

Annual Report: The European Centre-Right LGBT+ Alliance 2022-2023



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The board of the European Centre-Right LGBT+ Alliance hereby leaves the following annual report for the working year 2022-2023

Annual meeting 2022

The annual meeting 2022 was held digitally. The meeting took place Saturday, November 12th through Zoom and started at 13:00 CET. All member organisations were present in the meeting. A new board was elected in which with Fredrik Saweståhl, Öppna Moderater, Sweden as president and Helge Ytterøy L'Orange, Åpne Høyre, Norway and Gerben Horst, CDA Pride Netwerk, the Netherlands as vice presidents were re-elected.

At the meeting a minor adjustment to the statutes was adopted as well as a motion on sportswashing and one on the situation in Ukraine.

The Cypriot organisation Democratic Rally LGBTIQ+ & Allies Team was unanimously approved as full member.

In conjunction with the Annual Meeting a webinar was hosted on the topic of the EU LGBTQ Equality Strategy.



The Board

The board, president and the vice presidents were elected at the Annual Meeting 2022. The appointed board members were noted at the meeting. The board consists of:

- Fredrik Saweståhl, Öppna Moderater, President
- Helge Ytterøy L'Orange, Åpne Høyre, Vice president
- Gerben Horst, CDA Pride Netwerk, Vice President
- Jenni Juulia Tikka, Kasary
- Alexander Vogt, LSU
- Jake Whelan, Fine Gael LGBT
- Costa Gavrielides, Democratic Rally LGBTIQ+ & Allies Team
- Rasmus Ericsson, Öppna Kristdemokrater
- Orry van de Wauwer, CD&V Regenboognetwork
- Thomas Sattlegger, Gruppe 2019

Kevin Maas has been acting as substitute for Orry van de Wauwer during the second half of the working year.

After establishing contacts with the Forum Opportunitajiet Indaqis Partit Nazzjonalista from Malta the groups chair Jamie Vella took part in the board meetings starting in August.

Magnus Kolsjö from Öppna Kristdemokrater, Sweden was elected financial auditor for the Alliance.

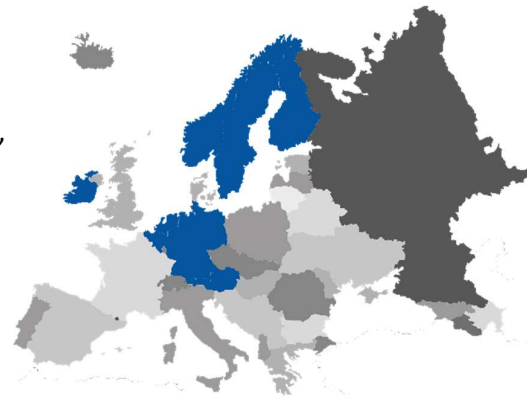
The board held a total of seven board meetings during the working year.

The board has adopted new internal bylaws to clarify different roles and responsibilities in the board and the organisation. The bylaws also clarify how signing and certifying for the Alliance should be conducted. This enables the Alliance to apply for funding from EPP and other sources. The internal financial auditor elected by the Annual Meeting has been supplemented with a professional certified auditor – Carina Öfors – from Moore Allegretto in Stockholm. A bank account has been set up at Handelsbanken in Sweden.

Members

The following organisations are full members of the Alliance as of the Annual Meeting 2022:

- CDA Pride Netwerk, the Netherlands
- CD&V Regenboognetwerk, Belgium
- Democratic Rally – LGBTIQ+ & Allies Team, Cyprus
- Fine Gael LGBT, Ireland
- Gruppe 2019, Austria
- Kasary, Finland
- LSU, Germany
- Åpne Høyre, Norway
- Öppna Moderater, Sweden
- Öppna Kristdemokrater, Sweden



Politics

The board has produced a total of 11 political statements or comments on issues that have been published on the [Alliance Facebook-page](#) and [the Alliance webpage](#).

Several statements have been translated in various languages and used by Alliance members in their channels. A number has also been published in media in several members countries.

Among issues raised by the Alliance this past year were rights for Rainbow families and trans gender rights that the Alliance published three statements on: The backlash in Italy for parental rights, sportswashing and blood donation were also covered. The Alliance joining the EPP, the importance of Pride and a special statement for IDAHOBIT were released as well as one on violence and hate in conjunction with the one-year mark of the attack in Oslo.

