

**LET'S MAKE
VOLT
WIN
NOW**

MELS
FOR CO-PRESIDENT

Dear Volters,

When Volt was founded in 2017, Europe was facing a period of considerable political uncertainty. The first Trump presidency, Brexit dominating the headlines, the rise of populist movements across Europe, COVID-19 pandemic and the annexation of Crimea. It all contributed to the realisation that the stability, many of us had taken for granted, was no longer secured.

In that context Volt was founded. It was a response to that concern, grounded in a clear conviction: the major challenges of our century cannot be effectively addressed by nations acting alone. It requires European solutions and stronger cooperation across borders. This is why I and many of you, during those years, committed to Volt.

Since then, we found out that the uncertainty would only steadily grow. The need for that cooperation has only become more apparent. War has returned to our continent, the climate crisis continues to demand decisive action, energy scarcity is skyrocketing prices, housing is unaffordable, and to top it all off the second Trump term has resulted in the rupture of the old world order.

As dire as all of this sounds, it creates the perfect breeding ground for change. A change for a federal, progressive and powerful Europe. For me this is what Volt stands for. A form of hope and action for a different outcome. Through the dedication of many of you, our volunteers and members, we are now at a stage to make the next big jump and move towards the European elections of 2029. This is not going to be easy, just like the steps before weren't. But through continued engagement and contribution of all of us, I believe we can make Volt the next best thing for Europe!

In this program I will paint a picture for how I see the future of Volt, Europe and what we need to do to get there. Let's make Volt win now. Because Europe cannot wait.

Kind regards,



Mels Michiel Klabbers

Candidate Co-President Volt Europa

Where are we at?

Volt is at a pivotal moment.

We continue to grow year by year, we see it with our 300+ elected representatives, our membership base of 40,000, our budgets, or even the number of elections we participate in. We have achieved to grow our presence in Brussels, now with five seats in the European Parliament. Gaining political cloud while building a thriving movement.

But the next step begins now. Volt has always aimed to influence the major challenges of our time: climate change, security, digital sovereignty and our prosperity. To achieve this impact across Europe, *we must break through to the national and European Parlements in many more countries*. That is the objective I am committed to pursuing as your Co-President.

Together with the new board, our staff, teams and volunteers, I will focus on the execution of these three goals that get us there;

1. Executing Shine29
2. Uniting progressives across Europe
3. Making Volt one winning team

To deliver on these ambitions, I will focus on the key priorities, challenges, and opportunities within each goal, outlined below.

Execute Shine29

- About Shine29
- Volt's political vision towards 2029
- Help chapters win

Uniting progressives across Europe

- Working together
- Practical yet functional: doubling our funding and staff

Making Volt one winning team

- A united Volt for a united Europe: one winning team

Goal 1 Lets make Volt win now: executing Shine29

Through our strategy we have set out a step-by-step approach towards 2029, the year of the next European elections. Together with the new board, I will continue to drive the implementation of this strategy. This will strengthen our movement and party, so that we can work towards creating a Europe that is independent, strong, and just.

1.1 About Shine29

Shine29 is the long-term strategic roadmap agreed by our members to steer us towards the 2029 European elections and the period beyond. Presented and voted in at the 2025 General Assembly, it sets out how Volt is to evolve from a rapidly expanding grassroots movement into a more mature, coordinated political organisation operating at European level. This the next big step for Volt and is built around several core priorities:

- strengthening and professionalising internal organisation
- improving coordination and communication across all levels of the movement
- progressing towards recognised Europarty status
- translating our European character into stronger and more consistent electoral performance in multiple countries

So understand, more than an electoral plan, Shine29 is a structural transition. It is based on the idea that a genuinely European political force requires shared governance, pooled resources, and coordinated decision-making across countries. **Over the past 2.5 years, I've been proud to work on Shine29 as Co-President. I hope to continue this work and, if re-elected, to help deliver on its promise and next steps.**



1.2 Volt's political vision towards 2029

We are living through a period defined by geopolitical instability, climate pressures, technological competition, and economic transformation. In this context, Europe must evolve so it can act decisively rather than reactively. Therefore our ambition should be that the European Union can speak with one voice on the global stage while safeguarding prosperity, democracy, and security for all its citizens. Here are its key pillars:

A Federal and Democratic Europe

We need deeper European integration, stronger democratic institutions, and greater citizen participation in decision-making. The EU should become more transparent, more accountable, and more directly responsive to the people it serves. Because the Europe of today is not ready for the challenges it faces. So, let us talk about the f-word.

