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Candidate for Volt Europa Female/Diverse Co-President

From a federalist to a federal party

Volt was created to tackle our shared European problems; this can ONLY happen through a federal Europe. The current geopolitical situation, with threats coming from the East (Putin) and West (Trump), creates the right circumstances for further European integration. Democratic forces across the political spectrum realise this and Volt should be the catalyst for the federalisation of Europe. We were talking about it before everyone else; now it is time to up our game and make sure that our vision becomes reality. To achieve this we must admit to ourselves that **Europe comes first**, in our message, throughout our national or even local politics. *We must speak openly and unabashedly about a federal Europe*, by showing how our common issues affect the daily lives of citizens.

In seeking this mandate, my leadership approach is founded on three guiding principles:

Political Relevance: As a political party, our positive internal culture should be the **result** of impactful, outward-looking work that makes us **relevant**. *I will be a politician first before being a manager.*

Radical Transparency: Informing builds **trust**. *I will consistently update the membership on our decisions and actions.* When **confidentiality** is necessary, *I will still explain why it was required.*

Bridge-Building: We must be proactive to maintain our unity, anticipating and resolving conflicts with **political maturity**. *I will actively listen and establish direct dialogue to reach consensus between conflicting sides.*

Guided by these principles, the following proposals outline how to take Volt from where we are now to our next level, growing across Europe, projecting a united voice and carving out the place we deserve at the European parliament. Please, read on!

Speaking with one voice

To achieve the European Federation we aspire to be, *we must practice what we preach* and set the standards both internally and in our external engagements. We are still a slow acting organisation, sometimes even meeker than the European Union, the entity we so strive to improve. To reform Europe **we must first reform and improve internally**; "leading by example" is, after all, one of our key mantras.

Country Council reform

The Country Council is our equivalent of the European Council. In line with our electoral programme, we should transform it into a second chamber-like body inside Volt. The Country Council should confirm with a **qualified majority** matters of **strategy** and **budget** while also being able to **issue political statements** as the summit of country leaders. Just like the EU, the CC chairs could rotate every six months or the voting members could nominate external persons to chair the body. This will enable our chapters to **break silos** and **become more political**.

Shadow Commission

To help our Policy Team and to give each chapter a tangible, attainable political goal regardless of size, we should create a Shadow Commission: *each chapter covers and critiques the specific agenda of the commissioner hailing from its country.* Chapters that are not in member states can be free to choose a commissioner that is not covered by another chapter yet.

European Congress

Our GAs should be landmark pan-European events and not just a series of presentations, with minimal political discussion and participation. *We should rename them "Annual European Congresses" and organize them around Europe Day (May 9).* Let's create real room for debates, invite partners, allies and journalists to give our annual gathering a more outward-looking political character.

European Tech Now!

As a tech savvy party that is aiming for the radical digitisation of Europe, we should be using our technological tools to the maximum in line with our rhetoric. Our core principle should be that our infrastructure is **made and based in Europe**, useful for and harmonised across all party levels.

Fix Hailo

Our internal communication was heavily impacted when we switched to Hailo, resulting in operational difficulties and loss of belonging. This often led to the creation of multiple communication channels on US based platforms (Whatsapp, Signal, etc.). We should aim to make our internal communication platform easy to use as fast as possible, while keeping the option of reviewing alternative platforms.

Participatory Democracy Platform

Participatory democracy, as opposed to direct democracy, takes into account the public sentiment and still uses structured processes to arrive at the best policy proposal. To make our policymaking truly participatory, we should replicate the Taiwanese model of

vTaiwan and **develop a tool to uncover the public discourse**, where users agree or disagree with statements set by the policymakers and the users themselves. In Volt this tool will be used primarily by the policy team and the thematic communities to involve everyone in European policymaking.

Shared knowledge tools

To enhance our operational efficiency, we need a **common toolbox** that can easily be used by European, national and local functional teams for task monitoring: a one-stop spot to find the to-do's for everyone, monitor their progress from upper levels and make onboarding of new volunteers easier. Additionally, we should keep centralised records of networks and donors at the European level and make them accessible to country leaders and elected officials, so that we can all benefit from our established connections.

