

Verhofstadt proposed as candidate for European Commission President. Rehn candidate for other senior post

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The ALDE Party have just confirmed an agreement between Guy Verhofstadt and Olli Rehn, brokered by Mark Rutte and Christian Lindner, by which the former will be the candidate in the forthcoming European elections for the post of Commission President whilst the latter will be the party's candidate for another senior post.

Guy Verhofstadt said: "I am delighted that, through the work of Mark Rutte and Christian Lindner, we have found a compromise formula that will enable Liberals to work together to communicate and promote our own vision for Europe's future as we approach the European elections."
"This matter could have been resolved by an internal party primary next week but is clearly better that we have been able to find a common understanding that will enable us both to contribute on an equal footing respectively to the campaign in May and deliver a strong presence of Liberals and Democrats to the new Parliament."

"Pro-Europeans are under attack in a number of Member States so it is all the more important that those who still believe in the European Union stand together to combat the reactionary forces of nationalism and populism that is spreading doubt and fear in the minds of Europe's citizens. It is obvious to all but the most prejudiced and narrow-minded that we are better off together than hiding behind our borders and seeking 28 separate solutions to the supranational political problems of the 21st century."

"But the Europe of today is clearly not delivering for the citizen. We must elucidate a new and positive vision for the EU of tomorrow that builds on what has been achieved over the past 60 years but works more efficiently and effectively. I am honoured to be playing a role in this endeavour."
The nomination must still be formally endorsed by ALDE Party delegates on 1st February.