

# Electoral Moonshot Programme

2024-29 Policy Acts

Volt

FUTURE MADE IN EUROPE

# Moonshot Programme Introduction

At the heart of our vision for a renewed European Union (EU) is a transformative journey towards a Federal Europe. We believe that the way the EU functions internally and how it projects its global responsibilities externally need a radical evolution.

First, the EU needs radical democratic change. This evolution is not merely a top-down endeavour but a collective effort involving citizens and political leaders across Europe. Through this deliberative and participatory process, Europeans will have a European Constitution that enshrines their power and rights into a new system that is not only more responsive but also more engaging for its citizens.

This democratic revolution will motor into a permanent general citizen's assembly, inviting Europeans to actively participate in shaping the future of the EU, and redesigning democracy to foster trust, transparency, and collective determination.

We will advocate for a renewed European Parliament, shaped by transnational parties, holding the power to initiate, amend, and approve legislation, making governance more reflective of citizens' interests than Member States' concerns. Accessible sessions and qualified majority voting must replace outdated veto powers, ensuring that decisions align with the principles of the European Constitution. In this new Federal Europe, Member States can no longer defy EU principles, and the European Court of Justice must wield enhanced powers to prevent democratic backsliding, safeguarding the Unions' integrity.

In our aspirations, Europe's internal security must be fortified by a federal-level police force, that is a reinvigorated Europol ready to combat any threat to the safety of Europeans. Whether it is (financial) crime, terrorism, or cybersecurity, this revamped Force shall stand as a guardian against evolving challenges.

Alongside a more democratic and secure Union, the expansion of the European project embodies the essence of Europe's shared peace and prosperity. That is why we believe that the EU must embrace new members who share our commitment to democratic values and human rights. Safeguarding against democratic backsliding, we lay the foundation for an EU that not only holds itself accountable but actively advocates for justice and equality.

This transformation goes beyond rhetoric. The EU's economy must reach net zero by 2040, minimizing greenhouse gas emissions and compensating for the unavoidable through

carbon capture technologies. European citizens and businesses shall actively align their behaviours with political targets, creating a groundswell of collective action.

This future cannot be built without solid foundations built on the EU's strategic autonomy. From achieving energy self-sufficiency by 2040 to generating all energy domestically through renewable technologies, nuclear, and hydrogen energy. This is our aspiration for Europe's shared green future, with citizens actively participating in a diverse and flexible energy mix and energy storage infrastructures capable of achieving a stable and reliable energy supply.

Our aspiration towards a renewed green European economy demands a pioneering approach to redesigning the EU's infrastructure, driven by sustainability, resilience, and comfort. High-speed rail, efficient public transportation, clean energy, and advanced internet connectivity are the bedrock of Europe's future. Our waste management systems must be sustainable, and infrastructure investments must act as bulwarks against the ravages of climate change, creating jobs and fueling economic growth.

To meet the challenges Europe faces, we aspire to a renewed economic prosperity, one that intertwines seamlessly with environmental sustainability. We redefine growth metrics, birthing the 'Green Net GDP,' decoupling economic progress from the clutches of environmental degradation. Carbon and resource pricing mechanisms steer industries toward sustainability, and the generated revenues fuel innovation and the transition to a greener economy. A pan-European Social Contract ensures that prosperity is a shared legacy, with citizens actively shaping economic decisions.

A new pan-European Social Contract demands transcending the limitations of the past—a Europe where every citizen is empowered to unleash their full potential, unshackled by the constraints of inequality based on social background, disability, race, ethnicity, or religion. Such efforts must include a fairer and more transparent system against tax evasion and avoidance. Through global cooperation, high transparency, and effective enforcement, we must create a progressive and streamlined taxation system. Every citizen shall contribute willingly, secure in the knowledge that they are paying their fair share. Our vision is bold, and our mission is clear: to dismantle barriers to success and forge a society where fairer wealth distribution and equal opportunities flourish.

Our journey toward inclusivity commences with a resolute commitment to accessible healthcare for all, ensuring a robust foundation for every child. Childhood, in our aspiration, shall be fostered by inclusive, gender-sensitive, and culturally responsive education. Daycare and preschool programs are the catalysts for equalizing opportunities, providing unwavering support for children with unique needs. The education system envisioned as the engine of social mobility, moves us toward a future where primary and secondary education, as well as higher education, are not luxuries but birthrights. Financial means must meet this commitment, paving the way for a society rooted in our fundamental values.

Our educational paradigm is revolutionary, placing the student at the centre and embracing interdisciplinary learning and project-based approaches. Education, in our aspiration, goes beyond the mere acquisition of knowledge—it shapes responsible citizens, instilling democratic thinking, media literacy, and critical thought. Across borders, harmonized educational systems foster a socially united Europe that celebrates cultural differences and facilitates mobility.

Celebrating diversity in Europe demands treating migrants, and refugees, including climate refugees, with respect, dignity, and compassion. We envision a continent where no one perishes at sea, economic migrants are not criminalized, and those seeking refuge have the right to not only belong but also to thrive, provided with essential living conditions, healthcare, employment opportunities, and education, including language training.

Respect and dignity are our compass that drives our aspiration towards robust worker rights, decent living wages, health and safety protections, unionization rights, and flexible working arrangements. Whether as workers, entrepreneurs, or freelancers, a comprehensive social safety net unfurls, granting the freedom to take risks without the spectre of financial instability. European society must cherish work-life balance, affording ample time for personal pursuits, family, and friends.

Addressing these internal challenges only would not bring the necessary radical change for Europeans to thrive.

Our aspiration for Europe transcends mere unity but demands the EU to be a beacon of strength and influence on the global stage. Picture a future where the European Armed Forces, evolving to surpass national boundaries, become a symbol of solidarity and security. Fueled by a shared defence budget and strategic resource management, this transformation does not just secure Europeans' interests; it builds strategic autonomy, all while upholding the principles of democratic accountability.

Our aspiration does not stop at securing our borders; it is a blueprint for a future EU foreign policy that resonates with coherence and proactivity on a global scale. Imagine a streamlined foreign policy decision-making, led by the European Ministry of Foreign Affairs and guided by the European Minister of Foreign Affairs, with an elevated role for the European Parliament ensuring rigorous democratic oversight. These internal reforms are necessary for the EU to project our aspirations onto the international stage, with the EU becoming a major force in multilateral organizations, spearheading a reformed United Nations. The EU must act as a global democracy seriously, standing as one voice to champion the rights of minorities and the fight for climate justice. Diplomacy and economic resources must be used as tools for promoting peace, security, and stability worldwide.

The EU must lead with responsibility, advocating for the vulnerable, and shaping a future where unity is not just a concept but a force for positive change on a global scale. It is our internal unity and our internal environmental and economic aspirations that will enable the EU to meet the global

challenge of climate change and climate justice. By consistently engaging with the world, the EU must not only secure its future but pave the way for a stable, low-emission world where global warming is confidently projected to stay below 2 degrees by 2040.

The EU must become a hub for climate-positive projects worldwide, offering long-term, low-interest loans and stimulating private capital, for the sake of achieving climate justice commitments. The EU has the responsibility to support global communities in transitioning to sustainable, low-emission pathways, reinforcing its commitment to the Paris Agreement. The only future we must strive for is one of sustainability, resilience, and equity converging for the benefit of all.

