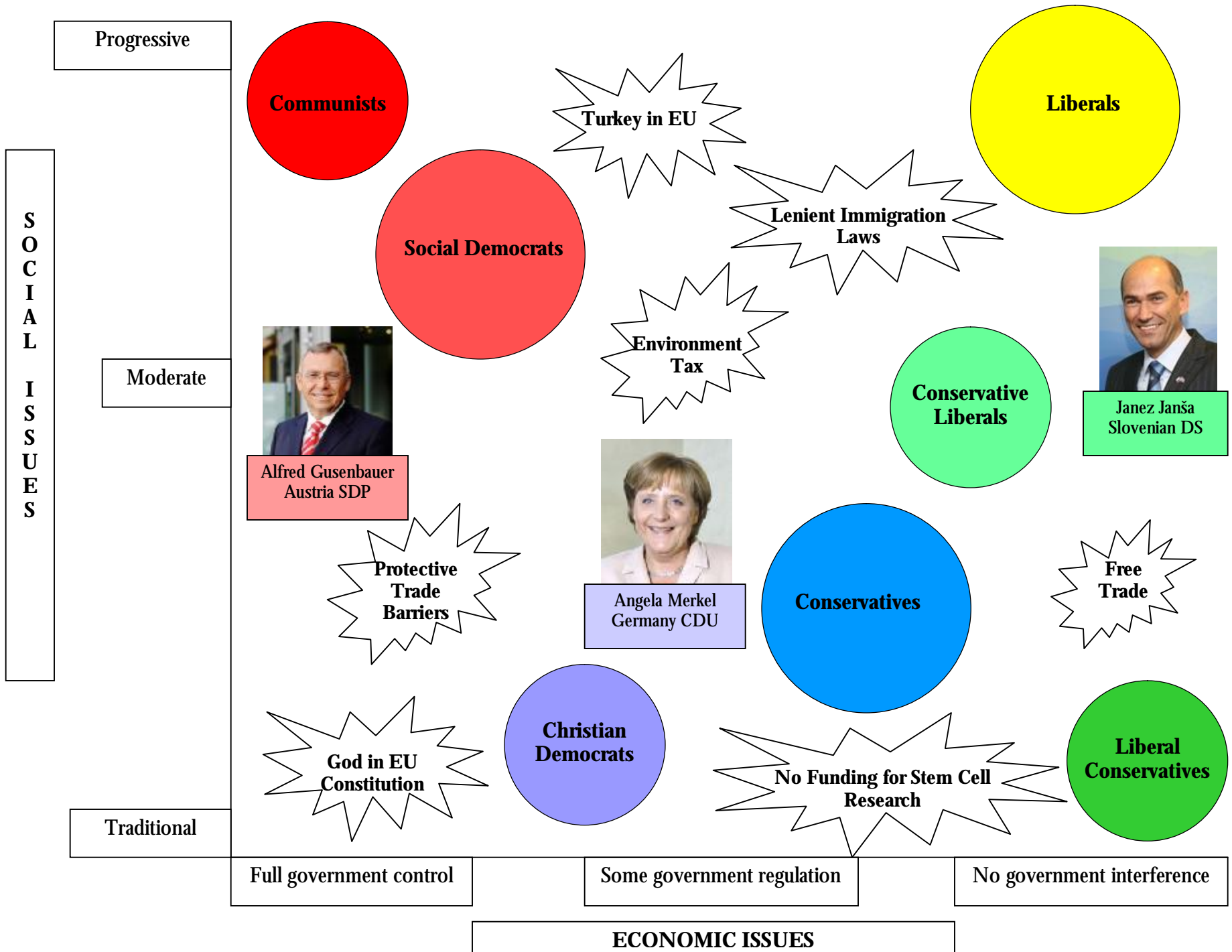
Center Right

The center right, or conservative, movement emerged from those who objected to the French Revolution and overthrow of the monarchy in France. Edmond Burke, a British politician, was one of the original leaders of the conservative movement. He had supported the American Revolution because the former British colonies had established their own traditions and social system apart from Britain's. However, he saw the French Revolution as the perverse destruction of long-established ideas based in religion, tradition, and aristocracy. Over time, conservative parties incorporated social and economic issues into their platforms in addition to promoting the importance of established institutions. During the 1970s, conservatives took a stance against government's involvement in the economy and the viewpoint that social degradation is a result of social welfare policies reducing the responsibility individuals must have over their own lives. Center right ideology encompasses two modern day party families: Christian democrats and conservatives. Unlike their conservative counterparts, Christian democrats favor more social safety nets and promote non-government institutions, like the church, to provide social services.

Liberal

Liberal ideology has its roots in the fight for greater individual rights within the framework of monarchy. Political philosophers such as John Locke put forth revolutionary ideas, including the notion that free individuals are the basis for a stable society and that the government exists to protect the inherent rights of individuals. Liberal movements within Europe during the late 18th and early 19th century to push for representative democracy spurred calls for the spread of economic liberalism, led by Adam Smith. Smith argued against government intervention into the economy and trade, and felt that the "invisible hand" of the economy would correct any problems on its own. Despite experiencing reduced popularity during the two world wars and the Great Depression, liberalism has regained strength once more, promoting a limited role of government in the provision of social services. For example, liberal platforms call for the privatization of health care and other formerly public sectors. While liberalism can be differently defined under a variety of categories including political, economic, social and cultural, modern European liberals maintain the idea that the government's role should be reduced and the economy should be decentralized.

Spectrum of Political Identity



SECTION I:

Is My Party Social Democratic?

Is My Party Social Democratic?

Political Orientation Questionnaire: Answer the below questions “Yes” if you agree with the statement and “No” if you disagree. Add up your “Yes” answers at the bottom.

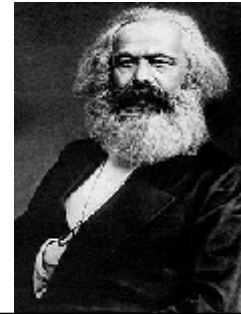
	YES	NO
The government should regulate industry in order to protect the rights of the labor force to work adequate hours and for appropriate wages.		
International financial institutions should become more democratic and transparent, and open to full participation of all countries.		
Turkey can join the EU if it complies with criteria on human rights and democracy.		
A progressive income tax system, in which the wealthy contribute proportionally more than those with lower incomes, is one of the cornerstones of modern society.		
The government should fund research into alternative and sustainable energy resources, and push to implement the Kyoto Protocol.		
Introduce an EU-wide work permit system for highly qualified workers from the rest of the world.		
The government should make funds available to provide health care coverage or subsidize health insurance for more complete coverage for all citizens.		
Free Trade should be replaced by Fair Trade, in order to protect job security, prevent humanitarian problems overseas, or forestall environmental damage.		
As long as strict conditions are in place, the EU should financially support research on human embryos		
No mention of God should be made in the European Constitution.		

***Do you have 6 or more “Yes” answers?
Read this section – you are probably a Social Democrat.***

History and Formative Events of the Party Ideology

“We might say that social democracy is more than democracy but less than socialism. A social democrat believes that a set of fair and reasonable mechanisms for electoral representation does not sufficiently qualify a society as a genuine democracy. Real democracy depends on shaping a more robustly egalitarian web of social relationships.”
(The Encyclopedia of Democracy)

Social democratic ideology is based in the philosophy of socialism introduced by Karl Marx in the late 1800s. Marx’s economic evaluation of capitalism deduced that it enabled industry owners to exploit labor by extracting their added value to production in order to make a profit. While Marx himself was not a proponent of communism as a viable economic or political system, he did surmise that the progression of industrial economic systems that exploited labor would result in revolution led by working class, eventually leading to a social and economic system of the communal ownership of economic production.



Karl Marx

The followers of Marx’s philosophies in the early 20th century were subscribers to the idea that social revolution was necessary to remove power from the hands of the capitalists and place it in the hands of the workers. Reformist socialists emerged during this period who believed that reform within the capitalist system, rather than revolution and capitalism’s demise, was the route to socialism and democracy. The social democrats that emerged from this reformist wing supported the implementation of socialist principles within the capitalist and democratic system. After World War I and the Russian Revolution of 1917, most social democrats became associated with non-revolutionary socialism, and advocated within existing political and economic systems for the nationalization of large business, the installation of social service programs such as public education and healthcare, and the implementation of a welfare state with progressive taxation.

Key Figure Highlight: **Eduard Bernstein (1850 – 1932)**

Eduard Bernstein was a German socialist who led the break from revolutionary socialism in the early 20th century, arguing that the demise of capitalism was unnecessary and the basis of revolution could be neutralized by increasing workers’ rights and protections within the capitalist system. Bernstein started the discussion of pursuing socialist policies through democratic means.

The social democratic party in Sweden became the first major party of its kind in Europe to take power through elections in the 1920s. The Swedish social democrats implemented a series of policies to improve the living conditions of their constituents, including providing public housing, unemployment relief, minimum wages, income and inheritance taxes, and old age pensions. The government took these socialist policies to a new level as the Great Depression of the 1930’s hit Europe, providing public employment in the government to those that lost their jobs. This reignited the depressed economy. United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt later adopted similar policy ideas, increasing public expenditure on social programs and infrastructure development to inject capital into the economy to trigger production and move the country out of the depression.

Social democrats today continue to pursue similar platforms, seeing value in the provision of public services, including roads, bridges, education, and health care, and consider the redistribution of wealth through taxation and a welfare state a tenet of social justice.

Key Characteristics of Social Democratic, Socialist, and Communist Ideologies

Partially sourced from Models of Democracy, David Held.

	<i>Social Democracy</i>	<i>Socialism</i>	<i>Communism</i>
<i>Governance</i>	Public affairs are implemented by elected leaders in a democratic system.	Public affairs are regulated by a hierarchical system of councils, from local to regional to national.	Public affairs are governed collectively by all, with a consensus decision-making process.
<i>Election or Selection</i>	Government officials are subject to frequent elections, mandates from their community, and recall.	Council officials are subject to the chosen local election process.	Communal government and all forms of politics are self-regulating.
<i>State</i>	A strong state is needed to regulate social and economic redistribution programs.	Progressive integration of state and society.	The state is part of all levels of society, from governance to economy to leisure.
<i>Economy</i>	Capitalism endures with a stable system of wealth redistribution and social services in place.	All wages become standard, public provision of most to all goods and services.	Elimination of markets and exchange. Abolition of private property and all goods distributed evenly.
<i>Labor</i>	Unity of working classes, through unions and worker cooperatives.	Unity of working classes, and end of class privileges.	All remnants of classes disappear; all are laborers in a non-wage economy.
<i>Revolution</i>	Capitalism is viable, no need for violent revolution.	Defeat of the bourgeoisie.	Abolition of scarcity and private property.
<i>Social Programs</i>	Social security programs provide a welfare state, which redistributes income to counteract poverty and provide a “safety net” for the sick, unemployed, or retirees.	More equal development of the forces of production ensures that all basic needs are met and people have sufficient time to pursue non-work activities.	All social programs provided by the state. All to be provided with their basic needs.

What is a social democrat?

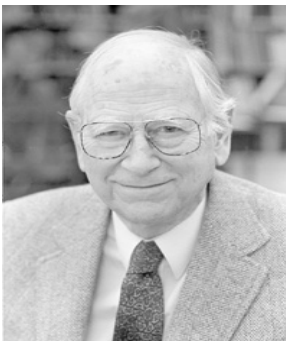
“An egalitarian politics that includes a strong commitment to the modern welfare state and to the redistributive function of the state. Social democrats affirm the classic liberal principles associated with representative democracy and the mixed economy, embrace political reformism (as opposed to the revolutionary tradition stemming from Karl Marx), and give allegiance to the moral ideal of social justice.”

from The Encyclopedia of Democracy

Common Policies of Social Democratic Political Parties

Partially sourced from The Encyclopedia of Democracy, vol.5, Seymour Martin Lipset

Policy Area	Social Democrat Platform/Policy Program
<i>Economy</i>	The economy should be capitalist, but well regulated to protect the weak and disenfranchised in a welfare state. The welfare state should be characterized by taxation and the redistribution of resources to create public social programs. The government should provide or subsidize certain programs such as education, healthcare, childcare, and infrastructure development. The interests of workers should be protected through unions or worker cooperatives, and enterprise should be regulated to prevent exploitation.
<i>Taxation</i>	Moderate to high levels of taxation in the form of a progressive tax, dependant on the individual's level of income, are necessary to provide public services.
<i>Trade</i>	Trade policies that protect the interests of domestic labor and industry, or fair trade, are preferable to unrestricted free trade.
<i>Racism</i>	Racism and discrimination are incompatible with the social democratic goal to create a state that supports the equality of all citizens, both economically and socially.
<i>Environment</i>	Environmental protection should be institutionalized through laws and government regulation. A high level of funding to research and develop alternative energy is encouraged, as is the implementation of an environmental tax, such as a carbon tax, to ensure the economy reflects accurate costs of environmental degradation.
<i>Social Security</i>	Government should guarantee the basic needs to its citizens and put in place a "safety net" for the sick, unemployed, or retired.
<i>Immigration</i>	The multiculturalism that immigrants add to the state is important, and therefore countries should adopt lenient immigration policies.
<i>Foreign Policy</i>	Democracy and the protection of human rights are international ideals that should be supported. Multilateral institutions are the effective way to pursue international goals.
<i>Citizenship</i>	Citizenship is an inclusive concept to overcome differences created by class. It provides the link between people and the state, which provides services to its citizens to ensure that everyone is provided for.
<i>Social Policy</i>	Social policies are progressive and secular, and include support for gender and ethnic equality.



