



2014 2 York Conference Extra

INTERLIB

Journal of the Liberal International British Group



Robert Woodthorpe Browne exchanges some blunt points with Counsellor Sergey Nalobin of the Embassy of the Russian Federation at the LIBG Diplomats Reception.

York – the international bits

As we cower in the wake of the Red Army, sorry, the Russian Army rampaging all over the sovereignty of Ukraine, International affairs are not to the fore of the agenda at York, though it is hoped that both Syria and Ukraine will be debated in topical motions. The following struggle to maintain the Lib Dems' internationalist convictions (Brussels Parish Council aside)... Reports of these events are welcome.

Conference Saturday 8th

09.45–11.10 F4 Policy motion: Making Migration Work for Britain

Fringe Saturday Lunchtime 13.00–14.00

Liberal Democrats for Seekers of Sanctuary

Asylum: Achievements, aspirations and actions

Speakers: Sarah Teather MP (asked); Lord Roger Roberts; and Jerome Phelps, Detention Action.

Description: What we've achieved (ending child detention), aspire to achieve through new policy (ending indefinite detention); what more we can expect in Government, by 2015 and beyond.

Hilton, Library Suite

ActionAid UK

Women in the world: the International Women's Day debate

Leading women to discuss women in the world and celebrate International Women's Day.

Hilton, Walmgate Room

Refreshments provided.

Fringe Saturday Early Evening 18.15–19.30

Liberal Democrat Women, Chinese Liberal Democrats and Ethnic Minority Liberal Democrats

Women and Diverse Communities: Challenges and Opportunities

Working together on International Womens Day, with Stephen Williams MP, Cllr Jackie Beckford and PPC Sarah Yong who will tackle the thorny issues surrounding gender and race equality and the potential force of womens groups. Chair: Rosalyn Gordon. Everyone welcome.

Novotel, Meeting Room 4

Heathrow Airport

Infrastructure Reception

Please join Clare Harbord, Corporate Affairs Director at Heathrow Airport for a drinks reception and hear about Heathrow's vision for its future, and the future of the UK's transport infrastructure (other speakers tbc).

Novotel, Riverside Room

Refreshments provided.

Fringe Saturday Late Evening 22.00–23.30

The Glee Club

The traditional end of conference celebration of songs old and new. Pick up your copy of the Liberator Songbook so you can raise the roof, with songs from the days of Gladstone and Lloyd George to satirical songs from 20 years of the Liberal Revue.

Cash bar. Special bar prices: Bottle of beer £3.90, Large glass of house wine £5.00

Note: This event ends at 02.00

Novotel, Fishergate Suite

The European Azerbaijan Society

TEAS Jazz Reception

A reception with live jazz by Sabina Rakcheyeva and the Deco Ensemble.

Refreshments and food will be provided.

Note: this event ends at 00.00

Hilton, City of York Suite

Refreshments provided

Conference Sunday 9th

09.00–09.45 F17 Policy motion: Emergency motion or topical issue

09.45–10.45 F18 Policy motion: In Europe, In Work

Other EVENTS

28th- 30th March Scottish Liberal Democrats Spring Conference, AECC, Aberdeen

24th March Ethnic Minority Liberal Democrats, NLC

4th-6th April Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru (Welsh Liberal Democrats) Spring Conference, City Campus, Newport.

24th-27th April LI Congress, Rotterdam.

2nd June Egypt Forum. Lawrence Robson Room, NLC. 7.00pm

5th June Tim Garden Memorial Lecture: Sir Menzies Campbell MP will speak on 'Whither Europe?' Chatham House 6.00pm

30th June LIBG AGM, NLC followed by joint meeting with Liberal Democrat History Group on 1914.

4th–8th October Liberal Democrats Autumn Conference, Glasgow

NLC= National Liberal Club, Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HE - Underground: Embankment

Liberal International (British Group)

Chair: Wendy Kyrle-Pope, 1 Brook Gardens, Barnes, London SW13 0LY - *email* w.kyrle@virgin.net

InterLiB is published by the Liberal International (British Group). Views expressed therein are those of the authors and are not necessarily the views of LI(BG), LI or any of its constituent parties.

Comments and articles can be sent to Lockhart & Hastings, Creative Media Centre, 45 Robertson Street, Hastings TN34 1HL, email lockharthastings@btconnect.com

ALDE-PACE Statement on Ukraine: calls to refrain from military action in Ukraine Wednesday 5 March 2014 11:03

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (ALDE-PACE) calls on the Russian authorities not to conduct any action in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine which could threaten territorial integrity of Ukraine and undermine regional peace and stability. Local population cannot and must not become hostages of a geopolitical play. On the other hand, the Ukrainian authorities would gain from clearly showing that they are capable of assuring due protection to all residents, and that national minorities have nothing to fear from the political change in the country.