We envision a Europe that actively proactively boosts the economies of non-European countries, addressing root causes of displacement through durable development cooperation, financial aid, and educational programs; dismantles networks of illegal migration, prioritizing the needs of the victims; and ensures legal pathways for both refugees and migrants that are standardized across all Member States, embracing inclusion, equal burden-sharing, and the free movement of people. Our cooperation must be built on democratic values, aiming to reduce poverty, conflict, climate change, and political instability.

The urgency is clear, and waiting is not an option. Climate change, conflicts, overcrowded camps, and societal resistance demand immediate action. Together, with people—be they Europeans, migrants, or refugees—at the centre of our aspirations, we can fashion a future that is thriving for all. So, let us stride into this future, fueled by the fire of optimism and the conviction that our actions today will forge a Europe where every dream can flourish and every citizen has boundless possibilities. The time for action is now, and together, we shall shape a tomorrow that surpasses even our most ambitious aspirations.

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# Moonshot Programme 2024-29 Policy Acts

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# 1. Empowering Europe's Path to Prosperity

The EU is today the world's largest economy and biggest trading bloc, thanks to decades of economic integration within and outside its borders. This economic powerhouse and its ties to the world have enabled significant societal advancement from rising income levels to peace and stability, and increased well-being.

While the groundwork of economic cohesion remains crucial, we are in desperate need of an upgrade of our framework to master the shortcomings and challenges we are facing today, within Europe and across the world. These include the climate crisis, geopolitical vulnerabilities, the digital transformation and social polarisation fuelling extremist politics. We must therefore create measures that encourage innovation, ensure effective taxation and redirect funds to pay into both sustainability and an equitable society within and across countries.

As a progressive movement, we challenge old narratives posing tradeoffs between economic growth and inequality or sustainability. Instead, we promote a vision where policies protect, provide opportunities, and drive economic progress simultaneously. In order to steer towards long-lasting prosperity, our measures of growth must include both planetary boundaries and their effects on an equitable and resilient society.

Likewise, prioritising research and innovation is paramount for nurturing European innovative and existing industries while addressing global societal challenges such as climate change, digitalization, and health threats. Frameworks for the adoption of innovations such as carbon capture technologies or AI, need to be put in place to enable companies of various sizes and consumers to benefit from those innovations while ensuring our planetary and social boundaries are met (e.g. data protection, energy consumption).

**Our Prosperous Jobs and Wealth Fairness Act complements the current Act, with an array of measures that redefine governance and fortify the social safety net for all European citizens on our path to shared prosperity.**

Our vision is a significant shift in the current economic paradigm, one that supports Europe's transition to sustainable prosperity. Spearheading this shift in Europe to achieve simultaneously economic, social and environmental welfare, Europe will continue contributing to spreading those developments across continents and thereby strengthen democracies across the world.

# 1. New Economic Paradigm

- Pursue a progressive economic framework through an updated GDP indicator that includes natural capital accounting, encompassing the extraction, depletion, and deregulation of natural capital in economic activity.
- Complement GDP with quality of life indicators and well-being indicators, such as employment, mental and physical health, recreation and leisure time.
- Increase efforts in European institutions to coordinate data collection and usage for the creation of more sustainable economic indicators.
- Use sustainability and quality-of-life indicators as KPIs and inputs for the EU policy and the application of the European fiscal rules, the EU budget, and the European Semester processes.

# 2. Investing in the Industry of the Future

- Triple the commitment to Horizon Europe to make it fit for purpose in funding research and innovation programmes that tackle climate change, help to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and boost the EU's competitiveness and growth. This will be central to establishing an EU-led and pan-European public-private investment that benefits all Member States.
- Through this programme, we propose to:
  - Increase investment in innovation of public goods and state-funded services that have been side-lined for too long. Health, education, cybersecurity, human-centred AI, microtechnology, and networks must work for all EU citizens and be geared towards projects with a clear focus on sustainability and green growth.
  - Increase funds to support programmes that improve the digitalisation of our public processes and functions, as we detail in the Thriving Together Act.
  - Develop research in critical and underdeveloped sustainability areas as detailed in the Climate Transition Act and Healthy Ecosystems Act.
  - Create a European defence Industrial base to support the creation of an effective European Armed Forces, as we advocate in the Foreign Affairs and Defence Act.
- Create innovative and competitive industrial clusters instead of a single industrial core, following a geographic strategy that allows beneficial European infrastructure projects to proceed by removing veto power from any single Member State.
- Establish a full-scale European venture program to raise and provide private and public risk capital to help bring innovative European products and services to the global market. This should be administered through the European Investment Fund.
- Triple the EU budget to €3 trillion over seven years to support this ambitious agenda, resorting to new European debt and taxes as detailed in the Reform Europe Act.
- Improve the education and qualification of European citizens, as detailed in the Thriving Together Act, as a necessary condition for this investment.

## 3. Green Economy

- Implement carbon pricing that is mainstreamed to all sectors of the economy with revenues redirected towards green investments, as detailed in the Climate Transition Act.
- Introduce regulatory standards to ban planned obsolescence, promote circular practices and reduce material footprint.

- Extend the 20% target to produce semiconductors in the EU by 2030 to electrolyzers, inverters, batteries and critical components for solar panels and wind turbines.
- Ensure the availability of raw materials and extend the Critical Raw Materials Act to include compulsory licensing for exporting critical resources.

## 4. Responsible Digital Transformation

- Continuously research technologies and the impact of current legislation, to create new legislation that facilitates the evolution of digital technology in a way that upholds European values and creates industries of the future in Europe, focussing on seven principles:
  - Ensuring the safety and security of users of digital technology, for example, by ensuring that all organisations within the EU assess their exposure to the impact of quantum computing and create a migration plan to post-quantum cryptographic protocols where necessary. Similarly, e.g., communicating annually to the public the security posture of critical infrastructure.
  - Fostering open-source and accessible technology, for example, increasing access of EU institutions and industries to open-source software, by avoiding legislation that hinders open-source contributions or threatens net neutrality and ensuring that everyone in Europe gets access to new technologies.
  - Advancing sustainable and long-lasting technology, for example, by strengthening the 'right to repair' so that anyone who wants to repair their product themselves has access to affordable spare parts and repair information. Similarly, e.g., requiring manufacturers to publish the ecological footprint of products (including the manufacturer's supply chain) in product specifications.
- Ensuring that current and new technology does not violate fundamental rights and freedoms, for example, by requiring mandatory audits of AI systems so that they don't infringe on privacy or produce discriminatory effects.
- Supporting entrepreneurs to fit into the regulatory framework of the EU. In particular, creating regulatory sandboxes and including funding for technological compliance in existing and forthcoming EU funding programmes.
- Ensuring that digital technologies are taxed fairly, based on where the digital product's revenue is generated.
- Strengthening EU frameworks to ensure that providers operating in Europe future-proof their emerging and disruptive technologies. Future-proofing is especially important in the current global Industrial Revolution 4.0 and is an enabler for the EU to promote its values in international dialogue.

