

ELECTORAL STATEMENT

Candidacy for Re-election as Treasurer

Christophe Quiryren

Volt Europa A.I.S.B.L. | Board Elections 2026

WHY I AM STANDING AGAIN

I joined Volt in 2018 as a volunteer —before we had MEPs, long before we had employees in 4 countries or an office in NL and Germany, and long before anyone outside a handful of European capitals had heard of us. More than seven years later, I am still here, still convinced that Volt is one of the most important political projects in Europe today. That conviction is why I am asking for your vote to continue as Treasurer for a second term.

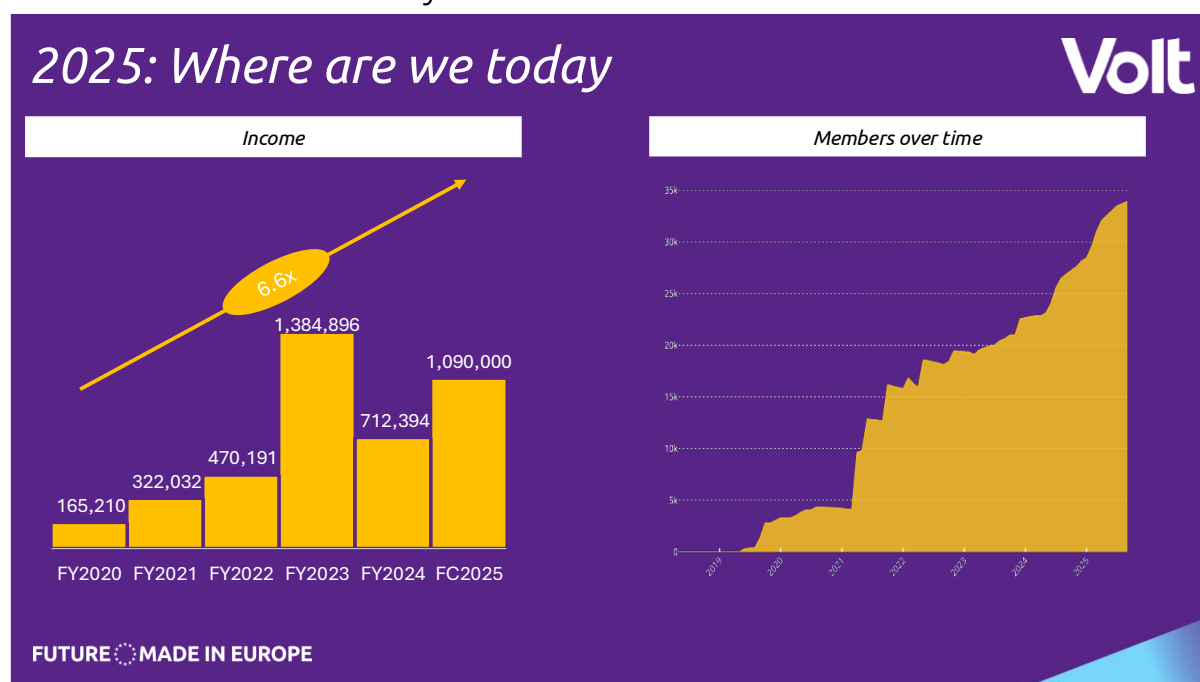
My work is not finished. And I want to ask our members the chance to finish it.