The board decided to appoint a working group lead by Vice President Helge Ytterøy L'Orange to work on creating a draft political platform for the Alliance covering important topics that the Alliance and the member organisations are working on. The group consisted of one

representative per member organisation. The draft platform was presented at a webinar on October 24th. The platform will be discussed and adopted at the Annual Meeting 2023.

The working group also had the task of writing a draft contribution of the Alliance to the EPP election platform aiming at the European elections in June 2024. The document was adopted by the board and sent to EPP in September. In the document issues that should be addressed at the European level concerning LGBT+ rights, rainbow families, health, hate crimes and so on were highlighted.

During the working year the Alliance as such was mentioned on a number of occasions in the press. A letter to the editor on blood donation was published in the EUObserver in May. In June an article commemorating one-year since the Attack in Oslo speaking about the fight against hate was published in several newspapers in Sweden and Norway. In July the news source PartyParty published an article about the work of the Alliance and the other Pan-European political LGBT-groups and in September Euractive mentioned the Alliance when writing about the situation in Slovakia.

Relations with the EPP family

The Alliance has been granted a formal status within the EPP party family. This board and previous boards have been working hard to obtain this for the past four years. At the start of 2023 the EPP Presidency unanimously recommended the EPP Political Assembly to vote in favour if the Alliance becoming an Associated Entity of the EPP.

The formalities were handled at the EPP Political Assembly (PA) in Helsinki on February 10th. President Fredrik Saweståhl took part at the PA and gave a presentation about the Alliance and answered a few questions before the vote. The vote was overwhelmingly in support of the new status with only one delegate voting against.

Becoming an Associated Entity of the EPP is a milestone for the Alliance and will strengthen the organisation and the voice of the Alliance in the EPP family and in the LGBT+ community.

During spring 2023 the presidency also had a meeting with the EPP office on various practicalities such as funding and organisational support. The board acknowledges especially the assistance given by Hamda M'rad Dali, assistant to EPP president and by Daphne Lamal, head of EPP Organisation centre.

Vice President Helge Ytterøy L'Orange represented the Alliance at the EPP PA meeting in Munich, May 4-5th, and reported on the continued development of the Alliance and our policy work.



President Fredrik Saweståhl took part in the digital PA meeting on June 26th.

President Fredrik Saweståhl and Vice President Gerben Horst took part at the EPP PA in Brussels, September 4-5th, and reported on the work of the Alliance with a focus on EuroPride, expansion and contributions to the EPP election platform.

During the working year, the Alliance has sent two information mails to the EPP MEP's that are members of the parliaments Intergroup on LGBTI Rights. Letters updating about the Alliance were also sent to the leadership of the other side organisations of the EPP.

Co-operation and other activities

After the conclusion of the Annual Meeting 2022 (November 12th) the Alliance hosted a webinar moderated by Vice President Gerben Horst. The topic of the discussion was the first EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy. The panel consisted of Rasmus Ericsson for the Alliance board, Costa Gavrielides in his capacity as the advisor on diversity to the President of Cyprus, Barry McCarthy who works as a political aid at the European Parliament for EPP MEP Maria Walsh, Vice President of the LGBTI Intergroup and Yuri Guaiana, the secretary general of the LGBTI Liberals of Europe.

A presentation about the Alliance and the political work was given at the annual meeting of the Swedish member organisation Öppna Moderater, April 16th. At the meeting Vice President Helge Ytterøy L'orange also participated and presented the work done by Åpne Høyre in Norway.

In connection with the PA in Munich Vice president Helge Ytterøy L'orange and Kevin Maas, met with the Bavarian LSU-leader Jakob Schneider to exchange political and organisational experiences. The Bavarian LSU achieved an important victory at the CSU convention, when a more inclusive family policy was implemented in the CSU political program.

During Oslo Pride Alliance President Fredrik Saweståhl took part with the Norwegian member organisation Åpne Høyre in a meeting organised by Oslo Pride with LGBT+ activists

from Bulgaria. During Oslo Pride, Fredrik Saweståhl also spoke at the Parade Breakfast with Høyre.

On June 14th President Fredrik Saweståhl and Vice President Gerben Horst meet with Luis Cano, director of the liberal diversity initiative Rainbow Platform to learn more about each other and to discuss possible ways to cooperate in the future.

Following the EPP PA meeting in Munich in May contacts were established with the Forum Opportunitajiet Indaqg Partit Nazzjonalista from Malta. A meeting was held with the leaders of the group and the international team of PN Malta on July 3rd.