## 5. Institutionalise our European Investment Schemes

- Make the Resilience and Recovery Facility, which is the largest EU program that promotes economic development and social and environmental goals, a permanent element of the negotiations on the next multiannual financial framework. Focus on the strategic autonomy of the EU by strengthening our supply chains and subsidising the reshoring of critical goods and inputs.
- Extend and strengthen programs that provide support for small and medium-sized enterprises, such as InvestEU, especially those showing innovative business models and providing critical goods. In selecting investments, consider how to strengthen areas that have been affected by outmigration ("brain drain") to counteract the core-periphery status quo of the European economy.
- Put in place rules that prevent the use of European taxpayer-funded investment programs in importing from outside the EEA goods and services that have critical strategic importance for the economic autonomy of the EU. Such imports create reliance on foreign goods and services, which contradicts our desired goal of enhanced strategic autonomy.
- Introduce a Small Business Act for Europe which reserves 25% of public contracts on EU and national level for European SMEs and validates legislation and requirements on both levels not to be harmful to SMEs.
- Simplify the public procurement process and reporting requirements for SMEs.

## 6. A deeply integrated European market

- Champion European market integration, especially that of financial markets, by ensuring that entrepreneurs in Eastern Europe have the same financing potential as those in Western Europe.
- Complete the Banking and Capital Markets Union and introduce European deposit insurance and sovereign bond-backed securities to provide safer assets to banks for backing safe deposits, thus supporting the continuous harmonisation and integration of European supervision and regulation.
- Progress towards backing European safe assets by sovereign debt issued by the EU and backed by European debt and taxes.
- Further develop our capital markets for both debt and equity financing and saving, especially for our small and medium-sized companies, and make it easier to raise capital via alternative financial instruments, such as crowdfunding and peer-to-peer lending.
- Strengthen corporate governance standards to reduce the risk of mismanagement, fraud, and excessive speculation, through a fair tax system. Raise capital requirements for banks to avoid the need for excessive taxpayer subsidies to banks.

## 7. Trade, Sustainability and Human Rights

- Embed obligatory human rights and ecological sustainability into all trade agreements and review agreements or stop negotiations if consistent violations are identified.
- Take measures to monitor and identify products made with forced labour and prevent them from entering the EU market.
- Trade deals must take into account the economic realities in third countries and be to the benefit of both parties

## 8. Protecting Critical Infrastructure

- Promote a broad definition of European critical infrastructure, including transportation systems, waste & water infrastructure, healthcare and public health services, energy grids, harbours, airports, nuclear power plants, digital communication networks, data centres, network cables, arable land and chemical facilities.
- Prioritise investment in critical Pan-European infrastructure projects, including a renewed commitment to the Trans-European Transport Networks (TEN-T) by doubling the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) funding instrument
- Allow the EU to prevent potentially dangerous foreign direct investment (FDI) in critical infrastructure by creating consistent FDI screening mechanisms across Member States.
- Grant the EU the right to prevent FDI into the European economy or the use of foreign-produced parts in critical infrastructure if it concludes that these pose a security risk, thus ensuring that the EU retains the necessary autonomy.
- Grant the EU the right to purchase any asset directly that is to be sold to a foreign buyer, if such sale would pose a security risk.

## 9. Secure and Competitive Payments and Financial Services

- Introduce measures that give EU citizens and companies secure and affordable options for payments and digital financial services, avoiding market dominance by a few players that charge high transaction fees:
- Ensure competition in the market for consumer financial services and incentivise the adoption of useful financial technology products, such as non-exclusive card payments or instant bank transfers.
- Initiate antitrust proceedings in cases where the market is captured by a small number of dominant firms.
- Consider the establishment of a European public payment processing corporation, if the large American payment processing firms are found to use a dominant market position to charge excessive fees.
- Introduce a digital Euro as a useful medium of payment for the unbanked, creating competitive pressure in the market for deposits and payments. This should not have any holding limits and include salary payments.
- Safeguard the position of cash as legal tender in our society, but limit real estate transactions in cash to prevent money laundering.

## 10. Fighting tax evasion and avoidance

- Combat tax evasion and avoidance, which are rampant in the EU due to tax competition between Member States that often allows large international firms to evade taxes, while small and medium-sized enterprises pay their fair share:
  - Harmonise corporate taxation by using a Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base in the EU and introduce formulary apportionment of profits of multinational corporations.
  - Mandate a minimum effective corporate tax rate of at least 22% and introduce obligatory national top-up taxes for profits from lower tax jurisdictions to effectively reach at least 22%. Furthermore, allow optional national top-up taxes up to the domestic tax rate.
  - Facilitate the automatic and mandatory exchange of information between all EU Member States, with the new EU Ministry of Finance as a coordinating institution, as proposed in the Reform the EU Act.
  - We want Europe to effectively fight tax evasion and illicit money flows but policymakers' available information about the distribution and geography of wealth is very limited. We do not have an overview of where, in Europe or offshore, much of
- the private and corporate wealth resides. By improving the flow of information between national authorities we can better understand wealth inequality, fight tax evasion, and stop the flow of illicit money from abroad into Europe.
- Implement a central wealth register by merging data from various sources, such as national tax and real estate register data. Grant this responsibility to the EU Ministry of Finance, proposed in the Reform the EU Act, allowing it to close the current informational gap on the distribution and geography of wealth.
- Create mechanisms to exchange data with other such registers worldwide, especially regarding information about offshore tax havens. European data protection standards have to be ensured in such exchanges.
- Allow the Ministry of Finance to negotiate agreements for the mutual sharing of such data with the clearing houses in international financial centres.
- Enforce the EU rules on the obligation of establishing beneficial ownership registers, so that real estate investors can no longer hide behind anonymous front companies.

## How we will pursue this act in the European Parliament

The "Empowering Europe's Path to Prosperity" Act requires major and minor changes to the existing European Union legal framework. Some proposed reforms would likely require amendments to the Treaties such as, for example, the use of new indicators for the application of European Union budget rules which would entail an amendment of Articles 121 and 126 TFEU, and of Protocol 12 of the Treaty. Similarly, some of the measures aimed at granting the Commission more powers in the sphere of national security to protect critical infrastructures require Treaty change, as national security remains a sphere of competence of the Member States. Moreover, a European safe asset backed by sovereign debt issued by the European Union and European debt and taxes are likely to require Treaty change.

Further policies that Volt proposes need less far-reaching amendments to existing legislative or administrative instruments. For instance, to realise the measures aimed at fostering the Green Economy new legislative instruments and amendments to secondary law in force or

proposed by the Commission are necessary, including Regulation (EU) 2023/1781 (Chips Act), the Critical Raw Materials Act (not yet adopted), or the Net Zero Industry Act (not yet adopted). Likewise, Volt's policies aiming at the completion of the Banking and Capital Markets Union require the adoption of new secondary legislation in this area, without Treaty change. Furthermore, to facilitate the exchange of information between Member States the introduction of new secondary legislation, potentially amending existing instruments such as Council Directive 2011/16/EU on administrative cooperation in the field of taxation, is necessary. In addition, new investments as mentioned by the Act require an agreement of Member States over the increase of the EU budget in the context of the multiannual financial framework. Lastly, the "Institutionalise our Investment Schemes" pillar will require an amendment of Directive 2014/24/EU on public procurement.

