



Volt Europa Board Elections 2026

Electoral Programme:

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1. About me

I am a passionate internationalist and European. Born in Florence, Italy, on 9 May 1977 (yes, Europe Day, in the year that Amnesty International won the Nobel Peace Prize), I grew up around the world, from New York to Caracas, and have been living in the UK for over 30 years. I've travelled extensively, speak 3 European languages fluently (plus another conversationally) and have worked with people from diverse cultures and different parts of the world throughout my career.

I have a Master's with Distinction in international Law. I have worked and volunteered for many non-profit organisations, from Amnesty to various national and international health and research organisations.

I am currently the Strategy Lead for Volt UK, where I have been leading on developing a new strategic plan for the UK Chapter. As part of this, I am currently working on a Manifesto for Volt UK which is going to closely align with the new narrative that is being developed by Volt Europa, but tailored to a UK audience.

Developing strategic plans, designing and facilitating workshops and leading organisational transformation is something that I have done a LOT of over the course of a 14-year career as CEO of 5 different organisations, both in the UK and internationally. Two of these have been coalition organisations, bringing together 40+ organisations nationally and internationally. I also have a lot of experience of, and an equally strong track record in, partnership-building, membership growth, influencing and campaigning, business development and stakeholder engagement. I have also worked as a strategy and impact consultant for the past 6 years, and I have extensive experience of working closely with Board members and promoting and implementing good governance.

I am a lifelong campaigner for human rights, social justice and electoral reform. In particular, I was very active in campaigning against Brexit, both before and after the referendum. Post-Brexit, I was invited to join the Council of one of the main campaign groups opposed to Brexit – Britain for Europe – and I wrote their Manifesto and produced their campaign plan. I wrote articles in the Huffington Post, published many letters in the media, and built good personal relations with key UK thought-leaders.

I am currently organising a virtual panel discussion on the theme of big tech and authoritarianism with key people in the field, as a joint initiative between Volt Europa and [The Citizens](#) (watch this space!).

I am a dynamic, big-picture thinker, combining vision with pragmatism and a strong entrepreneurial mindset. I am also very personable, thoughtful, caring, and “human.”

When I came across Volt a few years ago – thanks to Reinier van Lanschot, whom I approached in his MEP capacity in 2024 – I was delighted to discover that there existed a pan-European political movement that seemed to reflect everything that I stood for, and had campaigned for all my life. That’s why I chose to get involved with Volt, and not just marginally involved but fully involved. Now, being able to bring my experience, my commitment and my personal drive to the Board of Volt Europa would feel in many ways like the culmination of a life’s work.

But enough about me – what is my vision for Volt?

2. My vision for Volt

Every good plan of action – whether that’s a political campaign, an overarching strategy or a local issue - needs to start from a clear, compelling vision. This vision must be simple, relatable and capable of providing focus to our collective purpose.

I do not feel able to put forward in this document a detailed plan for what Volt needs to do to achieve its objectives, nor do I believe that it is the role of a single Board member to do so. This has to be a collective endeavour, led by the right people, with the right guidance, and with the genuine and meaningful engagement of the entire Volt movement. There is a plan – Shine 29 – and a stronger narrative is being developed as you read this. The last thing I wish to do is reinvent the wheel, or suggest that I have a better idea of what we should all be doing in 1, 3 or 5 years’ time. This has to be an inclusive, collective process of co-production.

I do however have a vision, which I have set out below. If elected, I would like to see this vision drive the work of Volt Europa, internally and externally. Ultimately, Volt’s vision must be fully shared by the entire Volt leadership, and in line with what our members, and indeed our wider stakeholders, need and wish to see from us. On this very important proviso, my vision for Volt is the following.

1. Volt as a catalyst for collaboration, and a home for the progressive people of Europe

Being a pan-European movement means trying to achieve something very ambitious. It means working in partnership with all those who share our values, and our vision. It means understanding that political power is nuanced, and that political success in a “traditional” sense is but a means to an end.