Keven Maas of CD&V Regenboognetwerk went with the CDA Pride delegation on the joint boat of the Dutch political LGBT networks during the Canal Parade at Pride Amsterdam on August 5th.

In conjunction with the EPP PA in Brussels President Fredrik Saweståhl and Vice President Gerben Horst met with Dr Peter Hefele, Policy Director at the Martens Centre on September 4th. The meeting resulted in the Alliance learning more about the possibilities to work together with the Martens Centre. A proposal for a project run by the Alliance with support from the Martens Centre was submitted in October.

Europride

EuroPride 2023 took place in Valetta, Malta, September 7-17th. Before EuroPride the presidency of the Alliance was in contact with the organising committee to discuss possible involvement by the Alliance. Two meetings were held where the Alliance presented an idea of hosting a seminar at the Human Rights Conference that is an important part of every EuroPride. Likewise, both the LGBTI Liberals and Rainbow Rose had talks with the organisers on hosting sessions during the HR-conference. Unfortunately, in the end, the organising committee decided not to include seminars hosted by the political LGBT+ organisations. With that as a background the Alliance and the other political groups have raised the issue about involving the pan-European political LGBT+ organisations in the planning for future EuroPrides with the European Pride Organisers Association (EPOA), who are the owners of the brand EuroPride.

At EuroPride itself President Fredrik Saweståhl took part. He was a delegate at the Human Rights Conference and took part in the Maltese Prime Minister official Pride mingle. There was an informal meeting with representatives from Rainbow Platform and the other political LGBT+ organisations. At this meeting representatives from the campaign group Forbidden Colours – an LGBT+ advocacy group based in Brussels – took part to discuss possible involvement of the different political groups in a project aiming at raising the profile of LGBT+ issues in the run up to the election to the European Parliament in June 2024.

During EuroPride, Fredrik Saweståhl also met with Forum Opportunitajiet Indaqz Partit Nazzjonalista and leaders from Partit Nazzjonalista at their headquarters in Floriana to present the work of the Alliance. Present in the meeting where among others Jamie Vella, leader of the Forum Opportunitajiet Indaqz Partit Nazzjonalista, party leader Bernard Grech, deputy speaker of parliament David Agius and two more members of parliament.



Other external meetings or conferences

On May 12th President Fredrik Saweståhl took part at the “High Level Conference on the EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy” organised by the Swedish Presidency in the EU. The conference was held at Arlandastad, Sweden. Among the speakers and panellists were EU Commissioner Helena Dalli, Swedish minister for Equality Paulina Brandberg and a number of LGBT+ activist from different parts of Europe. The aim of the conference was to mark the half-term of the work with the strategy and discuss the way forward.

President Fredrik Saweståhl was invited to and took part in the conference Global Parliamentary Forum – Advancing LGBTIQ Equality through leadership and representation organised by the Global Equality Caucus at the Maltese parliament during EuroPride. Irish senator for Fine Gael and former chair of Fine Gael LGBT Jerry Buttimer also took part in the conference.

President Fredrik Saweståhl took part in the panel of a webinar organised by the news outlet Euractive on October 17th. The theme for the webinar was “Can European parties help LGBTIQ+ people in Slovakia”. The other panellists were Kim van Sparrentak, MEP and co-president of the LGBTI intergroup in the European Parliament, Dajana Bakic, president of Rainbow Rose and Martin Macko, executive director of the Slovakian human rights group Inakost Initiative.

The Alliance co-operates in an informal network – the LGBTI Political Network of Europe – with the LGBTI Liberals of Europe, the Greens, and Rainbow Rose, the LGBTI group of the PES. An informal meeting was held during EuroPride in Malta and a formal meeting was held on November 6th, 2023.

The Alliance Online

The Alliance communicates through two main channels.

- The Alliance Facebook-page: www.facebook.com/lgbtalliance.eu
- The Alliance webpage: www.lgbtalliance.eu

The Alliance also has an internal Facebook-group for discussions:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/424817640953344/>

Concluding remarks

The board would like to express its deep gratitude to all member organisations for their contributions to the work of the Alliance during this year. We would also like to express our gratitude to all other parties that we have had the pleasure of working or co-operating with during the year such as the EPP and many others.

For the Alliance, October 24th, 2023,

Fredrik Saweståhl
President

Gerben Horst
Vice President

Helge Ytterøy L'Orange
Vice President