A Future-Ready Economy

We must build a European economy that is innovative, sustainable, and fair. This means prioritising investment in research, green industry, and digital technologies, alongside fair and effective taxation, so that Europe remains competitive while ensuring broad-based prosperity.

Europe as a Global Actor

Europe should be able to act strategically and cohesively internationally. That includes defending democratic values, promoting human rights, and contributing to a more balanced global order through a coordinated foreign policy.

Resilience and Strategic Autonomy

In a world shaped by war, climate disruption, and economic uncertainty, Europe must be able to rely on itself where necessary. That requires stronger cooperation on energy, defence, migration, and technology in order to reduce dependencies and increase collective resilience.

Taken together, we need to move the European Union from a system of coordination between states towards a more genuinely political union. One that is capable of not only agreeing on goals, but of delivering real, tangible results for people across Europe.

1.3 Help chapters win

All of the political ideas from the last alinea's are not going to become reality if we do not create successes for our chapters. A central pillar of Shine29 is enabling local and national chapters to achieve electoral success while remaining part of one cohesive European movement. We should recognise that our political impact depends on strong local community building and campaigning, supported by a strong and coordinated European framework. Empowering chapters through practical support, shared expertise, and structural alignment is therefore a continuing part of my program.

Key priorities include:

Stronger European Coordination

Improved internal communication systems and shared platforms, aimed to reduce fragmentation and allow chapters to learn from one another, scale successful campaigns, and act strategically across borders. This also means improving the chat facilities of Hailo and starting the migration of teams that haven't yet made the jump to our shared platform.

Campaign Professionalisation

Chapters should be supported with:

- Campaign strategy development
- Coordinated messaging
- Training and knowledge exchange
- Shared European campaign resources

The goal is to ensure that Volt presents a consistent European identity while adapting campaigns to national contexts.

Capacity Building and Membership Growth

We need to build volunteers into political leaders, strengthening organisational skills, and expanding membership bases to create sustainable national structures.

One Movement, Many Elections

Rather than operating as separate national parties, Volt chapters should collaborate as parts of a single European project. Success in one country strengthens credibility across Europe, reinforcing Volt's unique transnational model.

Goal 2 Let's make Volt unite progressives across Europe

We cannot change the world alone. Fortunately, many others share the same ideas and principles. By working together, we can strengthen progressive politics across Europe. With the rise of populist parties in many countries, this is not just desirable but necessary. The urgency is clear across the continent.

2.1 Working together

Through alliances, cooperation, and, in some cases, even mergers with Volt, we can broaden our impact and better respond to Europe's needs. Cyprus, although not the only example, offers a clear picture of the success of this strategy. We merged our small team on the island with existing forces and created the Volt Cyprus of today. The first bicomunal party on a divided island, operating under the Volt banner and represented in the parliament. Something we can be very proud of as an organisation.

If we are to achieve our objectives, impact on the bigger challenges for all Europeans, we must continue to create more opportunities of this kind. As our political relevance increases, so too does our capacity to build these pathways and turn ambition into concrete progress. We used to be viewed as the small fish, but we must also realise we have something to offer: a European family and access to Brussels. Let's leverage this power together for more and more political impact, because Europe cannot wait!

2.2 Scaling our capacity: doubling funding and staff

We also need to come to terms with the fact that we can't rely endlessly on our volunteers. This is not a sustainable practice for the long run. Through the EUPP project, outlined on Haiilo and Shine29, we have the opportunity to solidify and expand our professional staff. Doubling our current budget from 1 to 2 million and creating other opportunities like the set up of our political foundation (scientific institute to some) and preparing our 2029 elections.

The success of 2029 starts here and now. If Volt wants to win big in 2029, that starts here with every step of the strategy. Beginning with becoming that EUPP.

Goal 3

Let's make Volt one winning team

We are actively breaking down the silos that exist within our organisation. Across staff, volunteers, technology, structures, and governance. Everything we do should be shaped around creating one winning team, with shared purpose and coordinated effort.

3.1 United Volt for a united Europe: one winning team

By improving alignment across strategy, harmonising governance, and enabling a structured exchange of capacity, knowledge, and skills, Volt can become a stronger enabler for local, regional, and national teams.

This is about building the conditions where different parts of the organisation reinforce each other rather than operate in isolation. Through better collaboration, clearer interfaces, and more consistent ways of working, we can unlock the full potential of our movement.

Some countries started to commit to this already and are now in the process of translating Shine29 into national strategies. Eliminating projects that are already executed on another level, merging projects and activities or saving money through more effective allocation of our staff. Next to that we are funneling all chapters onto the same community and financial platform, saving not only money, but also integrating our chapters into a broader European party. **Creating one winning team!**

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