

On the Liberal Leaders Meeting held in Osijek, Croatia on 2nd October 2010 we, the liberal parties of the South East Europe, members of LIBSEEN – Liberal South East European Network adopt the

OSIJEK DECLARATION

Political declaration of LIBSEEN member organisations
Liberal South East European Network

With this declaration we are outlining the political goals and ideas of the liberal political parties that will be the guidelines for our future work.

Individualism and individual freedoms

As liberals of the South East Europe we strongly believe in the individual freedoms of all the citizens, and we are of conviction that individual person is the base of every society, and therefore as such each person has the full right to exercise its individuality. We also believe that individuals should doubt their own truths and consider fairly and open-mindedly the truths of others with the goal of establishing the mutual tolerance and understanding.

Coming from the countries which in its history have witnessed intense ethnic intolerance, from which we still have not recovered, we as liberals obligate ourselves that we will work within our societies and within our region and European Union, on promotion of individual rights and full integration and equalization of rights of all minorities with those of so called majority. We as liberals praise the differences amongst ourselves as we see the differences as something that enriches ourselves and our societies.

We strongly support full integration of Roma people in the society as equal members of it. Roma make one of the largest minorities in some of our countries as such represent a group of people who are discriminated the most. We call upon final reconciliation of the nations who have participated in the latest European war, the one in ex-Yugoslavia, but also on reconciliation of other nations who share centuries long ethnic intolerance. We call for the final start of the process of equalization of rights of sexual minorities in our societies, granting them the right to execute all the rights other members of our societies have.

We call for decriminalization of use of soft drugs in our countries as we believe the current legislation is too severe and damaging. Prostitution is an unavoidable integral part of our societies, and as such has existed since the very beginnings of our civilization. It is necessary for us to finally face that fact and find the way to protect the providers of those services as well as the clients, dropping the “no tolerance” rule that our countries exercise. At the same time, liberals most strongly oppose any kind of slavery; hence reiterate the importance of fighting human trafficking and sex slavery. As our region has large number of

persons of Islam religion and in light of increasing intolerance towards Islam, we as liberals declare we will do everything in our power to protect those persons and promote tolerance between religions.

The role of the state & economical freedoms

As liberals we see the role of the state as the protector of our individual rights and freedoms. The governments must respect and affirmatively safeguard the liberty, equality and dignity of each individual. We as liberals believe government has a fundamental responsibility to help those who are less fortunate, as well as implement policies which would enable improvements and facilitate wider access to health care, education, social security, job training for all citizens and welfare for the neediest members of society.

We believe that the state must stay strong on secularism as we see that some countries of our region are turning away from it. We do not see the space for religions of any sort in the state administration, public schools, public universities or public hospitals. Religion is individual right and as such should not have any influence on the work of state and its institutions.

As liberals we strongly support freedom of economy and freedom of movement of goods, people, services and money. We do believe that some state regulations are needed in order to avoid monopolization and to serve to protect the rights of consumers and entrepreneurs, but we call upon our nations governments and we obligate ourselves to enable functioning of the free economy which will lead in development of our economies and raise of the standards of our citizens.

We believe that the above mentioned requires good governance in the respective countries in the region, especially emphasizing the necessity of: Judiciary free of partisan influence, enabling (the full functioning of) the rule of law, guaranteeing the protection of the freedoms and rights; Democratic and civic control over the security services preventing their abuse and interference in the social, economic and political life; Freedom of media, concerning their structure and transparency of ownership, thus enabling their role proper for the democratic society we strive for; and Transparent financing of political parties, releasing the economy and the very politics from political clientelism.