Key Figure Highlight: Robert Dahl (1915 - present)

Dr. Robert Dahl, Sterling Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Yale University, has written about democratization in the workplace in the spirit of social democratic ideals. He says that most employees are under the control of a management they played no hand in selecting and in which they have no say. He argues that self-managed firms should replace this authoritarian structure as a matter of moral right.

Common Criticisms of Social Democratic Parties

Partially sourced from <http://www.wikipedia.org>

Criticism	Social democratic systems restrict individual rights, especially economic freedoms, to an excessive degree through an intrusive and overly powerful state.
Defense	Social democrats believe that government involvement in the economy and society is necessary for the prevention of unequal distribution of resources and in the provision of basic public needs. Regulating the economy, and thereby restricting some individual economic rights, will actually make the market fairer.
Criticism	The regulations placed on the market by social democrats limit economic efficiency and growth, leading to a reduced GDP for that country.
Defense	Social democrats contend that the deadweight loss experienced within a regulated economy affects the wealthy and more privileged, while the poor and working class benefit from redistributive programs. Despite lower overall productivity of the market, social democratic policies lead to a higher standard of living for a larger portion of the population and lessen the threat of extreme poverty in a society.
Criticism	State provision of education, health care, childcare, and other services limits individual choice.
Defense	Social democrats believe that some services must be provided and guaranteed by the state because they are basic needs and should not be subject to the competition that characterizes the free market. However, many of the services provided publicly also are offered by alternative private facilities.
Criticism	Social democracy tends to tax the working class more than the rich who can evade taxes through sophisticated accounting, thereby impeding the efforts of the working class to build wealth.
Defense	This is the opposite of the intentions of social democrats in the implementation of a progressive tax, which taxes the individual depending on his or her level of income.
Criticism	Social democracy encourages large government budget deficits.
Defense	Conservative administrations in the United States and Britain have also been responsible for large deficits.

In defense of social democrats

“Social democracy, one is tempted to say, is the moral residue that is left when socialists lose their confidence about how to organize a modern economy. But even if this definition of social democracy seems ungenerous, the power of this moral residue should not be underestimated.”

from The Encyclopedia of Democracy

Socialist International (SI)



[Socialist International](#)¹ is a worldwide organization of social democratic, socialist, and labor parties. One of the first international groups of labor movements, SI was established in 1951 at the Frankfurt Congress. Since then SI has grown to include parties from more than 110 countries from all regions of the world. According to the Declaration of Principles adopted at SI's 28th Congress in Stockholm in 1989, member parties are united by their common pursuit of freedom, social justice and solidarity. Respect for human rights and democratic institutions, the promotion of peaceful solutions to conflict, and environmental protection are also important to SI member parties. Today the Socialist International brings together 161 political parties and organizations from across the globe.

Major Campaigns of the Socialist International Include:

- [Cancelling the Debt of the Poorest Countries](#)
- [Fighting against Poverty in Africa](#)
- [Stopping Violence against Women](#)
- [Abolishing the Death Penalty](#)



George A Papandreou,
Socialist International
President

The SI [Congress](#) meets every three or four years. The SI [Council](#) is composed of all the member parties and organizations and meets twice a year. These two bodies are responsible for making decisions that are integral to the success and functioning of the Socialist International.

The Socialist International secretariat resides in London and coordinates the activities and initiatives of the International. It also convenes the SI meetings and conferences, issues statements and press releases, and produces SI publications.

The Socialist International has a wide variety of [committees or working groups](#), which are responsible for specific programs and activities and meet regularly. These committees include the statutory Ethics Committee, Committee for Finance and Administration, and committees on subjects or regions, including: [Economy, Social Cohesion and the Environment](#); [Local Authorities](#); [Migrations](#); [Peace, Democracy and Human Rights](#); [Africa](#); [Asia and the Pacific](#); [CIS and the Caucasus](#); [Latin America and the Caribbean](#); [the Mediterranean](#); [the Middle East](#); and [South Eastern Europe](#). Working groups also focus on the [Bretton Woods System](#), [the Kurdish Question](#), and [South Pacific Democracies](#).

The Objectives of SI Women Are:

- To strengthen relations between its member organizations
- To promote action to overcome any discrimination in society, including any inequality between men and women and to work for human rights in general, development and peace
- To promote knowledge and understanding amongst women of the aims and tasks of democratic socialism
- To extend relations between its members and other socialist-oriented women's groups not in membership, which desire cooperation

[Socialist International Women](#) is a group of women's organizations of the socialist, social democratic, and labor parties who are affiliated with the Socialist International. Socialist International Women is a non-governmental organization with consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council and at the Council of Europe.

SI Secretariat: Maritime House/Old Town, Clapham/London SW4 0JW/United Kingdom/Tel: +44 20 76 27 44 49
<http://www.socialistinternational.org>

Party of European Socialists (PES)



The [Party of European Socialists](#)² (PES) was founded in 1992 out of the perceived importance of local political parties at a European level. It succeeded the Confederation of Socialist Parties of the European Community, which had been in operation since 1974. Today, the PES includes the socialist, social democratic, and labor parties of the European Union. There are [33 full member parties](#) in the PES from 27 member states and Norway.

The PES [Congress](#) meets twice in every five year period and its duties include deciding on the PES platform and political orientation, shaping PES policy, and choosing the [President](#) and the [Vice-President\(s\)](#) of the party. PES policy is also influenced by the [Leaders' Conference](#), which meets three to four times a year to adopt policy and discuss political strategy of the group. Members of the Leaders' Conference include prime ministers and party leaders of the PES member parties.

PES's Six Priorities for the EU Agenda in 2008

- 1) Appropriate measures to establish full transparency, disclosure, and accountability in the financial markets.
- 2) Act as a single voice in leading international negotiations on a post-2012 Kyoto framework.
- 3) Review Lisbon Strategy policy guidelines.
- 4) Revise the Internal Market strategy to improve the benefits of the internal market for Europe's consumers
- 5) Agreement on a sustainable and effective migration policy.
- 6) Review and reform the EU budget

The aims of PES are strengthening the socialist and social democratic movement throughout Europe; developing close working relationships between the national

parties, the national parliamentary groups, the Parliamentary Group of the PES, and PES youth and women's groups; defining common policies for the EU; and promoting the adoption of a common manifesto for elections to the European Parliament.



PES Parliamentary Group: The [PES Group](#), also referred to as the "Socialist Group" or PSE, was formed on June 24, 1953 when the 23 social democratic Members of Parliament of the Common

Assembly of the European Coal and Steel Community, the EU's earliest debating chamber, decided to vote as one unit and work together to promote their common interests. In

2008, with 218 members from 27 EU Member States and 33 national parties, the PES Group is the second largest group that sits in the European Parliament.

The PES Group's activities are coordinated by the Bureau. This Bureau is made up of the Group president, seven vice presidents, and the treasurer. A secretariat in the European Parliament also assists the Group.

The Group's key messages are the following: creating jobs and prosperity; defending human rights; putting people first; promoting equality; protecting the environment; and promoting a new treaty for a new Europe.

PES Secretariat: Rue de Trone, 98/1050 Brussels/Belgium/Tel: +32 2 548 90 80

<http://www.pes.org>

PES Group in the European Parliament: Rue Wiertz 60/B 1047 Brussels/Belgium

<http://www.socialistgroup.org>



Poul Nyrup
Rasmussen, PES
President

International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY)



The [International Union of Socialist Youth](#)³ (IUSY) is a member of Socialist International. It is comprised of socialist, social democratic, and labor party youth organizations from over 100 countries. IUSY holds full member status to the European Youth Forum, which works closely with the Council of Europe and the European Union. IUSY was originally founded in 1907, and reconvened under its current name in 1946 after a split between the two world wars. IUSY's 143 members are committed to fighting for freedom and human rights, equality, democracy, universal solidarity, and political solutions to world problems.

Examples of IUSY European Members

- Ø Young Labour, Great Britain
- Ø PASOK Youth, Greece
- Ø Youth Forum SDP, Croatia
- Ø Young Social Democrats, Slovakia
- Ø Young Forum of Social Democrats, Slovenia
- Ø Young Socialists in the PvdA, Netherlands
- Ø Social Democratic Youth, Romania

In a fight for migration reform, IUSY calls for...

- 1) A more determined **fight against the war, internal conflict and persecution** that leads to involuntary displacement.
- 2) **An end to the exploitation of natural resources**, and for all states to take responsibility for sustainable development beyond their own borders. This means development cooperation, environmental protection, protection of global public services and trade systems with a true development goal and a global strategy to prevent environmental degradation, in which multinationals have to be made responsible for the consequences of their actions.
- 3) **A full commitment to the 0.7% ODA by industrialized countries** and for expenditure of FDI has to be put in place for development.
- 4) **The UN to enhance their strategy for social responsibility**, making sure that companies and multinationals place greater emphasis onto their responsibility towards social cohesion. Because the effectiveness of this measure is limited, introducing binding social and ecological standards in international organizations, such as the WTO, is more effective.
- 5) A strategy to overcome the discrimination of female migrants. This includes the **fight against human trafficking and "the exploitation in the sex industry" and an end to the criminalization of the victims of human trafficking**. We further demand upholding the rights of children, youth, and other excluded groups.
- 6) **A strengthened system of collective bargaining**, the implementation of minimum fair salaries, and strict action against employers which exploit migrants by paying slave wages, as part of the goal of the free movement of people without promoting wage dumping.
- 7) An open, unified and responsible Europe. We demand that **the European Union fight poverty in Africa**, which causes the migration flows from Africa.
- 8) We **condemn the politics on migration of USA towards Latin America**, which constantly violates the human rights of migrants. We stand energetically against the building of the Border Wall, that is to block the free flow of people.
- 9) The **equal treatment and equal rights of all** irrespective of ethnic origin, religion, beliefs and nationality, and reaffirms its position that we must remove the double standards and difference in treatment between "Normal citizens" and migrants...
- 10) The Doha development round has to aim at **reforming the policies of developed countries and strengthen the internal market of developing countries**.
- 11) **An integrated policy with asylum policy, development, trade and foreign policy, the transfer of remittances to be better organized without unbearable costs, and the possibility of return has to be increased.**

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)



The [Friedrich Ebert Stiftung](#)⁴ was founded in 1925 after the death of Friedrich Ebert, the Social Democratic President of Germany, who specified in his will that any donations at his funeral should be used to create a foundation. The Foundation's initial goal was to combat against discrimination of workers in the area of education, with the stated goal of "giving young, empowered proletarians government aid to fund an education at state-accredited institutions."

Today, the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung's main goals are to promote education of all people in the spirit of democracy and pluralism, grant young people the opportunity to study and do independent research, and work toward international understanding and cooperation. The foundation has several hundred employees at their main offices in Bonn and Berlin, and has 14 regional offices. FES also runs academies in Germany and in over 100 foreign agencies.



"Ways to participate – International youth dialogue on the Millennium Development Goals"
Berlin

October 2005

Success in Education

FES's student aid department has sponsored over 12,000 students through grants. Students are selected for demonstrating above average achievements and a high level of societal and political engagement. In addition to financial support, grantees also have opportunities to attend political seminars, conferences, and other activities.

Since 1971, foreign students who have been persecuted on political, racial, or religious grounds have had the opportunity to receive grants through solidarity funds. Funding from this program, which comes exclusively from former or current grantees, has helped over 1,000 students.