Any calls or threats of launching a military intervention are unacceptable and will provoke strong international reaction in line with the international law. We recall that the members of the Council of Europe have an obligation to rely on diplomacy in the spirit of dialogue and refrain from military action in its relations with neighbours.

ALDE-PACE strongly supports the statement and the mission of the Monitoring committee of PACE regarding the situation in Ukraine. Later this week, the political crisis in Ukraine, as well as possible responses to the grave instability in the region, will be discussed at PACE meetings in Paris. We will be closely following the situation and will demand from our organisation an adequate reply.

The Council of Europe can and should continue to provide legal expertise to amend the re-enacted 2004 Constitution, to adopt a new unified electoral code as well as to draft a new law on languages that is fully in line with requirements of the Framework Convention and Charter on Minority Languages. ALDE-PACE calls for an urgent debate during the April part-session of the Assembly in order to discuss the situation in Ukraine as well as the worrying role the Russian Federation has taken in the conflict.

The ALDE-PACE group recently elected a new leader, Jordi Xuclá i Costa MP, leader of the Catalan Group of Liberal International and LI Human Rights Committee member. Having been elected, Xuclá i Costa emphasized that "in these challenging times ALDE-PACE, and Liberal International, will lead the fight for more democracy, freedom and Human Rights."

ROTTERDAM CONGRESS

The 59th Congress of Liberal International will take place in Rotterdam, The Netherlands on 24-27 April 2014. Prominent liberal leaders, parliamentarians and dignitaries from around the world will meet at the home of Europe's largest port. The Congress is being held under the patronage of Prime Minister Mark Rutte, at the invitation of LI full member VVD. With liberals in government at the local level in Rotterdam and nationally, there is no better place to discuss the theme: 'Enhancing Global Trade'.

Monday night's LIBG executive meeting decided to send the motions received for the LI Congress in Rotterdam next month to executive members for information.

Robert Woodthorpe Browne is co-ordinating the British delegation and any amendments and will contact those who have expressed an interest in being an LIBG or Lib Dem delegate. robertbrowne@cix.co.uk

Information about the event is available here:

http://www.liberal-international.org/site/Congress_Meetings.html

Mark Smulian



Liberal International, 1 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HD

Resolution number: 01
Title: **Global emissions trading**

Submitted by: *Centerpartiet* (Sweden)

The Congress of the Liberal International, convened in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, on 26 April 2014

- 1 **Noting that:**
- 2 - The international community so far has failed to reach an agreement on climate change.
- 3 - States have agreed that a new global climate agreement shall be reached in 2015 and enter into force by
- 4 2020.
- 5 - There is a great certainty that human emissions of greenhouse gasses are the cause of global climate
- 6 change, according to the IPCC.
- 7 - It is still possible to limit the temperature increase to below two degrees, according to the IPCC.
- 8 - Limiting climate change will require substantial and sustained reductions of greenhouse gas emissions.
- 9 - Europe's system for emissions trading is the biggest in the world and regulates half of Europe's emissions.
- 10 - Similar emissions trading systems around the world have emerged and have been used for several years
- 11 - By linking different systems, the market would grow, allowing emissions to be reduced in a more cost-
- 12 effective way, as capital is diverted towards the cheapest emissions reductions available on the market.
- 13 - An expanded emissions trading and linking different systems would increase economic efficiency as it is
- 14 more likely that emissions reductions take place where the cost of implementing it is lowest, the more
- 15 participants, sectors and emissions sources are covered by the trade.
- 16 - Clean development mechanisms (CDM) have successfully mobilized more than USD 300 billion in new
- 17 investment and emissions reductions of 1.4 billion tons CO2 equivalents.
- 18 - CDM provides flexibility to facilitate more ambitious and cost-effective emission commitments and
- 19 accelerate the transition in developing countries.
- 20
- 21 **Stresses:**
- 22 - The urgent need for immediate and ambitious action to combat climate change.
- 23 - That linking regional CO2 markets to form one global carbon market will benefit the industry, reduce costs
- 24 for emissions reductions and reduce competition distortions between companies competing in the same
- 25 market.
- 26 - The need for an agreement on common reporting requirements for the contribution to sustainable
- 27 development by CDMs.
- 28
- 29 **Calls on:**
- 30 - All leaders to make every effort to ensure that the UN leaders' summit on climate change in September
- 31 2014 is a success and provides real progress in the efforts to secure a global agreement by 2015 to keep
- 32 climate change below the two degree target.
- 33 - Political leaders globally to increase efforts in reaching an agreement on a global emissions trading
- 34 system.
- 35 - All countries that have not signed or ratified the Kyoto protocol to do so.



