



Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for **Europe**  
Alliance des Démocrates et des Libéraux pour l'**Europe**

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## Press Release

PRESS & INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

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### **ALDE disappointed with lack of ambition of EU Agency for Fundamental Rights**

Today the European Parliament adopted a report indicating its expectations on the Multi-annual Framework for the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights established on 1st March 2007. The Fundamental Rights Agency will have three key functions: to collect information and data; provide advice to the EU and its Member States and promote dialogue with civil society to raise public awareness of fundamental rights.

ALDE-members welcome the establishment of the agency, but stressed that the framework programme is too minimalist. **Sophie in 't Veld (D66, Netherlands)**: *"We want the agency to be able to act as a real watchdog for fundamental rights in Europe. The European Parliament is the strongest supporter of a strong agency. As it only got limited powers, we should endow it with a Multi-annual Framework that will allow the FRA to play its role to the full."*

*"The current list is not sufficiently focussed, and some key areas are missing. Homophobia, anti-gypsism, violation of privacy and the erosion of civil liberties in the fight against terrorism are of very real concern in a number of Member States. It is no coincidence that the Member States wish to keep these issues out."*

The European People's Party and the European Socialist did not oppose the minimalist approach of the Council.

*"The Parliament could have sent a stronger signal to the Council that we want a strong Agency with the power to protect the rights of our citizens. It is disappointing that the other groups were not willing to demand more."*, concluded In 't Veld.

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Please also consult: <http://www.alde.eu>