FES: Hiroshimastrasse 17/D-10785 Berlin/Tel: +49 30 3 69 35 924

<http://www.fes.de>

Other social democratic party foundations include...

- Ø Alfred Mozer Stichting, Netherlands, <http://www.alfredmozerstichting.nl>
- Ø Foundation Jean Jaures, France, <http://www.jean-jaures.org>
- Ø Olof Palme International Center, Sweden, <http://www.palmecenter.org>

International Social Democratic Groups on the Web

Socialist International

<http://www.socialistinternational.org/main.html>

Party of European Socialists (PES)

<http://www.pes.org/>

Parliamentary Group of the Party of European Socialists

<http://www.socialistgroup.org/index.html>

Socialist International Women (SIW)

<http://www.socintwomen.org.uk>

International Flacon Movement/Socialist Educational International (IMF-SEI)

<http://www.ifm-sei.org>

International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY)

<http://www.iusy.org>

International Labour Sports Confederation (CSIT)

<http://csit.askoe.or.at>

International League of Religious Socialists

<http://www.ilrs.org>

International Union of Socialist Democratic Teachers (IUSDT)

<http://www.isdue.net/>

Jewish Labour Bund (JLB)

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~bund/index.htm>

World Labour Zionist Movement (WLZM)

<http://www.wlzm.org/>

Examples of Social Democratic Parties around the World

- Ø Great Britain: British Labour Party, <http://www.labour.org.uk>
- Ø Germany: Social Democratic Party of Germany, <http://www.spd.de>
- Ø Australia: Australian Labor Party, <http://www.alp.org.au>
- Ø Norway: Norwegian Labour Party, <http://www.dna.no>
- Ø Canada: New Democratic Party, <http://www.ndp.ca>

SECTION II:

Is My Party Center Right?

Is My Party Center Right?

Political Orientation Questionnaire: Answer the below questions “Yes” if you agree with the statement and “No” if you disagree. Add up your “Yes” answers at the bottom.

	YES	NO
The Constitution of the European Union should not be put to a popular vote across the entirety of the EU.		
Free trade provides economic growth and jobs, and is the best policy for economic development.		
The government should not involve itself in the health care industry, as it entails a government takeover of a large portion of the economy and undue intrusions into our personal medical histories.		
Nuclear energy is needed to maintain a clean environment in Europe.		
Unemployment should be dealt with mainly by giving the free market more room to maneuver.		
The government should not be involved in financially supporting research on human embryos.		
A national sales tax is a better alternative than an income tax, as taxes should be lower and flatter.		
Drug usage poisons our youth and our society, and we should do whatever we have to do to end it.		
Explicit mention of God should be made in the European Constitution.		
Local and municipal governments should have more say over local policies than the national government in my country.		

***Do you have 6 or more “Yes” answers?
Read this section – you are probably Center Right.***

History and Formative Events of the Party Ideology

“A political ideology generally characterized by a belief in individualism and minimal government intervention in the economy and society; also a belief in the virtue of the status quo and general acceptance of traditional morality.”
(Mark O. Dickerson & Tom Flanagan: *An Introduction to Government and Politics*, 5th Edition)

The term “right” in political ideology originates from the French Revolution. Liberal deputies of the Third Estate sat to the left of the president’s chair in the 1789 Estates General, while the nobility of the Second Estate, sat to his right. Those of the Second Estate defended the aristocracy, monarchy, and established church, and thus the term “right” eventually became associated with the values of tradition and a resistance to change, describing those who would restore the monarchy in France.



Edmond Burke

Edmond Burke, a British politician during the late 1700s, was one of the original leaders of the center right movement. Burke had many objections with the French Revolution and was resistant toward the abstract Enlightenment ideas of equality and individual rights that he termed “excessive rationalism” and “social engineering.” Burke believed the stable and long-established ideas of religion, tradition, and aristocracy. Burke’s contemporaries rejected the concepts of republican government, the separation of church and state, and the ideas of progress and equality out of the belief that these ideas ignored the important doctrine of the divine right of kings.

The term “Conservative” came into use as a slogan of the Tory Party in Britain, renamed The British Conservative Party after the passage of the Parliamentary Reform Act of 1832. This re-branded party appealed to traditional right-wing values by being proponents of the established church, national pride, and institutions such as the monarchy. Today, most center right parties consider the term conservative to be much further to the right on the ideological spectrum, and policy platforms can coincide or diverge between center right and conservative parties.

In more recent times, center right parties have continued to focus on the importance of institutions, but have also concentrated on social issues and the economy. As a reaction to the rapid inflation and slow growth of the mid-1970s, which they viewed as the result of an overworked government and the inefficiency of government spending, most have since favored limiting the government’s involvement in the economy. Center right parties believed that growth would eventually lead to increased nationalism and therefore less class conflict. Also in the mid-1970s, center right parties became increasingly involved in social life as crime, births out of wedlock, and drug use increased. Members of the center right said that these problems were a result of government and communal pampering of individuals through social welfare policies and that the state needed to let people challenge themselves instead of relying on government support. Today, most parties continue to be concerned about the consequences of the welfare state, claiming that it may grow too big and threaten economic well-being and expansion.

“A man full of warm, speculative benevolence may wish his society otherwise constituted than he finds it, but a good patriot and a true politician always considers how he shall make the most of the existing materials of his country. A disposition to preserve and an ability to improve, taken together, would be my standard of a statesman. Everything else is vulgar in the conception, perilous in the execution.”

from Edmund Burke’s Reflections on the Revolutions in France

Comparative Chart of types of Center Right Parties

Partially sourced from What are the distinct features of Christian-democracy, by Eräpolku, Merja and The Oxford Companion to Politics of the World, Krieger, Joel.

	<i>Christian Democrat</i>	<i>Conservative</i>
<i>Governance</i>	Advocates the division of power into legislative, executive, and judicial power to prevent the centralization of power in the hands of individual leaders and groups. Use of public power needs to be as transparent as possible.	Against “big government,” or an extensive federal structure involved in social and economic issues.
<i>State</i>	The duty of the state is to facilitate the best conditions for society to care for its members through non-political communities.	Little interference of the state in every day, with exception for law enforcement.
<i>Economy</i>	Supports capitalism and a market economy, but provides public services as a safety net.	Supports capitalist system.
<i>Military</i>	Sustaining a strong military important to success.	Advocates for a strong military.
<i>Social values</i>	Conservative moral values, but open to change in regards to the structure of society.	Conservative moral values, and against changes in societal structure.
<i>Social Programs</i>	Strong emphasis on prioritizing alleviation of poverty through the welfare state and high taxes on the wealthy.	Against social programs funded through public funds and welfare state practices that weaken incentives for participating in the capitalist system.

Christian Democratic Union of Germany

CDU was formed in Germany after WWII and has come to proclaim for the unification of Christians to uphold common ideals and support the freedom and dignity of all persons. The CDU supports a social market economy and strives for a free and market-oriented EU. The party supports European integration, but does not support Turkey gaining member status. Party leader, Dr. Angela Merkel, is the current chancellor of Germany.

Conservative and Unionist Party United Kingdom

The Conservative Party, descendant of the late 18th and early 19th centuries Tory Party, advocates for a free market and increased social responsibility in order to reduce the size of the welfare state. The party also calls for changes to the country’s security policy, including giving greater support to the armed forces and a new police force dedicated to protecting the borders. The party holds the second most parliament seats and has the largest public membership base.

Examples of Broad Platforms/Policy Programs of the Center Right

Partially sourced from The Encyclopedia of Democracy, vol.5, Seymour Martin Lipset

<u>Policy Area</u>	<u>Center Right Platform/Policy Programs</u>
<i>Economy</i>	Members of the center right generally favor capitalism and free enterprise, but they are nervous about the pace of the change that often comes with these systems. They tend to disagree with a forcible redistribution of property.
<i>Taxation</i>	Center right parties side with the interests of business. They often practice laissez-faire capitalism and little government intervention in the economy other than to control the money supply. Taxes are limited and are used primarily to support programs that buttress the military and police.
<i>Trade</i>	Center right parties support free trade and seek to remove tariffs they view as protectionist.
<i>Environment</i>	Members of the center right, in protection of free trade, are hesitant to impose environmental restrictions on businesses. Some parties try to portray global warming as a non-problem. Other parties, such as the UK Conservative Party, are starting to adapt a more active platform to combat environmental degradation, including calling for taxing pollution to cut carbon emissions.
<i>Social Security</i>	Most believe that social security should be privatized, as they are wary of government intervention in the economy.
<i>Immigration</i>	Members of the center right worry about the threat to national sovereignty and national traditions from the influx of internationals seeking to live in their country.
<i>Foreign Policy</i>	Center right foreign policy is based on “realism,” or the idea that world politics is a relentless struggle for power between nation-states who have the primary concern of looking out for their own security. As such, parties favor military preparedness and place less value in international organizations.
<i>Citizenship</i>	Center right parties tend to believe that inequalities in mature democracies are legitimate and not the result of rigid and unfair advantages. Thus, they think it is often worse to allow government to “fix” unfair advantages through intervention measures.
<i>Social Policy</i>	While generally believing in separation of church and state, members of the center right usually believe that a society best functions when influenced by beliefs rooted in religious faith. They doubt the extent to which problems such as crime and poverty can be solved by social engineering.

Key Figure Highlight: Margaret Thatcher (1925 - present)

Margaret Thatcher served as the United Kingdom’s first and only female prime minister from 1979 to 1990, and was the leader of the Conservative Party from 1975 to 1990. She sought to reverse the UK’s economic decline while reducing the influence of the state in the economy. She also wanted the country to be able to assert a higher level of influence in foreign affairs. She became a close ally of United States President Ronald Reagan.



Common Criticisms of Center Right Parties

Partially sourced from <http://www.wikipedia.org>

Criticism	Center right foreign policy is too aggressive and can lead to security destabilization.
Defense	A country should present itself as strong and formidable and intervene where it deems necessary. Taking a more cautionary approach can be viewed as appeasement and encourage other states to act belligerently.

Criticism	Members of the center right ignore the plight of the poor and their economic policies widen the gap of financial disparity.
Defense	The gap between the rich and the poor encourages people to work hard and become innovative. Welfare programs create a system of reliance on government handouts.

Criticism	Policies impose moral standards based in religion.
Defense	Center right policy is not imposing religion on society; it is defending the traditions of society, much of which was initially founded on religious values.

Criticism	Center right policy is discriminatory against minorities.
Defense	Center right policy is not an attack against minority groups, but an attempt to preserve traditional values and continue a well practiced status quo.

What is a conservative?

“Conservatives generally believe that there exists a transcendent moral order, to which we ought to try to conform the ways of society. Conservatives uphold the principle of social continuity. They prefer the devil they know to the devil they don't know. Order and justice and freedom, they believe, are the artificial products of a long and painful social experience, the results of centuries of trial and reflection and sacrifice. Conservatives are chastened by their principle of imperfectability. Human nature suffers irremediably from certain faults, the conservatives know. Man being imperfect, no perfect social order can ever be created.”

from Russell Kirk's The Conservative Mind

Key Figure Highlight: Ronald Reagan (1911 - 2004)

Ronald Wilson Reagan was the 40th President of the United States, holding office from 1981 to 1989. His economic policy, or “Reaganomics,” consisted of large tax cuts and moderate regulation, resulting in lower inflation but a large national debt. He is also remembered for his policies towards the USSR, rejecting détente and portraying his opponent as an “Evil Empire.” He was able to negotiate with Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev to reduce both countries’ nuclear arsenals and help bring a peaceful end to the Cold War.



Centrist Democrat International (CDI)

The [Centrist Democrat International](#)⁵ (CDI) was founded in 1961 under the name of Christian Democrat World Union. CDI has since broadened its membership base by expanding its official name to the Christian Democrat International/Centrist Democrat International and serves as a network for centrist parties.

CDI promotes the principles of fundamental human rights and basic equality for all, justice, solidarity and subsidiarity. CDI also supports the establishment of a free and socially responsible market economy. Additionally, CDI believes that poverty is a form of injustice and advocates its elimination through cooperation between developed and developing countries. Other CDI principles include the improvement of educational systems and support for the nuclear family as the “cornerstone of society.”

CDI has three divisions: the Meeting of Leaders, the Governing Council and the Executive Committee.

