

Short report - liberal ideas for Europe

Brussels, Belgium 4-5/04/2019

This seminar provides participants with a combination between a political philosophical approach (unusual in political events) and a hands-on political approach, aiming to shed new light on how knowing where liberal ideas come from can help them become better debaters and can help liberals improve policy proposals in the respective contexts. This seminar will also take participants through the ideas of different parties and challenge them to try to find ways to shape a liberal message for Europe.

Danica Vihinen, the Secretary General of LYMEC opened the seminar and explained all practicalities. After her the Vice President Edgaras Mascinskas took the floor to talk about Liberalism and Centrism. There is a fundamental difference between the two and liberals shouldn't be afraid of having discussions internally. Because those debates will result in more fundamental answers to populist propaganda. Thus, the internal differences make liberal groups stronger.

Secretary General of ALDE-CoR Sean O'Curneen handled the future of liberalism and the role of cities in a global world. After an introduction, he presented the booklet on how to build a liberal city. By showing some best practises, the participants got concrete examples of putting the presented principals into practice.

Philippe De Backer, the Belgian Minister for Digital Agenda, presented his views on classical Liberalism in the 21st century and how to fight populism. Politicians and liberals should regenerate their feeling with the liberal core values. Re-establishing the knowledge of the liberal philosophy is the best framework to bring your own rational and emotional answers against populists according to the minister.

ALDE Party's Head of Communication Unit Didrik de Schaetzen presented how ALDE is bringing a liberal viewpoint throughout Europe these elections. By combining a unified message with a diverse Team Europe that is applicable locally, the ALDE Party wants to bring the European elections closer to the voters and convince them.

Gert Jan Geling from D66 and Den Hague University was the last speaker. He brought the basic values of Progressive Liberalism, based on five basic values that are used by D66. Thereby learning the participants how to handle tools to translate principles into policy proposals and concrete measures.