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN BUILDING

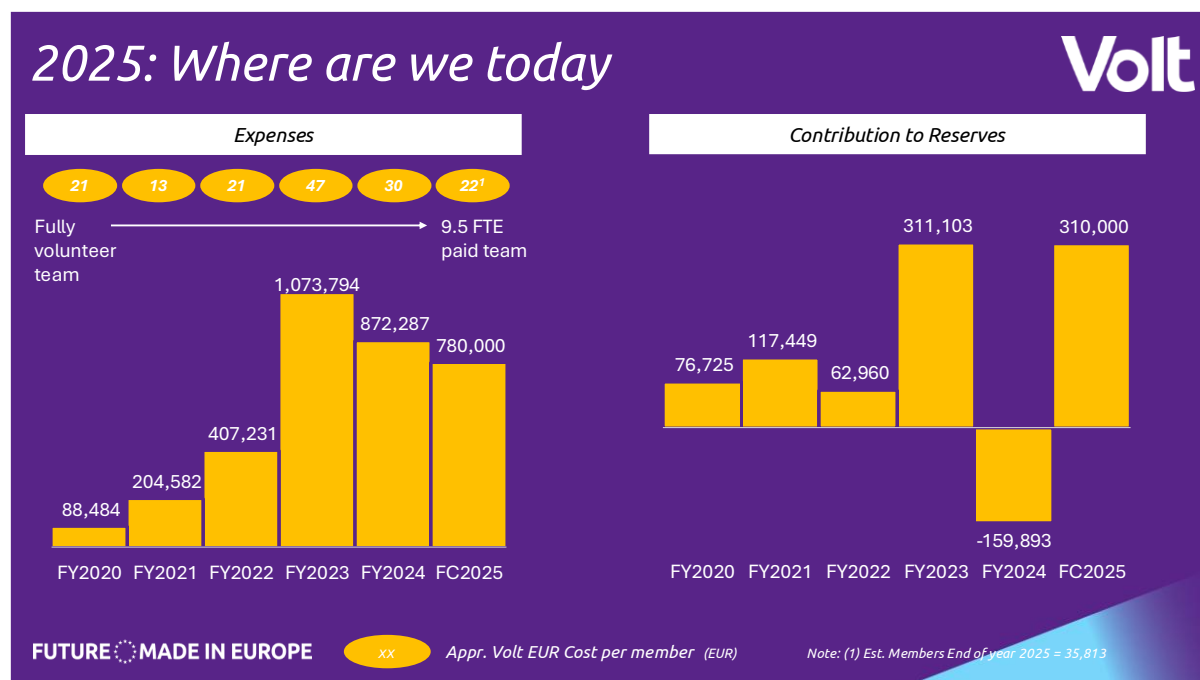
When I became Treasurer in 2024, Volt Europa was in a genuinely precarious position. A major donor had withdrawn a commitment of €250,000 — funds we had counted on. The organisation had to move fast: we restructured, reduced headcount, and cut costs to stabilise the balance sheet. It was not a comfortable period, but it was a necessary one. This was followed by the 2024 EUR election, whereby we were able to grow our number of MEP from 1 to 5.

I am proud of where we stand today. After a turbulent end of year 2023 and an election year in 2024, 2025 was the year where Volt Europa stabilized its financials and start setting itself up for the new election in 2029. Today Volt Europa is blossoming financially:

- **Budget grew to over €1,000,000** — a full recovery and then some driven by our continued membership growth and fundraising initiatives
- **The team grew back to 10 FTE** — with the right people in the right roles
- **Liquidity exceeds currently over €650,000** — equivalent to approximately more than 8 months of runway



That last number matters more than any other. **Over eight months of liquidity means Volt Europa can plan, hire, and invest with confidence.** It means we are not one bad quarter away from another restructuring. It means we can look toward the 2029 European elections not in survival mode, but in growth mode.



Beyond the headline numbers, we have been building the financial infrastructure that a serious organisation requires. We are currently implementing structured monthly financial reporting, giving the Board and our member organisations real visibility into our finances for the first time on a consistent basis. We are simplifying our payroll systems, reducing administrative burden and operational risk. And across every financial year of my mandate (2025 pending), our external auditor has issued unqualified opinions — the cleanest possible verdict on our financial governance. That track record is not accidental. It reflects deliberate discipline, and I intend to maintain it.

WHAT I HAVE LEARNED — AND WHY THE FULL-TIME MANDATE MATTERS

I want to be honest with you about something, because I think honesty is more valuable than a flawless campaign pitch.

When I first took on this role, I did so as a volunteer — combining the Treasurer responsibilities with a demanding full-time professional career on the side. I believed I could make it work. And in a narrow sense, I did: the results speak for themselves. But I would be misleading you if I said it was sustainable, or that Volt Europa got everything it deserved from that arrangement.

The role of Treasurer is not a part-time responsibility. It demands full operational commitment, continuous availability, and the kind of focused dedication that cannot be delivered alongside another full-time job. I know that now from direct experience, not from theory.