Meeting of Leaders

Convenes once every two years to:

- Elect the president and fifteen vice presidents
- Make decisions regarding values, principles, objectives, tasks, statutes
- Determine programmatic policies that reflect the centrist identity of CDI

The Meeting of Leaders consists of:

- The highest government official of each member party
- Party chairpersons and secretary generals of member parties
- Members of the Executive Committee
- The highest authority of world international organizations and regional associations
- Observer members (no vote)

Governing Council

Takes place once in the year between Leaders Meetings to:

- Admit and exclude member parties
- Propose changes to the declaration of values, principles, and objectives of CDI
- Approve events, programs, and activities
- Approve rules on voting and membership dues

The Governing Council is composed of:

- Party chairpersons and secretary generals of member parties
- Members of the Executive Committee
- Leaders of world international organizations and regional associations
- Observer members (no vote)

Executive Committee

Convenes twice a year to:

- Adopt proposals and measures regarding member status
- Adopt rules on voting and membership
- Approve the financial report

• Ratify appointments of several special positions

The Executive Committee is composed of:

- The president
- Fifteen vice-presidents
- The chairperson of the regional organizations recognized by CDI
- The executive secretary



The CDI has two main member organizations offering regional expertise: the Christian Democratic Organization of America (ODCA) and the European People's Party (EPP). ODCA brings together Latin American political parties, groups, and associations that “share Christian humanist principles.” The EPP unites centrist parties from both the EU member states and applicant countries.

CDI Secretariat: Rue d'Arlon, 67/B-1040 Brussels/Belgium/Tel: +32 2 285 41 60

<http://www.idc-ali.org>

The European People's Party (EPP)



The [European People's Party](#)⁶ (EPP) was founded in 1953 and was referred to as the Christian Democratic Group for its first 26 years. At the time of its establishment it had 38 members and was the largest European political party until the Socialists took power in 1976. Today, the EPP has reclaimed its position as the largest group in the European Parliament and had [278 members](#) elected to the Parliament in 2004. These members align themselves with the EPP-European Democrats (ED) group. It has [74 member parties](#) from 38 countries, 17 [heads of government](#) (11 EU and six non-EU), nine [European Commissioners](#) (including the President), and the largest [Group in the European Parliament](#) with 288 members. EPP parties are currently in control of 10 of the 27 [EU governments](#) and five of 11 governments from non-[EU countries](#), more than any other European political party.

The EPP is committed to a federal Europe, based on the principle of subsidiarity – a democratic, transparent and efficient Europe. The Congress, the main EPP democratic forum, holds its statutory meeting every three years. In this meeting, the Party leadership is elected and the policies of the EPP are reviewed, debated, and established. The main decision-body, the Political Bureau, works on a regular basis, as do the working groups. The working groups were established to develop and promote EPP policy. The EPP Summit is held on the eve of every European Council Meeting and further assists policy-makers in the party to develop EPP strategy.

EPP Working Groups

- 1) European Policy
- 2) Economic and Social Policy
- 3) EPP Membership
- 4) Campaign Management



EPP/ED: The [EPP-ED](#) brings together mainstream center and center-right political groups including the Christian Democrats and the Conservatives.

The EPP-ED Group represents approximately 37 percent of the Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). With 278 of the 785 seats in the European Parliament, the EPP-ED Group not only holds the largest percentage of representation of the seven political groups in the Parliament, but it also is the only group that has MEP representation from all 27 [Member States](#). Members of the EPP-ED Group also chair nine of the 22 committees/subcommittees in the European Parliament, hold 50 percent of its vice-presidencies, and three of its five Quaestors, who look after the financial and administrative needs of its members.

EPP/ED 2004-2009 Priorities

- A knowledge-based economy: promote competitiveness
- Sustainable development: build for the future
- European citizens: the growing need for security
- Europe in the world: the new security challenges
- Sound financial management: the need for rigor



EPP-ED Group Hearing on Cultural Diversity, Religions and Dialogues

10/01/08

EPP: Rue du Commerce 10/B-1000 Brussels/Belgium/Tel: +32 2 2854141

<http://www.epp.eu>

EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament: 60, Rue Wiertz/B-1047 Brussels/Belgium/Tel: +32 2 2842234

<http://epp-ed.eu>

Youth of the European People's Party (YEPP)



The Youth of the
European
People's Party⁹

(YEPP) was founded in 1997 and has since grown to become the largest political youth organization in Europe. As the youth sector of the European People's Party, YEPP seeks to develop strong contacts with the entire political family, as well as provide training and guidance for future political leaders.

YEPP is composed of the Congress, the Council, and the Board. The Congress is the chief body and meets at least once every two years. Congress delegates are made up of board members and delegates of member organizations. The Congress elects the Board and determines YEPP's political guidelines and work plans. The Council is in charge in between Congresses and meets at least twice a year. The Council is comprised of the members of the Board and two representatives of each member organization. Its duties include formulating political standpoints, granting observer status, recommending candidates for membership to the Congress, electing Board members, and approving the budget.

Principal Purposes

- a) To develop the contacts and exchanges between the youth movements of different states and regions of Europe, by allowing them to meet and compare their experiences.
- b) To encourage and promote initiatives of any kind towards their member organisations, especially those which are facing a rough political or financial situation.
- c) To develop the important themes of the general political debate, to develop clear political strategies and to take own initiatives.
- d) To participate in any initiative taken by the European Union or the Council of Europe, likely to contribute to a better knowledge of the process of co-operation and integration in Europe.
- e) To develop contacts between the youth of Europe and of other continents, in particular of America, Africa, and Asia as well as with young Americans, Africans and Asians living in Europe.
- f) To participate, by representing the views of YEPP, in the work of EPP and European Democrat Union.
- g) To participate in the activities of different platforms and co-ordination structures of youth in Europe and to encourage its member organisations to do the same at their national level.



5th YEPP Chairmen's Conference
Mallorca, Spain
June 2006

The Board must meet in entirety at least four times a year and members are responsible for YEPP's day to day activities. These include implementing the decisions of the Council and the Congress, representing the YEPP to other organizations, preparing Council meetings, and recommending the acceptance or exclusion of potential members and observers. Candidates of the Board must be under 35 years old at the date of election.

YEPP: Rue du Commerce 10/B-1000 Brussels/Belgium/Tel: +32 2 285 41 63
<http://www.yepp-online.net>

International Democrat Union (IDU)



Since its inception in 1983, the [International Democrat Union](#)⁷ (IDU) has acted as an association of center and center-right political parties. Founders of the organization include Margaret Thatcher, George H.W. Bush, Jacques Chirac, and Helmut Kohl. In the 20 years since its founding, the IDU has grown to 80 member parties from over 60 countries. The conservative, Christian democrat and other like-minded parties that make up IDU's membership share a common belief in liberal democracy, freedom of the individual and the role of individual initiative, and free, competitive economies in economic growth.

The IDU as a full body and as Regional Unions and Organizations meet regularly. At the Executive Meetings, parties that have applied to join are considered and briefings and reports are given. Every three to four years, the Party Leaders' Meeting is held in which IDU officers are selected. The IDU also holds annual events such as the Young Leaders Forum. IDU hosts an event every four years to coincide with the Republican Convention in the United States. Other activities of the IDU include organizing campaign seminars for politicians and party workers and enabling like-minded, center-right parties to share experiences in order to achieve electoral success.

Declaration of Principles, London 1983

HAVING REGARD to their common convictions that democratic societies provide individuals throughout the world with the best conditions for political liberty, personal freedom, equality of opportunity and economic development under the rule of law; and therefore

BEING COMMITTED to advancing the social and political values on which democratic societies are founded, including the basic personal freedoms and human rights, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; in particular, the right of free speech, organisation, assembly and non-violent dissent; the right to free elections and the freedom to organise effective parliamentary opposition to government; the right to a free and independent media; the right to religious belief; equality before the law; and individual opportunity and prosperity;

HAVING REGARD to their common beliefs in an open society, where power is dispersed widely amongst free institutions, dedicated to creating conditions that will enable each individual to reach his full potential and to carry out his responsibilities to his fellow man; and where the central task of government is to serve the individual and to safeguard and promote individual freedom; and equally

STRESSING the moral commitments of a free and open society, supporting the institution of the family as its fundamental social and cohesive force, as well as social responsibility towards the weak and less fortunate, particularly by encouraging self-help and individual enterprise and choice in the provision of services;

BEING DEDICATED to a society of individuals working together in partnership for the common good;

HAVING REGARD to their common views that political democracy and private property are inseparable components of individual liberty and that the socially-oriented market economy provides the best means of creating the wealth and material prosperity to meet the legitimate aspirations of individuals, and of tackling social evils such as unemployment and inflation; **BELIEVING** that this is the most effective and beneficial way of providing individual initiative and enterprise, responsible economic development, employment opportunities, low taxation and consumer choice;

HAVING REGARD to the threats posed by the extreme Left and the extreme Right;

REJECTING any form of totalitarianism, which brings so much suffering and restricts so many freedoms today;

HAVING REGARD to the important global tasks which render necessary and desirable a closer and efficient collaboration of their parties, inspired by their common conviction;

PLEDGING THEMSELVES to work towards ever-closer co-operation among all the peoples of democratic nations, while recognising the right of each individual nation to preserve its identity and to safeguard its vital interests, to use their influence and above all their political values for the greater good of the world, especially by promoting the mutual responsibilities of all nations for global economic development;

DECLARE their dedication to a just and lasting peace and freedom throughout the world; and

FURTHER DECLARE that the cause of peace will be advanced by adherence to the principles expressed in this Declaration; and in

ACTIVELY INVITING other parties to subscribe to them;

AGREE to create a working association in pursuance of their common beliefs, hereinafter referred to as the INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRAT UNION.

IDU Secretariat: P.O. Box 1536 Vika/N-0117 Oslo/Norway/Tel: +47 2282 90000

<http://www.idu.org>

Democratic Union of Africa (DUA)

The [Democratic Union of Africa](#)⁸ (DUA), a regional organization of the International Democratic Union, was created to promote “a culture of pluralistic competition, enterprise and socially oriented market economy” with the belief that democracy allows individuals to have political and personal freedom, and equal opportunity under the law. As an association of democratic center and center right parties in Africa, DUA provides the opportunity for like-minded parties to come together and exchange views pertaining to policy and organizational interest.

DUA Goals and Objectives

- 1) to hold, facilitate, fund and organise national and international conferences;
- 2) to fund, facilitate, organise and co-ordinate public policy research into all aspects of government throughout Africa;
- 3) to publish and facilitate the publishing of books, papers, pamphlets and any other publications which promote the principles of the DUA;
- 4) to assist political parties and other bodies, associations and groups having the same or similar objectives;
- 5) to monitor and report on events which occur throughout Africa which either promote or impede democratic reform in Africa;
- 6) to promote and defend the ideals and cultural heritage of pluralist democracies in Africa;
- 7) to fight against corruption in the body politic of African countries;
- 8) to promote harmony and foster political tolerance throughout Africa;
- 9) to do all things and to engage in all activities generally which are necessary to any of the foregoing specified objectives of the DUA; and
- 10) to do all things, within means, as may be necessary to assist member parties in achieving these goals.

Members of DUA/ADG do not have a voting right.

DUA currently has four full members: New Patriotic Party (Ghana), Resistancia Nacional of Mocambique (Mozambique), Democraite Turnhalle Alliance of Namibia (Namibia), and Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo (Tanzania). DUA also has ten observing members waiting for ratification by the Council.

All persons, political parties, and organizations that support and abide by the DUA Charter of Values and Objectives are qualified for membership in the DUA. Membership is granted after applying to the Secretariat of the DUA and the Executive Committee unanimously decides to propose the political party for membership. This vote has to be ratified by the Council of the DUA. The use of unanimous decision making implies that every member has a reasoned veto to be used with restraint and with the ability to explain the rationale behind any veto.

The DUA has two categories of membership. The first category, Members of DUA, is open to “any registered political party of national significance of a country within the continent of Africa and its surrounding islands.” These members have to right to attend and participate in all meetings and exercise a vote. The second category, Members of the DUA’s African Dialogue Group (DUA/ADG), is open to “any individual person, political party or organization who does not desire or does not qualify for Membership of the DUA.”