## Costs and Income of the proposals included in the Act

The total costs of this Act, which consist of the implementation costs and the annual costs for five years, is € 316.364.000.000. The implementation costs are €308.646.500.000 and the annual costs are € 1.543.500.000.

Examples of implementation costs in the Moonshot Program are the policy and legal framework development, the capacity building and training of (new) staff, the building of IT or physical infrastructure, or public awareness campaigns.

Examples of annual costs are salaries and benefits, administrative costs, infrastructure maintenance, or the costs associated with the running of the proposed policies.

The total costs of the complete Moonshot Program are mentioned separately from the total income.

## 2. Foreign Affairs and Defence Act

More than a decade ago, the European Union won the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of its successful prevention of war among its members following two devastating World Wars. However, in 2022, war erupted again on the European continent, as Russia attacked Ukraine. The lesson is that achieving peace in Europe cannot only be done by looking inward, as freedom must be better armed than tyranny. Europe must take responsibility for its broader horizon. Across the globe, China has emerged as a systemic rival, and even the United States has displayed inconsistency as a reliable partner. Global and European challenges continue to surge. Meanwhile, individual EU member states' influence in the international system has decreased, while the famous question "Who do I call if I want to speak to Europe" remains as relevant as ever. Volt is committed to turning the EU into a strong pillar of a reformed multilateral system which speaks with one voice on the world's stage.

The EU has the means to become a powerful, self-reliant, and positive global actor. A history of multilateral leadership, transformative enlargement rounds, and a globally competitive defence industrial base provide solid ground for more ambitious policies. A majority of European residents and citizens want to see the EU play a stronger role in their defence and representation, which would lead to greater security, diversity and prosperity for all its residents. This is why the EU should establish its Armed Forces equipped with a strong and unified defence industrial base. However, real strength can only come through awareness and taking responsibility. The EU should develop a progressive foreign policy culture that is self-reflective of its own historical legacies and public perceptions in other parts of the world. Through progressive trade and development policies, we will also build a more positive, attractive and horizontal relationship with the global majority.

To stand on solid footing in the world, the EU must also improve its societal resilience to hybrid threats against our economies, citizens and democracies, and improve security through civic participation. Many millions of people find inspiration in the EU and see it as their common future. Volt is committed to welcoming new Member States with open arms, to amplify its global sway and to advance the peaceful unification of Europe. A reformed and enlarged EU will foster stability on our continent and build our global influence to ultimately shape a more equitable, effective and legitimate multilateral system for all.

## 1. One voice for the EU in the world

- Restructure the European External Action Service (EEAS) by evolving the European External Action Service (EEAS) into the European Union Ministry of Foreign Affairs (EUMFA). This transformation will streamline and optimise the EU's foreign affairs apparatus to enhance its efficiency, effectiveness, and global influence.
- Divide the Role of the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HRVP) into two distinct positions: an EU Minister of Foreign Affairs and an EU Minister of Defence. This division of responsibilities will bring about specialisation and focused leadership in their respective domains.
- The newly established EUMFA, through the democratic mandate of a majority-elected European Government, will become the sole representative for the EU's commonly formulated foreign policy position and its exercise in diplomacy, including bilateral and multilateral negotiations. The current setup needs to be more cohesive, thus more transparent, effective and consistent. The EUMFA mandate will focus on the following key missions:
  - Carry on political diplomacy. Thus, the EUMFA will be the EU's representative on international cooperation, human rights, international justice, neighbourhood and enlargement, and humanitarian assistance.
  - Carry on science diplomacy. The EUMFA will notably support and promote climate and global health
- collaboration. Additionally, the EUMFA will develop an EU space strategy, enable cooperation on space exploration and lead the way towards establishing an international framework within the UN for collaboration in the civil exploration and peaceful use of the Moon, Mars, and other astronomical objects.
- Cultivate a Common Diplomatic Culture both at the national and EUMFA levels, expanding the EU staff proportionally to seconded national staff and mandating the participation of all EU diplomatic staff (both national and EUMFA) in the European Diplomatic Academy and its training programs.
- Enhance Consular Services with the EUMFA managing bilateral representation and consular services for all EU Member States in third countries with no national diplomatic presence for those Member States.
- Create a proper Joint Intelligence Analysis Branch by empowering the EU Intelligence and Situation Centre (EU INTCEN) with the ability to collate and process intelligence gathered by member states and EUMFA delegations. It will also establish its intelligence-gathering capabilities, under effective parliamentary and judicial scrutiny to ensure compliance with human rights. EU INTCEN analyses will inform the decision-making processes of joint EU foreign and security policies, including the identification of collective security threats and priorities.

## 2. A progressive foreign policy culture

- Build a strong conscience for colonial and imperial legacies of Member States in third countries in the European diplomatic corps that is reflected in the EU's diplomacy towards these third countries by creating diverse and unified diplomatic representation, embodying a European voice. Highlight different backgrounds in Europe when building a structural dialogue with third countries based on equality and respect, aiming to move away from past paternalistic and exploitative legacies and combat resentment.
- Integrate Feminist Foreign Policy (FFP) within the EUMFA and Member States' Ministries of Foreign Affairs. Internally, this will necessitate ensuring equal participation of women and other inter-sectionally disadvantaged groups within the EU's diplomatic service, encompassing leadership roles. Externally, the EU will encourage equal participation in negotiations and peace agreements involving other international actors. EU delegations to international negotiations will be composed of FFP principles.

## 3. A Vision for a Wider, Stronger and More Inclusive Union

- Introduce a new enlargement methodology centred on gradual integration into the EU through stages, replacing the current "all or nothing" approach with a more efficient, transparent and fairer process. As candidate countries make progress in implementing reforms to align with the EU acquis, they will progressively gain greater access to EU resources like the EU budget and participation in EU institutions. These stages will be reversible in case of reform setbacks. The European Government (formerly the Commission) will monitor this process through quantified assessments, replacing the current qualitative method. Candidate countries must be able to understand the process and the evaluation of their progress fully and have means to appeal for scrutinization of decisions. The new system will accelerate the accession timelines of candidates through new incentives for reforms which will counter "enlargement fatigue" while improving the flexibility of the EU's own "absorption capacity".
- Aligning EU enlargement with other non-EU organisations by making the new staged enlargement complementary with membership of other frameworks such as the European Political Community (EPC) and the Council of Europe. Membership of such organisations should not be an alternative to EU membership for aspiring candidates, but be complementary in terms of different sectoral focuses and levels of engagement. EU enlargement should be a merit-based and open-door policy.
- Provide Special Support for Nations Facing Foreign Aggression by developing a clear pre-prepared toolbox of options to provide support for countries seeking EU membership who are under hybrid or conventional threats with specific instruments to protect their sovereignty and territorial integrity, societal resilience and consistency of their EU accession pathway. Additionally, provides special long-term political, financial, and military commitments from the EU to protect Ukraine and secure its path towards EU accession. Financial assets seized through sanctions against Russia will be used to finance such aid, accession reforms and reconstruction.
- Reform the EU to make it ready for enlargement most importantly, decision-making procedures that currently require unanimity in the Council must be replaced with qualified majority voting (QMV) to avoid blockades by single Member State vetoes. Furthermore, the EU's budget must be reformed to reflect the financial needs of an enlarged EU. The EU reform Volt envisions is detailed in our Reform the EU Act (Chapter 7).