Liberal International, 1 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HD

Resolution number: 02

Title: **Stronger Protection of Human Rights in the Context of Mega Sporting Events**

Submitted by: *the International Federation of Liberal Youth*

The Congress of the Liberal International, convened in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, on 26 April 2014

1 **Noting** that

- 2 • Over the last years, cases of serious infringements of basic rights have been reported in connection to
3 several mega sporting events (“MSEs”).
4 • The Winter Olympics of 2014 took place in Sochi, Russia, in February, and the World Cup Football will be
5 arranged in Brazil, which is also hosting the 2016 Olympics. The FIFA World Cup will be arranged in Russia
6 in 2018, followed by Qatar in 2022.
7 • NGO’s such as Human Rights Watch, Amnesty and several newspapers have addressed allegations of
8 grave infringements on the rights of migrant workers, LGBT+-persons, forced evictions, the right to free
9 assembly, and environmental issues in relation to the Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia.
10 • For the FIFA World Cup in Brazil, cases of forced evictions, poor working conditions and deaths among
11 workers, as well as discrimination have been reported.
12

13 **Considering** that

- 14 • MSEs are more than “just sports”, as they may attract investments and create jobs, develop areas,
15 improve infrastructure, boost tourism and improvements in public attitudes towards disabilities and
16 participation in sports have been reported in relation to MSEs. However, these changes may weaken the
17 protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms if not subjected to any regulations or control
18 mechanisms ensuring human rights standards are met.
19 • Promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms are often listed among the aims and purposes of
20 MSEs. For instance, The International Olympic Committee speaks of having a “mission to spark social change
21 through sport”.
22

23 **Taking into account** that

- 24 • In 2012, a communiqué on human rights was agreed upon by Brazil, Russia, South Korea and the United
25 Kingdom in relation to the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic games, including the role of businesses.
26

27 **Recognizing** that

- 28 • While MSEs should and cannot be held responsible for all problems in hosting states, the organizing
29 bodies should require certain responsibilities of hosting governments.
30

31 **Calls upon** governments and the organizing bodies of MSEs to set up stricter requirements on hosting
32 governments in ensuring human rights and freedoms are respected in the whole process of arranging the events,
33 including corporate responsibility for sponsors involved.
34

35 **Calls upon** the organizing bodies and the international community to take action when systematic violations of
36 human rights and fundamental freedoms are detected in relation to MSEs.



Liberal International, 1 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HD

Resolution number: 03

Title: **Preventing & Combating Violence against Women through the Istanbul Convention of the Council of Europe**

Submitted by: *the International Network of Liberal Women*

The Congress of the Liberal International, convened in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, on 26 April 2014

1 **Noting that**

- 2 - every day around the world, women face not just domestic violence but other forms of violence, including
3 female mutilation, stalking and "honour" killings.
4 - just recently for example new legislation passed by the Afghan parliament is threatening the safety and
5 security of Afghan women and girls. If signed into law, the effects would be devastating – rapes, beatings
6 and "honour" killings could occur with relative impunity, fathers could more easily arrange child marriages,
7 and women and girls would have little chance of getting justice for violence against them. If a woman or
8 girl is assaulted by a relative, not only would she be prevented from testifying against her attacker, but
9 any other close relative of the accused assailant who was a witness, would also be barred. What Afghan
10 women have achieved for women's rights lately will be swept away if this legislation is signed by the
11 President.

12

13 **Considering**

- 14 - the Council of Europe and its member states resolved to reverse this trend.
15 - this Convention provides practical measures to prevent violence, protect victims and prosecute
16 perpetrators.
17 - the Convention can lead to safety from fear and violence, because it is already shaping legislation, policies
18 and practices in member states.
19 - this Convention if implemented widely will influence states beyond the Council of Europe to take over the
20 content and consequences of this Convention.
21 - to enter into force at least ten member states must ratify this Convention. Andorra ratified as ninth in
22 January. One more of the 24 signatory states is needed to let it enter into force.

23

24 **Calls upon**

- 25 - the Liberal leaders and parliamentarians to take steps to get every member state of the Council of Europe
26 to sign, ratify and implement this Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and
27 domestic violence;
28 - all Liberals leaders and parliamentarians from countries not member of the Council of Europe to work on
29 the globalization of the Istanbul Convention in their countries. They should work on the adoption of the
30 content of the Convention by their governments;
31 - all Liberal leaders and parliamentarians to work towards a worldwide Convention to be negotiated which
32 should be a worldwide integral and effective instrument to prevent and combat violence against women
33 and domestic violence.

DIRECTED BY CHRISTINE KIMBERLEY
WRITTEN BY MICHAEL PUNTER

Performed by
SUZANNE KENDALL
VICTORIA JOHNSTON
with the voice of TOM GOODMAN-HILL

BUNKER GIRLS

MAY, 1945

TWO WOMEN. ONE FÜHRER. NO EXIT



11-30 March 2014 7.30pm / Matinees Sunday 4pm
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