DUA
Campaign
Managers
and
Executive
Meeting

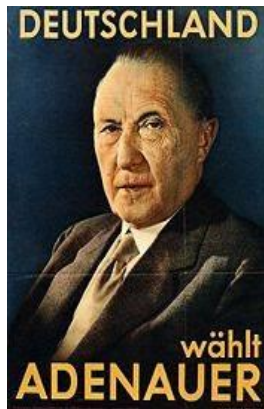
02/18/07

DUA: Plot 37/Ufipa Street/Kinondoni/PO Box 31191/Dar es Salaam/Tanzania/Tel: +255 22 266 8866
<http://www.du-africa.org>

Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS)



The [Konrad Adenauer Stiftung](#)¹⁰, founded in 1956 as the Society for Christian Democratic Work, is a German Christian Democrat research foundation. The foundation operates two education centers and 16 education institutes throughout Germany. The foundation also has more than 200 projects in over 120 countries. To oversee operations, it has two headquarters, located in Bonn and Berlin.



Key Figure Highlight: **Konrad Adenauer (1876 - 1967)**

Konrad Adenauer's political career began in 1906 and spanned 60 years. He served as the first Chancellor of West Germany from 1949 to 1963 and was chairman of the Christian Democratic Union from 1950 to 1966. He is credited with establishing a stable democracy in West Germany after WWII and integrating it with the emerging Euro-Atlantic community.

The Konrad Adenauer Stiftung has undertaken many projects. Both nationally and internationally, it has used political education to encourage peace, freedom, and justice, focusing on consolidating democracy, promoting the unification of Europe, intensifying transatlantic relations, and

development-policy cooperation. Almost 9,000 students from Germany and throughout Central and Eastern Europe have received moral and material support from the foundation. As a consulting agency, it has established background information and analyzed current events to provide a breaking ground for political action. The Foundation's academy in Berlin is a forum for discussion on political issues, particularly those relevant to the Christian Democratic cause. On a larger scale, meetings and congresses bring together 145,000 people at more 2,500 events.



"European perspectives of Ukraine from the German and Polish view"
April 2005

The Konrad Adenauer Club

The [Konrad Adenauer Club](#) was created in May 2003 to provide a forum for debate about "current problems and developments in Ukrainian society and about perspectives of Ukraine's integration into European structures." The format allows young people interested in the subject to meet with well-known experts from Ukraine, Germany, and the European Union. Almost 25 meetings have been held by the club since its inception.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.: Kingelhofstrasse 23:10785 Berlin:Germany:Tel:+49 30 26996-0
<http://www.kas.de>

Other center right party foundations include...

- Ø **Hanns Seidel Foundation**, Germany, <http://www.hss.de>
- Ø **Jarl Hjalmarson Stiftelsen**, Sweden, <http://www.hjalmarsonstiftelsen.se>

International Center Right Groups on the Web

Centrist Democrat International (CDI)

<http://www.idc-cdi.org/>

European People's Party (EPP)

<http://www.eppe.org>

Youth of the European People's Party

<http://www.yepp-online.net>

Christian Democratic Organization of America (ODCA)

<http://www.odca.org.mx>

European People's Party Women's Association

<http://www.epp-women.org/>

International Democrat Union (IDU)

<http://www.idu.org/>

Parliamentary Group of the EPP and European Democrats

<http://www.epp-ed.org/home/en/default.asp>

International Women's Democrat Union (IWDU)

<http://www.idu.org/iwdu-pg.htm>

International Young Democrat Union (IYDU)

<http://www.iydu.org/>

Asia Pacific Democrat Union (APDU)

<http://www.idu.org/apdu.htm>

Caribbean Democrat Union

<http://www.pamdemocrat.org/>

Democrat Union of Africa/African Dialogue Group (DUA/ADG)

<http://www.du-africa.org>

Examples of Conservative Parties around the World

- Ø Great Britain: Conservative Party, <http://www.conservatives.com>
- Ø France: Union for a Popular Movement, <http://u-m-p.org>
- Ø Israel: Likud, <http://www.likud.org.il>
- Ø Czech Republic: Civil Democratic Party, <http://www.ods.cz>
- Ø United States: Republican Party, <http://www.gop.com>
- Ø Turkey: Justice and Development Party, <http://eng.akparti.org.tr>

SECTION III:

Is My Party Liberal?

Is My Party Liberal?

Political Orientation Questionnaire: Answer the below questions “Yes” if you agree with the statement and “No” if you disagree. Add up your “Yes” answers at the bottom.

	YES	NO
Unemployment should be dealt with mainly by giving the free market more room to maneuver.		
The EU Constitution should be put to a popular vote across the EU.		
Rights enjoyed by same sex married couples in one member state should be respected across the EU.		
A European environment tax should be introduced.		
EU support for agriculture should reflect environmental and social concerns only, and should be limited from its current levels.		
No mention of God should be made in the European Constitution.		
The government should not ban research or production of genetically modified agricultural products without the presence of a direct threat to public safety.		
The government should not involve itself in the health care industry, as it entails a government takeover of a large portion of the economy.		
Free trade is the best development policy.		
Turkey can join the EU if it complies with criteria on human rights and democracy.		

***Do you have 6 or more “Yes” answers?
Read this section – you are probably a Liberal.***

History and Formative Events of the Party Ideology

“Liberal” signifies openness to change and respect for individual liberties within a societal framework in which all have equal opportunity.”

(Mark Silverman, TurnLeft.com)

As an early doctrine, liberalism developed within the political framework of monarchy rather than democracy, focusing on increasing the rights of the individual in relationship to his government. Liberalism played a significant role in European history in the advent of true democracy, putting forth ideas about power of the people and the general will, increasing the representation of the people within their governments, and creating a society of equals in which all have access to the same opportunities. Liberalism as an early political philosophy therefore is incorporated in many other political ideologies based on representative democracy, including those of center right and social democratic parties. Liberalism as a political party ideology itself stakes its platform on early liberal ideas, focusing on limited government and individual freedoms.



Adam Smith

The development of liberalism in the late 18th and early 19th centuries coincided with major changes to the political and social environments within Europe. Arguments to end aristocratic and monarchic systems in favor of representative democracy went hand in hand with the spread of economic liberalism and the desire to end feudal systems of property ownership. Adam Smith, one of the most influential economic theorists of all time, published *The Wealth of Nations*, arguing against government intervention into the economy and trade. Smith proposed the theory of the “invisible hand,” a self-correcting mechanism in the economy that works without outside government interference. This form of economic liberalism became known as “Laissez-Faire” economics (in English: “Leave alone to act freely”), and remains a major tenet of liberal party ideology today.

Key Figure Highlight: **John Locke (1632 - 1704)**

British philosopher John Locke put forth the revolutionary idea that free individuals were the basis for a stable society. His *Two Treatises on Government* refuted the philosophical basis for monarchy – the “divine right of kings,” – and argued that all people had inherent and natural rights to “life, liberty and property.” He explained government as a “social contract” in which individuals give up a limited number of their inherent rights to government for which the government guarantees to ensure those rights are protected. The ideas of natural rights and the social contract played a large role in the ideological basis of the French and American revolutions.

However, the first half of the 1900s was a period of recurring war and economic hardship, with two world wars and the Great Depression leaving the economies of Europe shattered. “Laissez-Faire” capitalism was widely questioned, and many liberal governments in Europe began to support aspects of the welfare state, including the provision of health, education, and anti-poverty measures by the government. Once the Euro-Atlantic economies began to recover, liberals reverted back to the ideas of “Laissez-Faire” economics and promoting a limited role of government in the provision of social services. Liberal platforms called for the privatization of health care and other formerly public sectors. Modern European liberals maintain the idea that government should have a smaller role and that the economy should be decentralized, arguing that it is not the job of government to directly control any industrial production through state owned enterprise.

Key Characteristics of Various Forms of Liberalism

Partially sourced from <http://www.wikipedia.com>

<u>Form of Liberalism</u>	<u>Defining Characteristics</u>
<i>Political Liberalism</i>	Political liberals believe that individuals are the basis of law and society; institutions exist in order to assist them. Political liberals are cautious that they do not favor or discriminate against any group based on their race, class, gender, ethnicity, etc. Political liberalism stresses John Locke's notion of the "social contract," in which citizens give up some of their freedom to the law so that they can live in a safe society.
<i>Economic Liberalism</i>	Economic liberalism denotes ideas of individual rights of property and freedom of contract. Without these freedoms, other liberties cannot be exercised. Economic liberals believe in laissez-faire capitalism, or no market regulation, which calls for the removal of legal barriers to trade and the blockage of government subsidies and monopolies.
<i>Social Liberalism</i>	Also known as new liberalism or reform liberalism, social liberals support free trade and a market economy where the basic needs of all individuals are met by the state. These needs include education, childcare, assistance after natural disasters, and crime prevention. They also advocate some restrictions on economic competition, such as anti-trust laws and minimum wage laws.
<i>Cultural Liberalism</i>	Cultural liberals seek to ensure that the government does not interfere in people's personal and intellectual lives. They are proponents of ideas like sexual freedom, religious freedom, cognitive freedom, and protection from government intrusion into private life. Cultural liberals oppose all or most government regulation of literature, art, gambling, sex, prostitution, abortion, birth control, terminal illness, alcohol, and drugs such as marijuana.

What is the difference between conservative liberalism and liberal conservatism?

Conservative liberalism combines liberal values and policies with conservative stances, representing the right-wing of the liberal movement. Key components of conservative liberals include: concern with economic liberalism; support of the global economy; and support of strict immigration laws. They also place less emphasis on social issues, but do tend to take a social liberal stance.

Conservative liberal parties in Europe include: Free Democratic Party (Germany); Progressive Democrats (Ireland); National Liberal Party (Romania); and G17 Plus (Serbia).

Liberal conservatism historically combines the laissez-faire beliefs of economic liberalism with the classical conservative concern for the preservation of tradition, respect for authority, and reverence of religion. Conservative parties in many countries began to incorporate economic liberal arguments. Because of this, liberal conservatives in these countries are often just referred to as conservatives. This is true for the United States. The terms "liberal" and "conservative" have become synonymous in countries like Australia, Italy, and Spain. In some European countries, liberal conservatism has come to represent those who combine more modern conservative views with the ideas of social liberalism.

Common Policies of Liberal Political Parties

Partially sourced from The Encyclopedia of Democracy, vol.5, Seymour Martin Lipset

<u>Policy Area</u>	<u>Liberal Platform/Policy Program</u>
<i>Economy</i>	Individual property rights and freedom to form contracts are the basis of liberties. There should be no government intervention in the economy as it distorts the balance of the free market. Trade barriers and government subsidies to business should be removed because they hinder the positive effects of free trade on international markets.
<i>Taxation</i>	Taxation should be as limited as possible, only procuring enough funds to enable the state to provide vital government services.
<i>Trade</i>	Free trade is the best economic option, and everyone gains under this system. Any barriers to trade cause deadweight loss in the international and domestic economies.
<i>Racism</i>	Racism threatens individual rights. Society should be based on equality of opportunity for all people, and should not discriminate based on race, gender, ethnicity, or culture. The state should not enforce equality of outcome through employment quotas for women or minorities.
<i>Environment</i>	The environment should be protected from human damage and those areas that have already been harmed should be remedied. Cooperation with businesses can put into place environmental safeguards and sustainable development should be enforced through legislation.
<i>Social Security</i>	A safety net should exist to protect those who are sick, elderly, or marginalized.
<i>Immigration</i>	There is no consensus of the right of the state to limit the flow of immigration. Individuals should enjoy the freedom of travel within and among countries.
<i>Foreign Policy</i>	There are differences among liberals on international relations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the United Nations and international institutions to prevent war. • Against intervention, and skeptical of the uses of collective security.
<i>Citizenship</i>	Diversity is considered to be a prerequisite for justice.
<i>Social Policy</i>	Civil liberties should be extended equally to all citizens. Certain standards of health care and education should be available for all citizens, while there are differences among liberals as to the extent government should supply these services, in an attempt to balance both individual and collective responsibility. The state should not determine personal values, whether of religion or lifestyle.
<i>Human Rights</i>	Human rights are universal. Capital punishment is inhumane and should be abolished.

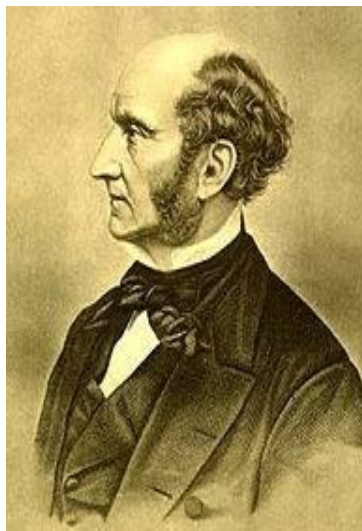
Political Liberalism in History: Magna Carta

The *Magna Carta Libertatum* is a famous English charter that was issued in 1215 as a result of disagreements between Pope Innocent III, King John, and his English barons regarding the rights of the King. The Magna Carta was a revolutionary document that demonstrated political liberalism, asserting the rights of individuals in a monarchical system and stating that the king's actions could be bound by the law. It was influential in leading to the modern concept of "the rule of law" and has been one of the most important legal documents in democratic history.