## 4. Reducing the global North-South economic divide

- Together, the 27 member countries and institutions of the European Union contribute \$115 billion to Official Development Assistance (ODA), according to the 2022 OECD figures, double the amount of American aid. Currently, each member country manages its ODA effort within a national framework, according to its own geographic and thematic priorities. To strengthen their effectiveness, coherence and visibility, Volt proposes that funding and public development aid mechanisms be grouped at the European level within the framework of a "European Development Agency" with ad hoc financial and human resources and institutional arrangements. This transfer would give the EU a unique capacity to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and an enhanced soft power capacity.
- The "Washington consensus" served until recently as a doctrine for the World Bank and the IMF which, in return for their loans, imposed on developing countries policies of liberalisation of public services and opening of their economies with effects sometimes catastrophic. For their part, China and its allies have developed a "Beijing consensus", which emphasises the financing of infrastructure, without any consideration of the excessive debt over the beneficiary countries, nor of the essential principles of good governance and respect for human

rights. Faced with these two models which have shown their limits and dangers, the EU can play a leading role in developing and promoting a "Strasbourg consensus" in multilateral institutions, based on the following principles:

- A renegotiation of the debt of the least developed countries within the framework of the Paris Club (60 countries are in a state of debt distress).
- The introduction of a new clause in loan contracts signed by developing countries automatically suspends their repayment in the event of a large-scale natural disaster.
- An overhaul of the governance of international institutions, in particular, the recruitment of leaders of the World Bank and the IMF based on skills, and greater participation of representatives of civil society and NGOs in the governance bodies of these institutions.
- Negotiated conditionalities, linked to the fight against corruption, respect for the rights of minorities, and policies for the promotion and protection of women.

## 5. An autonomous military & civil defence capability

- Reform and merge the EDA and the defence-industrial elements of the European Commission (e.g. DG DEFIS) into a European Ministry of Defence (EUMD) creating a centralised institution responsible for overseeing European defence efforts, including strategy, operations, research, procurement, and the Defence Technological and Industrial Base.
- Establish a European Military Headquarters (EMHQ) responsible for drafting strategy and making key operational decisions regarding the operations of EU military units, particularly the RDC and ERF. It will operate under the EUMD and should be supported by a European Military Academy (EMA) which will educate, train and exchange a generation of personnel with a joint military culture.
- In the short term, reinforce regional specialisation in specific branches (e.g. air, land, sea) and capabilities (e.g. cyber, amphibious, air assault). This will incentivise the development of comparative advantages and increase the cost-effectiveness and interoperability of EU militaries. At the same time, encourage and standardise best practices on regional integration of national units at the operational level, e.g. on the example of Franco-German and Dutch-German units. This will contribute to a shared military culture and operational effectiveness.
- In the medium term, develop joint EU military capabilities by ensuring the Rapid Deployment Capacity (RDC) is ready for deployment by 2025, and further expanding it by adding more mission profiles, providing it with standing and harmonised equipment and EU staff. In addition, the EU should create a standing European Response Force (ERF) of 60,000 personnel equipped with the highest spectrum of land, air, naval and space assets. Its core purpose is as an initial intervention force to respond to threats to EU territorial integrity, complementing national militaries. This capability will be available with priority for the EU, and second priority for NATO. The EMA will train the personnel of the RDC and ERF.
- Establish immediate EU joint military capabilities amongst a coalition of the willing by creating an agreement accessible to all EU members that constitutes a steering committee, with the necessary powers, which can establish integrated EU military units, where decisions are taken by a qualified majority and in coordination with NATO. Such units will be put under the authority of the reformed European Government as specified in Act 7. This will be a more rapid initial step towards the long-term EU-wide integration of armed forces, reflecting the urgency of the immediate need for an autonomous EU military capability amongst willing member states.

- Expand the European Solidarity Corps into an ambitious voluntary EU civil and military service programme funded by the EU and complementary to existing national military and/or civil public services.
- Create grassroots Initiatives for Resilience through a program aimed at supporting and financing grassroots initiatives dedicated to digital and civic resilience against hybrid threats. These initiatives will counteract activities such as election interference campaigns conducted by "troll factories" from third countries.
- Create a European civil and military branch for disaster intervention expanding RescEU in scope and powers, modelled after the Spanish Unidad Militar de Emergencias and the German Technisches Hilfswerk, that intervenes in all types of man-made and natural disasters and catastrophes. We need to create the competencies in our societies to adapt to climate change and conflicts and a European military branch with civil society institutions across the Union would allow to building of "brand equity" for the European Armed Forces and distinguish the EU from other geopolitical actors by carrying a positive and defence-oriented messaging.

## 6. Advancing the EU's Defence Industrial Strategic Autonomy

- Empower the EU Ministry of Defence to identify military capability needs and procure research, development, and supply of these capabilities in competitive tenders. Procurement shall equip the European armed forces with state-of-the-art military capabilities. To the extent that this primary objective is met, procurement should consider fostering economic development in economically underdeveloped regions of the EU.
- Radically increase the EU's position as a global defence innovator by transforming it into a driving force for the development of emerging and disruptive strategic defence technologies. Existing efforts such as the EU Defence Innovation Scheme (EUDIS) and the Hub for EU Defence Innovation (HEDI) should be consolidated, and their mandate and funding increased. This initiative should focus on capability areas where the EU can achieve global competitiveness, such as the development of cyber, artificial intelligence, carbon-neutral (e.g. green hydrogen), quantum computing, and space defence technologies.
- Consolidate EU Defence Funding (EDF) Instruments by merging existing separate EU funding instruments related to joint defence initiatives, including research and development and procurement. The EDF will become a permanent component of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) in the next budget cycle, receiving at least 6% of the EU budget. Additionally, it will establish a new target, requiring at least 60% of all defence spending by Member States to be allocated to collaborative projects.
- Integrate the EU Defence Industry into the Internal Market phasing out national industrial protectionism and creating substantial economies of scale. It will be compensated by creating EU-regional defence industrial hubs (industries, education etc.) around leading countries, with participation from SMEs and companies in smaller neighbouring Member States.
- Develop Precise Common Rules for Arms Exports and ensure their strict and coherent enforcement for EU defence companies operating outside of the EU.