That is why I am genuinely pleased that the updated Articles of Association now formally establish that all three Executive Directors — the two Co-Presidents and the Treasurer — serve on a full-time, remunerated basis. This is a return to the model that existed under my predecessor Johannes Heinrich, and it is simply the correct model. The logic is straightforward: how can an organisation have eighty hours per week of Co-President

capacity and only minimal hours of Treasurer capacity, when all three carry the same level of executive responsibility? It cannot work — and it should not be asked to.

Think of the Executive Directors the way you would think of a CEO and CFO in any serious organisation. The Co-Presidents are Volt Europa's outward-facing leaders: our political voice, our public representatives, the people who carry Volt's vision into the European arena. The Treasurer is the operational and financial counterpart — focused on institutional health, resource allocation, and the infrastructure that makes everything else possible. The roles are different in character, but equal in weight. All three are Executive Directors. None is subordinate to the others.

I am standing for this mandate as a full-time Treasurer. Volt Europa deserves that level of commitment — and I am ready to give it.

WHAT I WANT TO BUILD IN THE NEXT TERM

The 2029 European elections are our horizon. Volt currently holds one seat in the European Parliament. My ambition — and I believe it is a realistic one — is that we arrive at that election with the financial foundations, the policy credibility, and the organisational strength to multiply that result dramatically.

To get there, I believe the next mandate must focus on four priorities:

1. Complete the Europarty Project — On Our Terms. One of the most consequential institutional tasks ahead of us is finalising Volt Europa's setup as a fully recognised European political party. This is not a bureaucratic formality. Done well, it strengthens our funding base, our institutional legitimacy and voice in the EU, and our ability to operate across borders at scale. Done poorly, it could compromise the member democracy and the values that define who we are. I have been immensely connected with the project as the current Treasurer together with my other Executive Directors. I know the file, the constraints, and the trade-offs. Continuity here is not just an advantage — it is essential. I am committed to completing this work in a way that is true to Volt's values and fully accountable to our members.

2. Talent and Leadership Development. The people we put on our electoral lists, in our national campaigns, and in our leadership structures are our most important asset. We need to invest meaningfully in training, in developing the next generation of Volt leaders, and in **ensuring that our candidates are not just passionate Europeans but effective politicians.** That requires budget, and it requires deliberate allocation.

3. Policy as our Product. Volt's competitive advantage is the quality of its ideas. We should lean into that. In the next term, I will advocate for more dedicated investment in policy capacity — hiring **policy professionals who can help our members to produce programmes that are visionary, credible, and distinctively Volt.** In a crowded political market, being right matters. Being able to prove you are right matters more.

4. Run a successful 2029 election campaign. Winning more seats in 2029 is the ultimate measure of everything else we are building. As Treasurer, my responsibility is to ensure Volt Europa has the financial firepower to compete at scale — a fully funded campaign budget, multi-year financial planning, and the fundraising infrastructure to complement our EP contribution. **But money alone does not win elections. Investing in a sharp, consistent, and distinctively European political narrative is equally essential — because a compelling story is what turns sympathisers into voters and donors into believers.** The groundwork on both fronts starts now, not in 2028.

5. Continued Professionalisation of the Back Office. Every hour our volunteers and staff spend on manual administrative tasks is an hour not spent on politics. We have made progress — monthly reporting, streamlined payroll, cleaner processes — but there is still significant room to automate, systematise, and scale. My goal is that by 2029, Volt Europa's

back office runs largely on well-designed processes and modern tools, **freeing our people to focus entirely on what creates value: campaigns, policy, and members.**

A FINAL WORD

I am not standing for re-election because the job is easy or the role is prestigious. I am standing because I started something, and I want to see it through. Volt has come a long way since 2018. The distance between where we are today and where we could be in 2029 is still vast — and closing it will require financial discipline, strategic investment, and continuity of leadership.

I ask for your trust and your vote to continue that work.

Christophe Quirynen

Treasurer, Volt Europa A.I.S.B.L.

Volunteer since 2018 | Candidate for re-election, Board Elections 2026