Common Criticisms of Liberal Parties

Partially sourced from Introduction: Analysing the Liberal Democrats by Richard S. Grayson, and "What is a Liberal?" by Thomas, Ray.

Criticism	Individual freedom outside of the economic realm can lead to apathy, selfishness, and immorality.
Defense	The purpose of the law is to protect the citizen from harm, not legislate morality.
Criticism	The individual does not exist as the liberal sees it. People are shaped by the society in which they live and the traditions they are raised with. Therefore, it is better to focus on the needs and interests of the community, and not the individual.
Defense	Many liberals concede that their ideals are historically generated and come from a shared liberal tradition. However, the historical precedent does not reduce the value or authenticity of the individual rights, liberty, and autonomy by which they live.
Criticism	Liberalism holds international institutions as benevolent forces, when they in fact may be acting in their own self-interest, possibly at odds with those seeking peace.
Defense	The plethora of opportunities for states to interact, both inside and outside of politics, makes the pursuit of cooperation and interdependence the goal that the international system seeks to achieve, leading to peace.
Criticism	Economic liberalism leads to inequality between the winners and losers of the market economy within a state. Liberal societies are characterized by long-term poverty and discrimination against lower classes. Therefore, the state should not be able to impose market principals or market mechanisms in a previously non-market sector.
Defense	The economic success of the state is dependent on hard work and motivation, which is fueled by the desire to overcome economic inequality. The modern industrial state, driven by liberal practices, has brought prosperity to a greater number of people than in pre-industrial societies characterized by poverty.
Criticism	Economic liberalism leads to inequality between states, with powerful states exploiting smaller states.
Defense	Liberals argue that liberal states are generally wealthier than states with more market regulation. Also, the poor in liberal states are better off than the average citizen in non-liberal states.



Key Figure Highlight: John Stuart Mill (1806 - 1873)

John Stuart Mill was an important British philosopher, political economist, civil servant, and Member of Parliament. His book, *On Liberty*, is one of the founding works of classical liberalism and explores the concept of liberty by discussing the nature and limits of power that can be exercised by society over the individual.

“The sole end for which mankind are warranted, individually or collectively, in interfering with the liberty of action of any of their number, is self-protection. That the only purpose for which power can be rightfully exercised over any member of a civilized community, against his will, is to prevent harm to others. His own good, either physical or moral, is not a sufficient warrant.”

-from On Liberty

Liberal International (LI)

In 1947, 19 European countries came together to establish [Liberal International](#)¹¹. In the years since, the organization has evolved into a global federation of liberal parties with approximately 70 member parties in more than 60 countries.



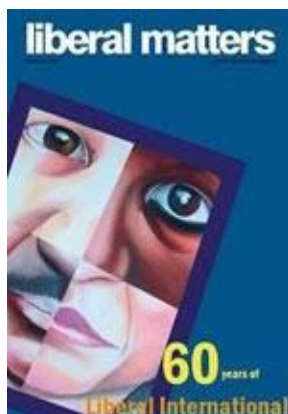
Liberal International considers itself the “pre-eminent network for promoting [liberalism](#), individual freedom, human rights, the rule of law, tolerance, equality of opportunity, social justice, free trade and a market economy.” The foundation of LI is based in promoting the issues of [human rights](#), democracy, social justice, tolerance, equality of opportunity, including [women’s political participation](#), market economy, free trade and international solidarity.

The Oxford Manifesto: The Liberal Agenda for the 21st Century

- 1) The challenge of extending democracy.
- 2) The challenge of violence and of global governance.
- 3) The challenge of improving democracy.
- 4) The tension between self-government and human rights.
- 5) The challenge of poverty and social exclusion.
- 6) The challenge of lean government.
- 7) The need for a new contract between generations.
- 8) The challenge of scientific and technological progress.
- 9) The challenge of creating open markets.
- 10) The challenge of world-wide development.

Like the other party internationals, LI member parties also form a number of regional and thematic groups. The [European Liberal Democrat and Reform Democrats](#) (ELDR) and the [Alliance of Liberal Democrats in the European Parliament](#) promote the views and policies of liberal parties in Europe through the European Parliament. The [International Federation of Liberal & Radical Youth](#) (IFLRY) and the [International Network of Liberal Women](#) (INLW)

bring together and advocate for two important demographic groups.



Liberal Matters is a quarterly magazine with articles by leading international figures.

Liberal International is composed of three executive bodies: the Congress, the Executive Committee and the Bureau. The [Congress](#) is the primary legislative body of LI, and meets at least every two years to discuss major policy and platform issues, elect organizational officials, and determine changes in membership. The [Executive Committee](#) meets more frequently, at least twice a year, and directs activities and policy development between Congresses, while also providing an oversight role, ensuring that policy formulated by the [Bureau](#) is consistent with Executive Committee and Congress decisions as well as with the [Constitution](#) of the organization.



Lord John Alderdice
Liberal International
President

*LI Secretariat: 1 Whitehall Place/London SW1A 2HD/ United Kingdom/Tel: +44 207 83 95 905
<http://www.liberal-international.org>*

European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party (ELDR)



The [European Liberal Democrats](#)¹² was created in 1976 and it established the formal European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party (ELDR) in 1993.

Today the ELDR is represented by seven of the 27 commissioners in the European Commission and commonly sits with the Alliance of Liberal Democrats ([ALDE](#)) Group in the European Parliament. The political leaders of the party and Ministers meet at least twice a year at the [Leaders Meeting](#) to discuss the situation in Europe and the annual [Congress](#) highlights as well as debate a key political issue. The [ELDR Council](#) meets twice a year to approve membership applications and to review the budget. The Council is allowed to act and speak on behalf of the party and is comprised of the ELDR Bureau and ELDR member party representatives. The [Bureau](#) runs the daily functions of the party. The [ELDR president, vice-presidents, and treasurer](#) are elected every two years at the ELDR Congress. [Annemie Neyts Uyttebroeck](#) was elected ELDR Party President during a Congress in Bratislava, Slovakia, on 24 September 2005, and reelected on 17 October 2007.



ELDR Leaders and Prime Ministers,
Leader's Meeting
21 June 2007

What does ELDR stand for?

Ø **Democracy , the rule of law, human rights, tolerance and solidarity**

The ELDR Party believes in a Europe based on the fundamental principles of liberty, democracy, the rule of law, human rights, tolerance, and solidarity.

Ø **A fair, free and open society**

We believe in a fair, free and open society which harnesses the ability of each and every one its citizens to participate fully in society, presenting them with the opportunities to fulfill their potential, free from poverty, ignorance, and discrimination.

Ø **A prosperous Europe**

To achieve these goals, we are striving to complete the internal market as a truly common economic area without the internal frontiers and to reform Europe's economy to make it more prosperous and competitive, with more jobs and stable prices for consumers, based on the principle of globally inclusive international free trade

Ø **Sustainable development and peace in the world**

We are working to promote sustainable development and to protect our environment. We are campaigning for a safe and just society, ensuring a more peaceful and stable world.

Ø **EU enlargement**

As the most consistent and long-standing advocates of an early and wide enlargement of the European Union, we are delighted to have welcomed into the Union our friends from the new Member States. We are firmly resolved to further deepen, reinforce and enlarge the European Union.

Ø **A transparent, democratic and accountable Europe**

We campaign for a more transparent, democratic and accountable Europe, taking decisions only on those matters which require European solutions. We are in favour of a systematic application of a subsidiarity principle in order to bring decision-making as close to the citizen as possible

Ø **A European Constitution**

ELDR supports a constitutional settlement for Europe. Liberal Democrats all over Europe have always campaigned for a strong constitution as the basis of democracy.

ELDR Party: 31, rue Montoyer/7ème étage/1000 Brussels/Belgium/Tel: +32 2 237 01 40

<http://www.eldr.org>

Alliance of Liberal Democrats (ALDE)



The [Alliance of Liberal Democrats](#)¹³ (ALDE) is the third largest Parliamentary group in the EP. ALDE brings together liberal and democratic parties across the European Union in an attempt to promote open-minded and forward-looking policy. The group currently has 10 full members and 12 substitutes. In the European Parliament, ALDE is represented by 101 [MEPs](#) from 22 countries across the European Union. ALDE's members are drawn from the

European Liberal Democrat and Reform party, the European Democratic Party, and various independent parties.

The 10 Point Programme

- 1) By promoting peace, through a Union of peoples that respects our diverse cultural, local and linguistic identities, and is open to all European States which comply with the criteria for membership.
- 2) By making the EU a global player bridging the gap between its economic and political dimension: Europe must speak with one voice in world affairs.
- 3) By opening up, democratising and strengthening the accountability of the institutions of the European Union and by better explaining and justifying the relevance of their work to the European public.
- 4) Since Europe is a union of minorities, by guaranteeing the fundamental rights of all European citizens and removing all forms of discrimination.
- 5) Believing that the aim of society must be the self-fulfillment of each individual, by promoting education at all levels.
- 6) By strengthening economic governance after the introduction of the Euro.
- 7) By ensuring value for money for taxpayers, rooting out fraud wherever it is found, tackling unnecessary bureaucracy and reforming the system of own resources to make it more transparent, progressive and fair.
- 8) By making Europe the world leader in environmental protection.
- 9) By making globalisation work for everyone.
- 10) By ensuring full recognition and enhancement of the role of Europe's regions, particularly those with legislative powers, and by building a structural policy which develops the potential of Europe's most needy regions.

MEP [Grahm Watson](#) is the [leader of the ALDE group](#). He was elected to this position in January 2002. The [ALDE Bureau](#) is the main decision making body of the ALDE Group. It is composed of the leaders of the [ALDE National Delegations](#), and oversees the Group's main strategy and policies.

ALDE's approach combines a concern for individual liberty with a free and dynamic business culture, economic and social solidarity, concern for the future of the environment, and respect and tolerance for cultural, religious and linguistic diversity. The group is pursuing three major campaigns: [climate change](#), [patient rights](#), and [government transparency](#).

Top Five ALDE Member Parties EP Seat Holders, as of March 2008

- 1) Liberal Democrats, UK, 11 seats
- 2) Democratic Party, Italy, 11 seats
- 3) Union for French Democracy, France, 10 seats
- 4) Free Democratic Party, Germany, 7 seats
- 5) National Liberal Party, Romania, 6 seats



Three ALDE Prime Ministers in joint press conference, Leaders Meeting 2005

ALDE Group in the European Parliament: Rue Wiertz/B-1047 Brussels/Belgium/Tel: +32 2 284 21 11
<http://www.alde.eu>

Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD)

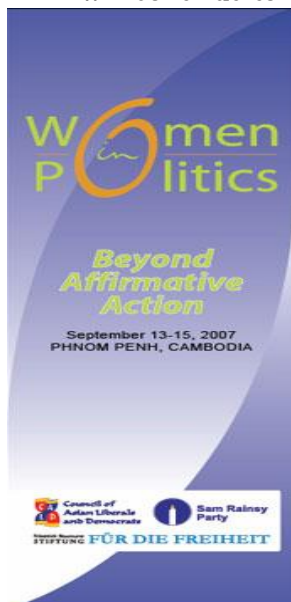


Asia faces a complex political situation, as it is a burgeoning center of the global economy while holding the largest number of the world's rural poor. Increasing affluence in urban centers is triggering transformations in the social, cultural, and political identities of the region's nations. The [Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats](#)¹⁴ began from the casual musings of legislators from the Philippines, Taiwan, and Thailand attending an international conference in Portugal in the early 1990s. Feeling out of place at the conference where the issues being discussed did not pertain to their region, they decided to form a new organization exclusively for Asian liberals. For the next two years, they expanded on their idea, encouraged by "the awareness that for all the differences in their countries' situations, there existed a vast common ground on which they could work together. At the very least, they were part of a region that happened to be the most exciting arena in terms of democratic development- even though it was also home to some of the most repressive regimes."

In December 1993, the group held its inaugural general assembly in Bangkok and three months later had its initial strategic planning session. In November 1994, CALD had its first major conference entitled "Liberal Democracy in the Asian Context." Since then, CALD has held five major conferences, each concentrating on a relevant topic.