## 7. A European pillar for NATO and an integrated democratic world

- Establish an EU-NATO Strategic Coordination Group, that is, a political steering body to facilitate structured, long-term cooperation between both entities. The Group will develop a Joint Strategic Document, outlining shared priorities, threat perceptions, capability requirements, force availability, and areas of specialisation (such as territorial defence VS hybrid resilience). It will also delineate regional and thematic roles, particularly concerning role divisions in Europe and the Indo-Pacific and address emerging and disruptive technologies critical to defence. Complementarity between Article 5 of NATO and Article 42.7 of the EU should also be clarified and planned for.
- Continuing the task force on the resilience of critical infrastructure by taking concrete steps to ensure the effectiveness and resilience of critical infrastructure for the Euro-Atlantic military supply chain network, including submarine communications cables and infrastructure critical for energy supply and military mobility. EU and NATO candidates should also be included.
- Increasing interdependence and therefore minimising risks of transatlantic political fallouts through joint integration on non-military initiatives. This would relate particularly to market integration, regulatory standard setting and strategic

dependency minimisation on e.g. emerging technologies (AI, quantum computing), critical rare earth mineral value chains and semiconductors. On the example of the EU-US Trade and Technology Council (TTC) and the sustainable steel and aluminium club, institutionalise and deepen such efforts. Such efforts should help build a transatlantic "Brussels Effect".

- Develop a broader strategy for deeper engagement with other countries which share political norms, values and interests with the EU and NATO, including candidate countries for both, major non-NATO allies and regional organisations. This voluntary cooperation should include efforts to increase mutual deterrence, societal resilience, and political cooperation to strengthen the unity of democracies. The Summit for Democracy should be institutionalised as a forum for coordination with clear membership criteria and an open-door policy.

## 8. Ensuring a Comprehensive Strategic Deterrent

- Promote the global prohibition of nuclear weapons, supporting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) as a long-term strategy for global nuclear disarmament, conditional on its alignment with the fundamental necessity of maintaining a credible strategic deterrent, should the need persist.
- Reduce global stocks of nuclear weapons, reflected both in the deployed warheads, and the retired/reserve ones. This would mitigate the verifiability problem, reduce the risk of human error leading to a (large-scale) nuclear strike and improve supervision effectiveness while reducing the risk of diversion.
- Transfer of Control of the French nuclear deterrent under the political authority of the European Government following the adoption of a European Constitution and the establishment of fully democratic and accountable federal institutions. Over time, its personnel, systems, and procedures will be fully integrated into European structures.
- Develop a Strategic Defence system, capable of effectively countering aerial threats to EU territory, including the capacity to respond to limited (ballistic) nuclear attacks.
- Establish a Conventional Strike Capability to provide a broader range of options along the escalation ladder, minimising the reliance on nuclear deterrence whenever possible.
- Adopt a whole-of-government approach to ensure EU resilience in times of peace, conflict and war, as well as in the "grey zone" between peace, conflict and war. Current EU policies focus primarily on promoting resilience as a framework to counter hybrid threats. Although this framework is valid, the EU must craft specific policies and measures to put this framework into practice effectively.
- Integrate existing instruments (Cyber Diplomacy Toolbox, EU Hybrid Threats framework) to create a Hybrid Threats doctrine. That doctrine will build upon the Council of Europe's Helsinki approach to mainstream a unified EU hybrid threats taxonomy and risk assessment. The first instalment of this framework will be cyber-resilience under the Cyber Solidarity Act.
- Empower the EU INTCEN to lead and implement the doctrine while creating a legal framework for intelligence sharing across the MS. The EU INTCEN will thus facilitate rapid and effective countermeasures and develop recommendations for improving joint civil-military planning for hybrid contingencies.

The first instalment of the capability will be on cyber-resilience under the Cyber Solidarity Act. Capability development will also focus on facilitating processes of public-private continuity management in critical infrastructures.

- Define a threshold of cumulative or non-cumulative hybrid threats where the mutual defence clause (Art. 42(7) TEU) may be invoked and define the means of response that are authorised (conventional, non-conventional). In addition, the relevant bodies will clarify the division of labour about attributing and countering hybrid threats between Integrated Political Crisis Response (IPCR) arrangements, the Hybrid Fusion Cell within the EU INTCEN and the EUMFA (DG DEFIS, EEAS during the transition period).

## 9. Championing a Reformed Multilateral System

- Adopt a Comprehensive Pandemic Accord, implementing a robust pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response framework with a mandate for comprehensive information gathering. Special attention will be devoted to bridging the health capacity gap in developing nations.
  - Restructure the Global Financial System, promoting inclusivity and fairness within the global financial system, mainly to effectively address climate financing for developing countries. Initiatives like the Paris Summit for a New Global Financing Pact will be integral. The ratification of a global minimum corporate tax rate will be expedited.
  - Establish New Own Resources for the UN, creating financial mechanisms such as a Global Resources Dividend (GRD) or Tobin Tax to fund and incentivize transitions aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and distribute the financial burden at the UN more equitably.
  - Support a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA), to strengthen the UN's democratic legitimacy and create a precedent for representative democracy at the UN level which could be further expanded in its mandate and scope in the future, including overriding vetoes by United Nations Security Council (UNSC)
- permanent members. The UNPA should adopt a representative voting system, taking into consideration the population size of the Member States.
- Reform the UNSC, In the short term, by adding additional permanent UNSC members and transferring the French permanent UNSC seat to an EU seat. In the long term, by abolishing permanent seats and instituting a regular election for UNSC seats by the General Assembly (later the UNPA) from a pool of regional groupings. The UNSC should increase the total number of seats to better reflect regional, economic, and population diversity, including by granting seats to regional organisations. In addition, Qualified Majority Voting should replace unanimity for matters related to genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes, including resolutions legitimizing military interventions

# How we will Pursue this Act in the European Parliament

The Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) is based, inter alia, on Articles 21-46 of the TEU as well as Articles 205-222 of the TFEU. In the field of CFSP, the EU is currently vested with special legislative competencies which include specific institutional features, such as the limited participation of the European Parliament in the decision-making procedure. CFSP is currently defined and implemented by the European Council as well as the Council of the European Union.

To implement the policies of the Act, there is a legal need for Treaty changes. These changes include the establishment of shared legislative competencies to allow the Union to introduce common standards by law. Policies such as "one voice for the EU in the world" require a broad rethinking of the existing legislative framework. This includes the restructuring of the European External Action Service (EEAS) into a European Union Ministry of Foreign Affairs (EUMFA) as well as the division of the role of the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HRVP) into two positions, namely an EU Minister of Foreign Affairs and an EU Minister of Defence. To realise this policy, Treaty changes are

suggested, including, inter alia, Title III of the TEU "provision on the institutions", Title V of the TEU "general provisions on the Union's External Action and specific provision on the common foreign and security policy", Title V of the TFEU on "international agreements" as well as the Declaration concerning the common foreign and security policy. In addition, subsequent legislation including binding legal acts such as a Decision are required to establish and further define the role of the Ministers. Furthermore, Volt strives to advance the EU's defence industrial strategic autonomy by enhancing the EU's position as a global defence innovator. To consolidate and enhance efforts such as the EU Defence Innovation Scheme (EUDIS) and the Hub for EU Defence Innovation (HEDI) there is a need for change and update of the existing secondary law, such as Regulation (EU) 2021/697 establishing the European Defence Fund. Moreover, policies strengthening and innovating the role of the Union in the global context require advocating principles such as feminist foreign policies within the existing framework of NATO and the United Nations as well as in new bilateral and multilateral agreements.

