



## A Liberal European Leadership after 2019: Short Report

The conference took place September 2nd in Brussels and the participants arrived at the venue, welcomed with coffee and other beverages around 10 am. One of the goals of the conference was to follow up how the MEPs used a platform they were provided from the previous conference held in Stockholm in April. This platform contained advice how to strengthen their messages and to build stronger ties between liberals across Europe.

The conference began with ELF board member, Csaba Tóth, presenting the organisation's work, policies and the training programs the MEPs attended. MEPs Karen Melchior from Danish Radikale Venstre and Susana Solís Pérez from Spanish Ciudadanos, discussed their campaigning strategies since both national and EP elections occurred at the same time. MEPs Anna Donath from Hungarian Momentum and Ilhan Kyuchyuk from Bulgarian MRF explained how it was running against their countries anti-Europe governments. A common goal among the MEPs was to bring the EU closer and define it to their citizens. Also, the Centre Party's MP and spokesperson on European affairs, Annika Qarlsson, attended the event.

After lunch, ELF's data and analytics manager Max Sundermann, assisted by Philipp Hansen, head of the political unit of the ALDE party, presented the results and findings from the EP election in May. European Liberals gained the highest MEP share in history.

Campaign consultant Ian Marquardt discussed what the next challenges are for ALDE parties in Europe and how to maintain these liberal values, such as freedom of speech and democracy, when populist forces are opposed to these.

On the whole, the conference was very successful, and the participant's chance to evaluate their training and campaigns will bring them new valuable knowledge for their future political work.