CALD credits its success to the fact that it is a regional groupings composed of parties and individuals, not governments. Thus, members of the group's Council are not restrained by government positions and official policies. The group enjoys flexibility in its decisions and its actions. This is not to say that CALD has not had its share of difficulties. For example, the logistics of getting everybody together for a meeting can be complicated due to the one-China policy held by some of the countries.

Even though Asia continues to hold some of the most oppressive regimes in the world, liberal democracy has expanded. President Suharto of Indonesia stepped down from power in 1998 after three decades of control. Expectations are high for CALD in the upcoming years. Many hope that CALD will continue to assist young democracies by helping strengthen political parties and multi-party political systems.



Women in Politics

In October, 2005, CALD sponsored the Liberal International (LI) Women's Workshop and CALD General Assembly with the theme "Advancing Women in Politics: the Role of Political Parties." Continuing with the success of the event, another workshop was held in September, 2007 entitled "Beyond Affirmative Action." These training sessions are part of CALD's commitment to promoting the role of women in political parties through the "Win with Women" Global Action Plan. The Global Action Plan focuses on four main themes: removing restrictions on women's political participation; increasing the number of women elected officials; ensuring that political parties include women in meaningful leadership positions; and encouraging greater participation of women in government decision-making.

International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY)



The [International Federation of Liberal Youth](#)¹⁵ is an umbrella organization of liberal and radical youth and student organizations. The organization was founded in Denmark in 1979 out of the merger of the World Federation of Liberal and Radical Youth and the European Federation of Liberal and Radical Youth. IFLRY bases its policies in the belief of “universality and indivisibility of human rights.” It strives for a free society void of discrimination against minorities, and is in favor of “a market economy operating within the limits of a fair distribution of wealth and ecological sustainability.”

The highest body of IFLRY is the General Assembly. The General Assembly convenes at least once every two years and is responsible for adopting IFLRY’s political platform, the Manifesto, and activities. It also adopts resolutions on the organization’s policies, elects the bureau, and decides on the budget. The bureau, composed of the president, secretary general, and several vice-presidents, is responsible for overseeing the organization’s day to day operations. The secretariat in Brussels is run by the executive director, appointed by the bureau.

With its main goal of promoting and representing the interests of young liberals and radicals, IFLRY facilitates contact between member organizations through seminars, delegations, study trips, training courses, summer camps, a youth network, and a thematic network. IFLRY also publishes a quarterly magazine, [LIBEL](#), with the intent to distribute information on activities, encourage debate, and serve as a forum for the expression of ideas. IFLRY encourages contribution to the magazine, and accepts articles about political topics written in English, Spanish or French.



International Federation of Liberal Youth, Sofia, 2005

Examples of IFLRY European Members

- Ø Centerpartiets Ungdomsförbund, Sweden
- Ø Jeunes Radicaux, France
- Ø Gibraltar Liberal Youth, Spain
- Ø Rina Liberal Demokrate, Albania
- Ø Liberal Youth Assembly of NMSS, Bulgaria
- Ø Mladi Liberali BiH, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Ø Junge Liberale, Germany
- Ø Young Liberals of Serbia, Serbia

IFLRY has over [90 member organizations](#), and is itself a full member of Liberal International and collaborates with the Liberal group in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (COE). IFLRY is also a member of the European Youth Forum, has consultative status with NGO sections of the COE, UNESCO, and ECOSOC, and is active in the Youth Forum of the United Nations.

IFLRY: 1 Whitehall Place/London SW1A 2HD/United Kingdom/ Tel: +44 207 871 0940

<http://iflry.org>

Friedrich Naumann Stiftung (FNS)



The [Friedrich Naumann Stiftung](#)¹⁶ was founded in 1958. The foundation follows the teachings of Friedrich Naumann, a Protestant theologian. During the early 19th century, Naumann fought for the idea of civic education, believing that a democracy needs politically informed and educated citizens to perform to the highest standard. Following his arguments, the foundation is a tool for organized liberalism.

The foundation has offices in Europe, Africa, America, and Asia. It works closely with the Free Democratic Party of Germany and Liberal International. In the field, activities consist of seminars, conferences, and publications, all aimed at promoting liberal values and principles. Its international political dialogue program provides a discussion forum for a wide range of liberal issues. It also has a counseling program, working with candidates for political office, liberal political parties, and other democratic organizations.



Promoting Tolerance- U.S. study-trip for young leaders
2007



Regional Meeting in Prague
2007

Regional Office for Central, South and Southeast Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia (MSOE)

Since 1989, the Friedrich Naumann Stiftung has become increasingly active in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Today, [MSOE](#) coordinates activities in 26 different project countries. The foundation's main goal in the region is to "promote democracy, rule of law, pluralism, and free market economy." In order to realize this agenda, the foundation uses political education, consulting, and dialogue through conferences, seminars, and study trips. It also uses more "unconventional measures such as drama-performances or liberal forums of discussion."

The MSOE regional office was established in Sofia in March, 2007. MSOE has six sub-regions: Central Europe, Eastern Central Europe, Western Balkans, South-Eastern Balkans, East and Southern Caucasus.

Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung Karl-Marx-Strasse 2/14482 Potsdam/Germany/Tel:+49 331 7019-0
<http://www.fnst-freiheit.org>

Other liberal party foundations include...

- Ø Helen Suzman Foundation, South Africa, <http://www.hsf.org.za>
- Ø Liberal Vlaams Verbond, Belgium, <http://www.hetlvv.be>
- Ø Swedish International Liberal Center, Sweden, <http://www.silc.se>

International Liberal Groups on the Web

Liberal International

<http://www.liberal-international.org/>

European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party (ELDR)

<http://www.eldr.org>

ALDE - Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe in the European Parliament

<http://eld.europarl.eu.int/>

Liberal Group in the Council of Europe

<http://www.ldr-group.org/>

Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD)

<http://www.cald.org>

Friedrich Naumann Stiftung (Germany)

<http://www.fnst.de>

Swedish International Liberal Centre (Sweden)

<http://www.silc.se/>

International Federation of Liberal & Radical Youth (IFLRY)

<http://iflry.org>

Liberal and Radical Youth Movement of the European Union (LYMEC)

<http://www.lymec.org/index.php>

International Network of Liberal Women (INLW)

<http://www.liberal-international.org/inlw>

Examples of Liberal Parties around the World

- Ø South Africa: Democratic Alliance, <http://www.da.org.za>
- Ø Honduras: Liberal Party of Honduras, <http://www.partidoliberal.net>
- Ø Israel: Shinui, <http://www.shinui.org.il>
- Ø Philippines: Liberal Party, <http://www.liberalparty.ph>
- Ø United Kingdom: Liberal Democrats, <http://www.libdems.org.uk>
- Ø Australia: Liberal Party, <http://www.liberal.org.au>

Resources to Build Relations with Like-Minded Parties

What are the Party Internationals?

The party internationals are large groups of like-minded political parties from around the world united by common ideologies and mission statements. These organizations serve as networks for political parties to learn from one another as well as promote their ideology at the global level. They provide members with frameworks for the exchange of ideas and collective action, and offer practical aid to political parties most often in the form of technical assistance. The party internationals also promote and help shape nascent political parties in emerging democracies.

There are four main party internationals:

- [Centrist Democrat International \(CDI\)](http://www.idc-cdi.org/) (<http://www.idc-cdi.org/>),
- [Liberal International \(LI\)](http://www.liberal-international.org/) (<http://www.liberal-international.org/>),
- [Socialist International \(SI\)](http://www.socialistinternational.org/main.html) (<http://www.socialistinternational.org/main.html>)
- [International Democrat Union \(IDU\)](http://www.idu.org/) (<http://www.idu.org/>).

NDI works with the three largest party internationals: CDI, LI and SI. While NDI's official standing in each group varies, the Institute is the only organization to be recognized by all three. The U.S. Republican Party is a member of the fourth party international, IDU. Member parties of CDI and IDU increasingly overlap, as many have dual membership.

Gaining admittance to one of the party internationals is not quick or easy; the application procedure can be lengthy and competitive. Parties must demonstrate that they have a compatible platform and often membership must be approved by a Party Congress, which happens every two to three years.

Excerpt from Presentation of Richard Normington, former Secretary General, IDU, on “Standards for Membership in Political Party Internationals.”

Why join a party international?

- International status and recognition, especially for new members;
- Sharing campaign information;
- Direct political help; and
- “Friend or Foe” identification system for party foundations.

Party international members should...

- Share the aims and values of the respective Internationals;
- Be represented on a national level or have a very strong regional presence;
- Possess a democratic party structure; and
- Have the support of existing party international members.

How can I join a party international? – the example of the IDU...

“Parties wishing to join the IDU must have at least one existing member party to sponsor it. The member will take the lead in informing the IDU about the applicant and guiding the applicant through the admission process. Applicant parties must:

- Support the IDU’s London Declaration of Principles (1983);
- Send a letter from the Party Leader or Chairman asking for membership;
- Provide a copy of the party’s statutes and rules;
- Submit an election manifesto or policy paper for scrutiny;
- Be able to pay the subscription fees; and
- Invite the IDU to conduct a fact-finding visit.

Approval is given by the Executive, based on unanimity, and confirmed at the Party Leaders Conference.”

The European Parliament & Party Groups

The European Parliament (EP) is the only supranational institution whose members are directly elected by direct universal suffrage. In addition to its role as a co-legislator, the parliament has budgetary powers and exercises democratic controls over all of the European institutions.

The 785 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) are elected in the 27 member states of the European Union (EU) to five-year terms. Each member state decides on the form of its election, but follows identical democratic rules, including a minimum voting age of 18, universal suffrage and a secret ballot. The number of parliamentary seats each member state receives is decided through the “degressive proportionality” principle, meaning that bigger states agree to accept fewer seats than they would receive if the total 750 seats were divided according to population size so as to allow better representation for states with smaller populations.

MEPs are grouped by political affinity and not by nationality. There are currently seven political party groups in the EP. Each internally appoints a chair (or two co-chairs in the case of some groups), a bureau and a secretariat. These groups can, and often do, change with each new parliament. There are requirements for groups to form, and benefits when they do. Some MEPs do not belong to any political party group and are known as non-attached members.

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/groups/default_en.htm



[Group of the European People's Party \(Christian Democrats\) and European Democrats](#)



[Socialist Group in the European Parliament](#)



[Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe](#)



[Union for Europe of the Nations Group](#)



[Group of the Greens / European Free Alliance](#)



[Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left](#)



[Independence/Democracy Group](#)

Information courtesy of [The European Parliament](#).

Major Political Party Foundations

Social democratic party foundations include...

- Ø Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Germany, <http://www.fes.de>
- Ø Alfred Mozer Stichting, Netherlands, <http://www.alfredmozerstichting.nl>
- Ø Foundation Jean Jaures, France, <http://www.jean-jaures.org>
- Ø Olof Palme International Center, Sweden, <http://www.palmecenter.org>

Center right party foundations include...

- Ø Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Germany, <http://www.kas.de>
- Ø Hanns Seidel Foundation, Germany, <http://www.hss.de>
- Ø Jarl Hjalmarson Stiftelsen, Sweden, <http://www.hjalmarsonstiftelsen.se>

Liberal party foundations include...

- Ø Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Germany, <http://www.fnst-freiheit.org>
- Ø Helen Suzman Foundation, South Africa, <http://www.hsf.org.za>
- Ø Liberal Vlaams Verbond, Belgium, <http://www.hetlvv.be>
- Ø Swedish International Liberal Center, Sweden, <http://www.silc.se>

ANNEX:

**National Democratic Institute and Political Party
Development**



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NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) is a nonprofit organization working to strengthen and expand democracy worldwide. Calling on a global network of volunteer experts, NDI provides practical assistance to civic and political leaders advancing democratic values, practices and institutions. NDI works with democrats in every region of the world to build political and civic organizations, safeguard elections, and promote citizen participation, openness and accountability in government.

Democracy depends on legislatures that represent citizens and oversee the executive, independent judiciaries that safeguard the rule of law, political parties that are open and accountable, and elections in which voters freely choose their representatives in government. Acting as a catalyst for democratic development, NDI bolsters the institutions and processes that allow democracy to flourish.

Build Political and Civic Organizations: NDI helps build the stable, broad-based and well-organized institutions that form the foundation of a strong civic culture. Democracy depends on these mediating institutions—the voice of an informed citizenry, which link citizens to their government and to one another by providing avenues for participation in public policy.