# Costs and Income of the proposals included in the Act

The total costs of this Act, which consist of the implementation costs and the annual costs for five years, is € 447.460.000.000. The implementation costs are € 49.626.000.000 and the annual costs are € 199.330.000.000.

Examples of implementation costs in the Moonshot Program are the policy and legal framework development, the capacity building and training of (new) staff, the building of IT or physical infrastructure, or public awareness campaigns.

Examples of annual costs are salaries and benefits, administrative costs, infrastructure maintenance, or the costs associated with the running of the proposed policies.

The total costs of the complete Moonshot Program are mentioned separately from the total income.

# 3. Thriving Together Act

**Europe prides itself on being a region of openness, democracy and freedom. It enjoys some of the highest levels of prosperity and abundance in the world. Yet, despite progress, it remains a continent divided. Millions of people are sidelined or excluded from the opportunities they need to build the lives they deserve. In addition to staggering income inequality, Europeans constantly confront barriers to success and well-being in the form of discrimination, the normative structuring of society, neglected infrastructure and sub-par public services.**

**According to the European Commission, 'most indicators of well-being [in Europe] display a social gradient according to education level, occupation, income and social status. Educational persistence has not changed substantially across birth cohorts, suggesting that limited progress has been made in ensuring equal opportunities.'**

**Underinvestment in key public services and infrastructure has meant that people endure needless burdens, such as exorbitant housing costs, the lack of reliable and accessible transportation, poor access to healthcare, and schooling that fails to equip young people with the skills they need to thrive. Meanwhile, an estimated 150 million Europeans are living with a mental health condition. Discrimination based on gender, sexuality, ethnic background or disability remains prevalent, stifling the life chances of millions. The EU scores just 70.2 out of 100 according to the EU's Gender Equality Index, reflecting women's continued exclusion from political decision-making and unequal treatment in the workplace.**

**Human rights are under threat, with attacks on reproductive rights and a rise in hate crimes against LGBTQIA+ people. More than half of disabled people report having experienced discrimination, though many more have been discriminated against through an inherently ableist system. Furthermore, a digital divide has left many at a disadvantage, while the harmful effects of social media threaten the safety and well-being of all. Social injustices and inequality have, in turn, led to the rise of populist forces attuned to the justified discontent of Europe's people. Enabling people to fulfil their potential and lead meaningful lives is therefore not only a social and economic good but a tool to defeat far-right populism.**

**Through the 'Thriving Together Act', we will harness the resources and wealth Europe already has to provide its citizens with the opportunities they need to flourish. We will ensure that factors such as geography, socio-economic status, gender, ethnic background and disability no longer act as brakes on a person's wellbeing.**

**The provision of essential services, along with the elimination of barriers to education, work and other opportunities, will allow future generations to have equal chances to shape their own lives. The Act takes a holistic approach to tackling the social injustices that remain prevalent in European society. From education and access to work to healthcare, reproductive rights and digital rights, it will provide the means to create a Union that works for all its citizens, not just those privileged by circumstance.**

# 1. Promoting inclusivity and fighting discrimination

- Guarantee equal access to workplace opportunities without discrimination and sanction enterprises that do not comply with inclusive employment.
- Introduce an EU anti-discrimination law that extends the existing protection in the area of employment to other areas such as social security, education and the supply of goods and services, including housing.
- Push for the ratification of the Istanbul Convention by the remaining Member States and its full implementation by the EU and all Member States.
- Strengthen sanctions against hate crimes, including against hate speech and digital violence, by expanding the definitions of such offences.
- Provide free access to menstrual hygiene products for all.
- Strongly encourage Member States to ban conversion therapy, depathologise transgender identities, enable trans people to have their gender legally recognised in a simple administrative procedure, and guarantee gender-affirming healthcare for LGBTQIA+ people.
- Ensure that the Fundamental Rights of LGBTQIA+ people and the respective ECJ and ECHR rulings (e.g., on recognition of same-sex partnership and marriage, legal gender recognition for trans people, and Freedom of Expression) are respected in practice throughout the EU. Ensure that parents in rainbow families are recognised as such throughout the EU (e.g. when moving to another Member State).
- Create EU funding schemes that are directly accessible by civic, social or political organisations to promote constructive dialogue initiatives between divergent views on LGBTQIA+ rights and other contentious topics that are fuelling a social divide within Europe.
- Commit to fighting antisemitism. Educate all citizens about Jewish culture and history, including historical persecution and the responsibility arising from the Shoah. Further, develop the EU strategy for combating antisemitism in cooperation with the Jewish community to defend Jews and Jewish institutions in Europe and globally so that they can feel safe. Promote respectful exchange and cooperation as part of an inclusive society.

## 2. Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- Compel remaining Member States to ratify the optional protocol to the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and create a European Disability Agency that ensures the harmonised implementation of these rights.
- Abolish discriminatory protection regimes such as guardianship, which deny legal capacity for people with disabilities, by supporting the implementation of new supported decision-making (SDM) models.
- Immediately cease all use of European funds to finance the construction of new institutions for disabled people within the EU and in third countries.
- Press Member States to create clear roadmaps out of the institutional model, deploying the personal assistance services necessary for disabled people to actively participate in society.
- Incorporate the CRPD as a binding standard into the EU's legal framework, recognising the CRPD's General Comments as the authoritative guidance to interpretation, in line with the resolution of 18 June 2020 on the post-2020 European disability strategy, and allow for its direct referral by European citizens with disabilities.

## 3. Lifelong education for social mobility

- Promote access to free, high-quality daycare and preschool programmes for every child from an early age.
- Support the development of an inclusive and high-quality educational system that is free of charge, accessible, and offers every child the opportunity to achieve their potential, including by providing extra educational support for teachers and extra social support for children with all kinds of disabilities.
- Equip young people for modern life and the labour market, by proposing interdisciplinary school curricula that focus on key skills including English language competence, STEAM subjects supported by digital resources, citizenship education, and participatory skills such as inclusivity, sustainability, gender equality, mental health, media literacy and critical thinking (see also the 'Good Jobs and Shared Prosperity Act').
- Attract and retain qualified educators and improve their reputation and working conditions by reforming teacher training and pay structures to reflect the vital role educators play, providing ongoing psychological support, and involving teachers in shaping education policy.
- Ensure our university system is low or no tuition-fee-based and offers sufficient financial support for any student who needs it.
- Develop extensive (re-)training and allow each person to get lifelong learning and easier pathways to change careers.
- Promote, support the development of, and expand the accredited European School system into a comprehensive offer, including vocational training, to ensure free access to multilingual, flexible, high-quality, inclusive and internationally competitive education for every child in Europe.

## 4. Strengthening European public health

- Harmonise prevention programmes and public health systems through the European Health Union.
- Implement EU-wide solutions for capacity, costs and reimbursement to ensure that all European residents have access to first-rate public healthcare.
- Initiate a recruitment drive to ensure an adequate number of healthcare workers in all spheres of health and community care.
- Strive to make the digital systems that are already integrated into healthcare systems more human-centred (see the 'Empowering Europe's Path to Prosperity Act').
- Recognise oral health as a human right and public health priority, and develop and implement comprehensive oral health policies and strategies at the EU and national levels.