We are living through a critical period in time. Europe today is a key battleground for increasingly polarised visions of society, and the increasingly stark power struggle between those whom we might call “progressives” and those who wish to further concentrate power in the hands of an unaccountable, authoritarian elite. This is a genuinely existential issue not just for Europe, or the EU, but the world.

There is an “anti-democratic” coalition that wishes to see the EU collapse, and Europe return to being a cluster of client states for the big superpowers. We see it globally, in the form of Putin, Trump, and Xi, and we see it regionally, in the form of Orban, Farage, Le Pen and many more. These people are all working closely together to destroy everything that we care about. The “progressive” parties, on the other hand, are splintered and disjointed, nationally and across Europe. There is a definite progressive majority in the countries of Europe, but it is fragmented. Many people are disillusioned and do not feel represented by the traditional parties. There is no place for them to go. They despair of the in-fighting and the often bitter competition between “progressive” groups.

Volt can and must be the antidote to this. We can and must be a catalyst for a much more collaborative, much more inclusive, much more person-centred politics. We can and must provide a “home” for progressive across Europe, from France to Slovakia to the “front line” of Europe in both a geographical and symbolic sense – countries like Moldova, Serbia, Georgia and Ukraine. This is where seeing ourselves as a *movement* and not just a political party, is absolutely key. In turn, this will drive policy and political change.

2. Volt as the engine of the “Europe We Need”

The Europe we *need* – not just the Europe we want – is one that is true to the core values that it was founded on. That walks the walk as well as talking the talk. That is steadfast in upholding democracy, human rights and the rule of law at home and in defending them abroad. That is capable of effectively tackling the big issues we all face, from climate change to increasing inequality to creeping authoritarianism. That is capable of defending its people from actual military aggression. That is not afraid to tackle difficult issues like immigration without reaching for populist solutions which normalise racism and prejudice. That is not in thrall to foreign powers, or the fossil fuel lobby. That genuinely pursues and acts in the best interests of European citizens, even when their own governments do not.

Volt is uniquely placed to genuinely understand what the people of Europe really want, and need, by inviting them under a single big tent, canvassing their views on key issues, and then using this to influence policy and drive change at the national and international political level. Volt is already doing this, but we need to turbo-charge it. In a fast-moving world, change cannot wait for the slow wheels of traditional politics to turn, and risk going off-track as they often do.

By positioning itself as the “go-to” movement for progressive, pan-European political change, and providing a space for all those who feel disempowered at the national level or who have lost faith in the traditional left, right or even centrist parties, Volt can be the engine for change that Europe needs to start to break free from the current stranglehold of national politics. We have built some momentum behind this already – it’s time to hit the accelerator.

3. Volt as the champion, and the custodian, of the ideals of a united Europe

The prime manifestation of a united Europe is the EU. As we all know, however, the EU is far from perfect. But it is also unique in the world, as a regional IGO which is not only an economic powerhouse, not only a uniquely supranational organisation, but one that is uniquely rooted in strong values. These values are born of a unique

history which takes in the Renaissance, the Enlightenment, the Industrial Revolution and two World Wars on home soil. These values underpin the very first notions of a united Europe in modern times, which we can trace back to the Ventotene Manifesto. The EU was created for peace, and with it prosperity, and the foundation for peace and prosperity is democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

These are not uniquely European values – they are “progressive” values. But we are European, and Europe, right now at least, is the only continent where these values can not only be fully realised, but fully upheld – at home, and abroad. Even progressive people from across the globe look to the EU to be a champion for progressive values and progressive politics. Europe needs to step up to that plate with courage and integrity, and lead by example.

There is a very powerful story to tell here, and Volt must be the one to tell it. We must be storytellers as well as campaigners and policymakers. We must inspire people, if we are to mobilise them. We must infuse our politics with the core values of what Europe means to us – what I call the “Spirit of Ventotene.” And we must show our governments and the political parties across Europe that there is a different way of doing politics, that is not only perfectly viable, but which aligns with what the people of Europe – in the widest sense – want, and need. We must be their voice.