Safeguard Elections: NDI promotes open and democratic elections. Political parties and governments have asked NDI to study electoral codes and to recommend improvements. The Institute also provides technical assistance for political parties and civic groups to conduct voter education campaigns and to organize election monitoring programs. NDI is a world leader in election monitoring, having organized international delegations to monitor elections in dozens of countries, helping to ensure that polling results reflect the will of the people.

Promote Openness and Accountability: NDI responds to requests from leaders of government, parliament, political parties and civic groups seeking advice on matters from legislative procedures to constituent service to the balance of civil-military relations in a democracy. NDI works to build legislatures and local governments that are professional, accountable, open and responsive to their citizens.

International cooperation is key to promoting democracy effectively and efficiently. It also conveys a deeper message to new and emerging democracies that while autocracies are inherently isolated and fearful of the outside world, democracies can count on international allies and an active support system. Headquartered in Washington D.C., with field offices in every region of the world, NDI complements the skills of its staff by enlisting volunteer experts from around the world, many of whom are veterans of democratic struggles in their own countries and share valuable perspectives on democratic development.



NDI AND POLITICAL PARTY DEVELOPMENT

Political parties are a cornerstone of representative democracy and serve a function like no other institution. They can aggregate differences among citizens – over ideologies, interests, leaders or policies – place them in a national context and translate preferences into public policies. Political parties train and nominate political leaders who assume roles in governing. They link the institutions of government to elements of civil society, such as economic, ethnic, cultural, religious and other social groups. Through the expression of principled differences of opinion, political parties can help create a better understanding of issues and identify solutions or workable compromises.

For more than 20 years, NDI has worked with political parties around the world to create more open political environments in which citizens can actively participate in the democratic process. NDI approaches its work from a practical viewpoint, offering nonpartisan assistance to promote parties' long-term organizational development, enhance their competitiveness in local and national elections, and help them participate constructively in government.

In many places, political parties are either too weak, too personalistic, too constrained by oppressive governments or too out of touch to earn respect and support. Working effectively with political parties requires an understanding of the incentives that affect their leaders and shape prospects for reform. Through research into such issues as party law, candidate selection and party finance, the Institute provides comparative information on various aspects of party politics shedding light on obstacles to and possible approaches for creating more effective and inclusive parties. Under one recent initiative, for example, NDI examined the incentives that affect the interest and ability of party leaders to develop effective policies on poverty reduction.

NDI believes that the challenges that parties face in developing more representative, more accountable and more effective structures are best understood by peers who have shared similar experiences. The Institute's relationships with parties in every region of the world – notably through its unique partnership with Centrist Democrat International, Liberal International and Socialist International – are fundamental to its assistance strategy. Through party-to-party exchanges and targeted study trips to relevant third countries, NDI enlists established parties in sharing tried and tested democratic norms and organizing methods with others in the throes of change.

The Institute's programming ranges from consultations at the highest levels of political party leadership to hands-on interactive training in political organizing for party branch officials. Using guided practice and tailored training tools, the Institute assists political parties in developing and applying new skills and practices that make for more open and representative organizations. NDI increasingly integrates information technology tools and public opinion research in its programs to help political parties develop more effective ways of representing members and communicating with the public at large.

With NDI's assistance, parties from across the political spectrum in approximately 60 countries have introduced internal reforms to increase participation and transparency, improve their internal communications, develop better-informed policy positions, and reach out more effectively to women, youth and other traditionally marginalized groups. Elected party officials have organized themselves more strategically to pursue legislative agendas and reach out to constituents. In its role as a trusted and neutral facilitator, the Institute has also helped political parties work together to shape the regulatory frameworks that affect them, improve mechanisms for constructive interparty dialogue, and collectively address other issues of shared concern.



As the countries of Central and Eastern Europe move from authoritarian communist regimes to stable democracies, NDI has redefined its assistance strategy, reducing its presence in Bulgaria and Romania to reflect their new roles as assistance providers. NDI has also shifted its priorities to the western Balkans, where countries are struggling to resolve ethnic conflicts, promote transparent and inclusive government, and join the Euro-Atlantic community.

Kosovo's declaration of independence from Serbia in February 2008 began the final chapter in the disintegration of Yugoslavia and occasioned a political earthquake still reverberating in Moscow, Brussels, and Washington. Serbia's persistent intransigence regarding Kosovo will likely hinder democratic progress and foster instability throughout the region. Serbia's own electorate remains divided between pro-Europe reformers and nationalists inspired by former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic. Bosnia's Republika Srpska has stepped up its rhetoric on secession, not only threatening the country's EU prospects but calling into question the integrity of the state. Meanwhile, NATO's April 2008 rejection of Macedonia due to the latter's name dispute with Greece casts the region into further uncertainty.



Marja Bijl of the Dutch Social Labor Party discusses her party's policy development process before leaders of 10 social democratic parties in the Balkans. NDI held the Belgrade event in March 2008 in cooperation with Dutch, Swedish, and Greek social democratic party foundations. The event is part of NDI's regional initiative to assist center-left, liberal, and conservative parties in the Balkans on reform efforts in the context of European integration.

Despite political pressures, these countries are building democratic institutions to address the deep-seated problems of ethnic conflict, weak governing capacity, unsteady economies, and corruption. Democracy support offers opportunities to solve these challenges over the long-term by creating open, participatory, responsive, and ultimately stable political systems.

NDI and its partners transcend barriers, be they ethnic, gender, or political in nature, to connect citizens to their governments by supporting parliaments, mainstream political parties, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and civic groups. NDI is assisting parliaments to open the legislative process to citizens through public hearings and open door days, and MPs are working with NDI to open new constituent offices to interact directly with the citizens they represent. NDI's in-country programs are supplemented by innovative regional initiatives to increase Roma political participation, foster inter-ethnic tolerance, and create learning opportunities among parliaments through parliamentary staff exchange on the legislative process and oversight of the executive.

NDI's programs are funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development; the National Endowment for Democracy; the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor; the Government of Switzerland; and the Open Society Institute. The Institute benefits from partnerships with the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the support of EU missions and European embassies.



Taking steps toward ideological clarity and more representative policy is the greatest development challenge for political parties in southeastern Europe, many of which have languished under outmoded, personality-driven identities and are unable to connect with voters on party principles. With assistance from NDI, these political parties – from the right, left, and center – have begun designing detailed policy platforms in line with their ideological roots, as well as with their European counterparts, and have begun presenting them to voters. By developing policies that more accurately reflect party values and beliefs and citizen concerns, parties in these nascent democracies can strengthen their relationships with voters and compete more effectively in elections.



Swedish Social Democratic Party International Secretary Ann Linde discusses contemporary social democratic trends with members of Serbia's Democratic Party (DS) leadership.

NDI's Program Goals

As part of a region-wide initiative funded by the National Endowment for Democracy, NDI is helping parties to clarify and develop policy agendas that reflect ideological values and political orientation, drawing on mainstream European parties and sister parties within the Balkans. Participating parties were oriented toward the three major political identities – Social Democrat, Liberal, and Center Right – at a series of NDI seminars that took place alongside European Party congresses. NDI is now helping them implement party development projects, developed at the seminars based on the priorities of the parties and consultation with NDI and European party representatives. The first individual party project was conducted in Montenegro with the Social Democratic Party, which applied Labour Party examples to take a stand against the privatization of the country's major power plant.

NDI Activities

In a collection of up to 30 such individual party projects, NDI is addressing party identity, policy, women's participation, and party rules reform in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, and Serbia. These projects include NDI's efforts to strengthen women's participation among Romanian liberals and build the organizational capacity of Macedonia's partner parties. In cooperation with Dutch, Greek, and Swedish social democrats, NDI also held a regional seminar for social democratic parties on their efforts to establish and advance internal party training capacities or political foundations that contribute to policy development.



CEE REGIONAL POLITICAL PARTY INITIATIVE

Social-Democrats in Regional Cooperation:

Political Party Training Centers & Foundations

NDI's regional political party initiative is sponsoring an event March 15 to 16, 2008 in Belgrade, Serbia in collaboration with the Olof Palme International Center of the Swedish Social Democrats, the Dutch Alfred Mozer Foundation, and the training center of the Greek Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK). The event aims to assist social democratic political parties of southeastern Europe to address questions of policy development and party training through political party foundations or training centers. The Institute's regional political party initiative, funded by the National Endowment for Democracy, is helping parties clarify and develop policy agendas that reflect ideological values and political orientations, drawing on mainstream European parties and sister parties within the Balkans. This regional seminar will foster cooperation among the social democratic parties of the western Balkans, as participants will share experiences and challenges encountered while setting up party institutions, compare the organizations' forms and functions, and determine best practices for their establishment and implementation.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND PARTY TRAINING: PURPOSE, FUNCTION, AND ROLE

Parties throughout southeastern Europe are exploring ways to improve policy development processes and platform communication and training mechanisms, some by creating party foundations, think tanks, or training centers. The seminar will address if these party-affiliated institutions act as think tanks to do research and develop policy platforms, and examine their role in clarifying and educating party members on its social democratic identity. Will they act as political foundations to coordinate the parties' relationship internationally? Will they act as training centers for the political education of new or young members or party candidates? Will they have sole responsibility for political education in the party? Each question represents a useful possible function of a new party organization, and none is mutually exclusive of the others. However, institutional function must be clear, concrete and strategically implemented for these institutions to make a substantial contribution to political party development.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND PARTY TRAINING: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

These new institutions continue to face many challenges, principally to their role vis-à-vis the party structure and their mandate within the party. The seminar will examine the extent to which institutions are integrated into the party structure, and how far their mandates extend in relation to the party. Some institutions take an international dimension as the representative institution to other social democratic parties in the region and Europe. These institutions have the potential to assume the role of coordinating donor support, considering the widespread sources of international assistance to political parties in southeastern Europe. This proposes a further question: would it be funded through the party itself, or receive international donor support?

INSTITUTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY

Although the question of form and function is the fundamental issue facing political parties looking to establish institutions, additional challenges remain to ensure these institutions are effective and sustainable within their parties. How can parties create sustainable foundations and training centers? While the participating parties are at different stages in the development process of their institutions, the institutions still represent great potential for coordination and cooperation between the parties. They may also serve as an ongoing forum to exchange resources, ideas, trainers and materials. This seminar represents a jumping-off point for continued dialogue among social democratic parties in the region by recognizing the levels of development each party institution has achieved.

Notes

1. All information and pictures on Socialist International taken from the Socialist International website, www.socialistinternational.org, accessed in January and February 2008.
2. All information and pictures on Party of European Socialists taken from the Party of European Socialists website, www.pes.org, accessed in January and February 2008.
3. All information and pictures on International Union of Socialist Youth taken from the International Union of Socialist Youth website, www.iusy.org, accessed in January and February 2008.
4. All information and pictures on Friedrich Ebert Stiftung taken from the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung website, www.fes.de, accessed in January and February 2008.
5. All information and pictures on Centrist Democrat International taken from the Centrist Democrat International website, www.idc-cdi.org, accessed in September 2007.
6. All information and pictures on European People's Party taken from the European People's Party website, www.epp.eu, accessed in January and February 2008.
7. All information and pictures on International Democrat Union taken from the International Democrat Union website, www.idu.org, accessed in January and February 2008.
8. All information and pictures on Democratic Union of Africa taken from the Democratic Union of Africa website, www.du-africa.org, accessed in January and February 2008.
9. All information and pictures on Youth European People's Party taken from the Youth of the European People's Party website, www.yepp-eu.org, accessed in January and February 2008.
10. All information and pictures on Konrad Adenauer Stiftung taken from the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung website, www.kaf.de, accessed in January and February 2008.
11. All information and pictures on Liberal International taken from the Liberal International website, www.liberal-international.org, accessed in January and February 2008.
12. All information and pictures on European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party taken from the European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party website, www.eldr.org, accessed in January and February 2008.
13. All information and pictures on Alliance of Liberal Democrats taken from the Alliance of Liberal Democrats website, www.alde.eu, accessed in January and February 2008.
14. All information and pictures on Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats taken from the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats website, www.cald.org, accessed in January and February 2008.

15. All information and pictures on International Federation of Liberal Youth taken from the International Federation of Liberal Youth website, www.iflry.org, accessed in January and February 2008.

16. All information and pictures on Friedrich Naumann Stiftung taken from the Friedrich Naumann Stiftung website, www.fnst-freiheit.org/, accessed in January and February 2008.

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