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## **LI Presidential Statement regarding the situation in Thailand**

The Liberal International Bureau is closely monitoring the situation in Thailand in the wake of the information received challenging the credentials of the Democrat Party of Thailand, as well as the Thai government. The Bureau has charged the Secretariat to provide further information based on direct meetings with all sides concerned, an analysis of the reports of the international Human Rights organizations, and opinions of NGOs and diplomatic missions in Thailand.

The Bureau expresses concern about allegations against its Thai full member party, the Democrat Party. At the same time, the Bureau expresses support to Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva and the leadership of the Democrat Party in overcoming these challenges, and stands ready to assist our Thai colleagues in the implementation of the 5-point reconciliation plan, as well as the necessary democratization of the Thai legislative framework and in strengthening the Human Rights protection mechanism. We welcome the most recent statement of the Secretary General of Amnesty International Salil Shetty who expressed appreciation "...for the leading role played by the Kingdom [of Thailand] in promoting ASEAN's human rights agenda" and encourage the government to show further progress in this regard.

As President of Liberal International I will pay a visit to Thailand in the coming weeks for high-level meetings to assess the situation in the country. The Bureau will continue to closely monitor the developments in Thailand aiming at providing further information to the member parties.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

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Liberal International (LI) is the world federation of over 100 liberal and progressive democratic political parties. LI was founded in 1947 to strengthen liberal protection from totalitarianism and communism. The founding "Oxford Manifesto" is widely considered as one of the most important political documents of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It has since become the pre-eminent network for promoting liberalism, individual freedom, human rights, the rule of law, tolerance, equality of opportunity, social justice, free trade and a market economy.