Chapter Development

Volt Europa needs to **proactively support chapters** at every stage of their growth. Historically, support has been proactive for the few selected "focus chapters" and for the rest mostly reactive, usually when a chapter needs help with a project or is facing a crisis. The European Board should support chapters in the following ways:

European networks:

Journalists, donors and civil society connections can all be put into use for all chapters. Whenever the Board comes into contact with a prominent actor from a country, they should connect them to that country's chapter and vice versa.

Inter-chapter regions

Taking example from the Volt Nordics group, we should create other similar geographical groups of chapters facing similar political environments and challenges to foster transnational spirit and chapter cooperation.

Strategic Entry

We should take advantage of national political events for continental action e.g. campaign for EU membership negotiations in Iceland in the upcoming referendum and use it to create an Iceland chapter.

Volt There

The programme of the Dutch think tank that supports chapter projects should be replicated within Volt Europa by designating 10% of our annual budget to supporting chapter growth activities. Additionally, the "focus chapter" programme should be revised, with clear prerequisites and a transparent application process.

Elected Officials

In cooperation with the Elected Officials Office, we need to connect chapters with elected officials at different levels from different countries, exchange best practices and bring attention to Volt in countries where we have not been elected yet.

Thematic Communities

We should actively seek to harmonise the policymaking structure of our chapters, to ensure that thematic communities are the main gateway for policy in all levels of the party (as outlined in the [community handbook](#)). Additionally, the communities, wearing either their activist or think tank hat, are our main keys for connecting with civil society all over Europe.

A Federalist Group in the European Parliament

We need to look through a pragmatic lens at our long standing goal (also in [Shine29](#)) to create a Volt group in the European Parliament, given the political landscape and competition (e.g. the European Democratic Party). Our current trajectory is unlikely to hit the target of 23 MEPs from 7 different countries. We may attain this goal through collaboration with other federalist political forces, ranging from the Greens to the Liberals. Let's build such alliances in the next few years so that:

- a) **Volt candidates** will participate in the **2029** European elections **across all of Europe**, and
- b) We lay the groundwork for a new, clearly **Federalist group in the European Parliament**, where we will be playing a **leading role**.

Additionally, we should aim to make the [Spinelli Group](#) –the unofficial group of federalist MEPs regardless of their group or party affiliation– an official parliamentary intergroup at the next legislative term of the European Parliament.

EUPP and EUPF

Creating a **European Political Party (EUPP)** and **European Political Foundation (EUPF)** are crucial steps in the plan mentioned above. They should be undertaken at the right moment and not at all costs. *We need to build internal consensus* about how to do it right and not risk the coherence of our movement. The Europarty is a milestone that should be celebrated by everyone and will herald a new era for Volt. To succeed in this, we need:

Collective buy in: Our members need to have been informed and be given time to discuss in our European and national fora. We must operate transparently with frequent

updates so that in the end we can have **an informed decision**. The Country Council and the Board should be co-operating closely on this.

Solid governance structure: Three entities (Volt Europa AISBL, EUPP, EUPF) are a good idea if they work **complementary** to one another. We need to utilise the synergies that occur, plan carefully and guard against possible pitfalls of overlapping competences.

A “chapters first” approach: No matter what, *we need to make sure that all our Volt chapters grow into successful political parties*. Our ground rule should be that national chapters must always be consulted regarding national contacts and that their strategic interests are accounted for. While electoral pacts are more than needed, especially for small parties, they should be **prioritising the chapter’s success**, not helping potential competitors.

Elect Electra

Let’s realise the **full potential** of our party and uphold our ideals, but also build the **operational strength** and **political maturity** to execute them. We have the network, the talent and the unwavering conviction to translate our shared European vision into **tangible political impact**. Now is the time to **bridge internal divides**, project a **united voice** externally and transition **from a movement to a mature political party**. Let’s re-electrify Volt and **federalise!**