3. Achieving the vision: Inspire, Empower, Unite

Strategically, I see the delivery of the above as having 3 key elements

1. **Inspire**: Tell the story of Europe, why it matters, and what we aim to achieve, through a clear strategic plan and a strong narrative capable of appealing to people from all parts of Europe. This is how we harness the latent potential among all those who haven’t yet heard of Volt, and turn supporters into activists.
2. **Empower**: Provide the space, the channels and the resources for our members and supporters to meaningfully engage with Volt at the national and international level, with actions and campaigns designed to achieve meaningful, strategic impact on key themes and in key policy areas at both the national and EU level. This includes but is not limited to supporting Volt members in getting elected.

The precise strategy for this will have to be broad but focused, taking in the movement-building aspect as well as the more overtly *political* agenda, and tailored to different countries’ realities. In the UK, for example, we will be taking a firm focus on movement-building, for various and well-founded reasons – and

this in turn can serve as a springboard for similar approaches elsewhere. Equally, we must make it easy for different chapters to support each other strategically, eg by mobilising a particular diaspora around one country's elections.

3. Unite: Build a genuinely united Volt movement. This means uniting around a simple but powerful vision, strategy and narrative, but avoiding the tendency to over-centralise, micro-manage or over-regulate which always comes with grand ambitions on a large scale. I feel that getting this balance right is absolutely essential for Volt at its current stage of development – and we only really have one chance to get it right, while energy and enthusiasm is high, but at risk of plateauing.

We must make sure that we have SMART objectives at national and international level that allow us to achieve both quick wins and big wins, thereby demonstrating our impact, our traction and our potential as more than “just” another progressive group or political party. And we must avoid becoming a mirror of the EU, with its internal divisions, national tensions and sometimes stifling bureaucracy, just as we must avoid being seen as simply the “political wing” of the EU itself. This is not going to happen overnight, but we need to ensure that we are putting the right stepping stones in place to get there right now, while we're still very much in control of our destiny.

Organisationally, there is a lot that needs to be working effectively for Volt to achieve all of the above, and be “fit for purpose.” This includes:

1. A clear, transparent and *resilient* structure including governance, operational team and membership / chapter support, with the right people in the right roles.
2. Clear and strong communications channels, both internally and externally. We must be at the top of our game in the digital systems we use and how we use them, cascading messaging effectively and enabling effective engagement.
3. A clear impact framework
4. A strong membership growth strategy
5. A strong risk management framework
6. A strong income generation strategy
7. Watertight financial oversight and control, and statutory compliance.
8. Strong strategic partnerships at national and international level
9. Growing and aligning the Volt Communities into a coherent, strategic whole.
There is huge potential here for growing the movement in a meaningful way, but there has to be clarity, consistency and alignment with an overall strategy.
10. Well-run, outcomes-focused meetings
11. A strong “people policy,” covering everything from EDI to organisational culture

This list is not exhaustive, but it provides a broad framework of “must-haves” for well-run, impactful organisations with an inclusive culture of collaboration and continuous improvement. Understanding where the “strategic tensions” exist, or may emerge, is essential in both avoiding internal conflict, and keeping our overall course firmly focused on our broad strategic goals.

In **summary**, I wish to help lead a Volt Europa which:

1. Inspires people
2. Empowers people
3. Unites people
4. Achieves tangible impact
5. Is well-run, accountable, transparent, and fit for purpose
6. ..With a strong narrative and a clear, strategic vision

These are all things that I have ample experience of delivering, at governance level and at the organisational level.

As a member of the Volt Europa Board, I would not, and should not, get involved in the operational aspect of delivering the Volt strategy, but provide overall direction and oversight alongside my fellow Board members and the Volt Presidents.

It would genuinely be an honour and a privilege for me to help steer this inspirational political movement into its next stage of growth, at what is a critically important time, and potentially a turning point, not just for Volt Europa but for Europe itself.