## 5. Family planning and inclusive reproductive health and rights

- Make abortion on request accessible in law and practice across the EU by removing all undue burdens and barriers to accessing and providing abortion care.
- Ensure that all forms of contraception are provided free of charge or reimbursed by insurance for all people regardless of age.
- Ensure that measures to prevent sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), such as HIV-PrEP and anonymous testing, are made available, accessible and free.
- Criminalise forced sterilisation and forced contraception.
- Propose an inclusive, standardised, Europe-wide SRHR school curriculum, reflecting the variety of sexual and romantic orientations and gender identities, in line with UNESCO guidelines.
- Press for the inclusion of SRHR in the EU Treaties and of the right to abortion in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

## 6. Decriminalizing and regulating sex work

- Decriminalise sex work and ensure that systems of regulation reflect the needs of sex workers, including ensuring the existence of safe working places.
- Ensure that sex workers receive insurance, healthcare and other standard protections.
- Address violence and trafficking and ensure access for sex workers to channels of legal protection and redress.

## 7. Social solidarity and community

- Establish a highly qualified school health system to identify early symptoms of mental suffering.
- Provide child protection services with mental health professionals to bridge the gap between child protection and mental health care.
- Counter the stigma around mental illness by educating children and adults about psychiatric conditions and discrimination.
- Improve digital mental well-being with EU-wide legislation that protects workers' right to disconnect outside of office hours and educates children on the healthy use of digital technology.
- Promote healthy ageing and develop community engagement by introducing a network of community volunteers.
- Support the development of a European network of community mental health services based on WHO guidance.

## 8. Tackling psychosocial risks

- Encourage employers, school boards and training institutions to invest in reducing psychosocial risks like stress, violence and harassment, by integrating this into their management protocols.
- Deliver services for harm reduction while decriminalising addicted people and supporting those who are suffering.
- Optimise care and cure for youths in trouble by introducing low-threshold services where youngsters can meet with professionals and fellow sufferers.

## 9. Affordable and accessible housing and vibrant cities

- Support and fund innovative housing models, such as co-housing, rent-to-own and lifelong renting programmes, to reduce the concentration of housing wealth and ease the financial barriers to home ownership.
- Adopt and enforce WHO guidelines on air pollution exposure and residential green space availability in line with our ‘Health Ecosystems Act’.
- Dedicate European funds to the development of green infrastructure, the enhancement of public spaces, and the realisation of the “15-minute city”, making basic needs and services available in all communities reachable by active or public transport.
- Empower the EU to provide direct funding to cities to support them, independent of potential sanctions to the country. Set up a best practice sharing system for cities to discuss, among other issues, how to:
  - Fund the creation of liveable cities and towns, accessible to all, with vibrant social gathering spots, green spaces and recreational activities;
  - Promote active transportation like walking and cycling, and guarantee safe infrastructure, reducing traffic fatalities;
- Encourage denser urban planning and efficient land use to reduce urban sprawl, thereby reducing carbon emissions, improving health and minimising disease, hospitalisation and death;
- Make affordable and accessible local transportation a reality for all Europeans through the creation of comprehensive and reliable urban and suburban rail networks;
- Employ best spatial planning practices to minimise crime and maximise safety, including establishing ‘community safety hubs’ dispersed throughout public spaces, staffed by trained personnel to assist and support those encountering harassment or feeling vulnerable.

## 10. Improving train travel

- Create a European Transport Authority (ETA), with consultative legislative authority and financial resources, to shift responsibilities to the European level. The ETA will oversee investments in cross-border and high-speed rail infrastructure across Europe, closing existing gaps in rail connectivity.
- Establish a unified rail ticketing platform where any railway user can input two stations in Europe, get a route and book a ticket. The platform must also keep rail users apprised of real-time delays, costs, cancellations and the appropriate passenger rights that apply. The platform should include an open-access API, follow UIC MERITS and cover all (inter)national and cross-border trains.
- Establish a comprehensive high-speed rail network connecting all EU cities with populations exceeding 100,000 residents, encompassing high-speed and sleeper trains and contributing to increased individual freedom and comfort, climate resilience efforts, public health and economic prosperity.
- Task the ETA with pushing innovation and sustainability in the aviation and shipping industries.

## 11. Protecting digital rights

- Transform the Declaration on European Digital Rights and Principles for the Digital Decade into a binding legal instrument, so that the Declaration is upheld at every step of policy making.
- Promote a mandatory opinion by the European Parliament's LIBE committee for each regulatory proposal on digital matters to guarantee that fundamental rights and freedoms are accounted for in the text.
- Provide dedicated funding for representation to ensure people residing in the EU can bring violators to justice.
- Provide dedicated funding for awareness-raising campaigns to enable people to understand how newly enforced EU legislation impacts their fundamental rights and freedoms.
- Collaborate with existing oversight bodies in Member States and civil society to ensure legal requirements are upheld.

## 12. Digital Government

- Support administrative best practice sharing and mutual support services across EU countries to ensure governments redesign processes from scratch when digitising them, ensuring their goals are met efficiently and citizens can understand and follow them easily, with clear timelines and outcomes.
- Where appropriate, transition to paperless processes in both EU institutions and Member States, adopting harmonised ICT standards and offering multi-device friendly services.
- Roll out the EU Digital Identity Wallet, which should be able to digitally store an EU ID, national ID and other public certificates from all Member States, while ensuring user control, decentralised data storage and robust data protection.
- Set up cross-border innovation teams, create a central “EU IT Traineeship Initiative” and introduce EU-sponsored skills certifications, boosting inter-EU collaboration and elevating the digital prowess of public sector employees.
- Ensure offline availability of digital services, for example by staff guiding citizens through digital processes.

## How we will pursue this act in the European Parliament

Article 2 of the TEU enshrines the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, and equality. All European legislation should be based on these principles and foster their implementation into the lives of all EU citizens and people living in the European Union.

The Thriving Together Act addresses the subjects of health, inclusivity, education, digitalisation, and social equality. Many of which the European Union cannot legally regulate since the legislative competencies lie with the Member States. To implement the positive changes that are promoted by this act, Volt suggests a Treaty change to make Public and Human Health and Education shared legislative competencies, allowing the European Union to introduce common standards by law. Furthermore, to achieve the ambitious objectives set out by this act, new European legislation is needed and will be addressed by Volt within the European Parliament. Combining and updating existing anti-discrimination Directives for clearer arrangements and transparency (Directive 2000/43/EC, Directive 2000/78/EC, Directive 2006/54/EC, Directive 2004/113/EC) and working towards an “EU Anti-Discrimination law” that includes the rights of LGBTQIA+ people and protects the rights of all people

living in the European Union is a necessary step to foster equality. People with disabilities need adequate legal protection *inter alia* through the proposal of a Directive on deinstitutionalisation that implements a Europe-wide plan to guarantee independent living for those diagnosed with a mental disorder or developmental disability. Volt will be working towards introducing a law that regulates sex work in all Member States, decriminalising workers and providing them with adequate protection. To reflect changes such as digitalisation and working from home Directive 2019/1152 on transparent and predictable working conditions needs to be amended. The adaptation to a digitalised world will be achieved by working towards a new European eGovernment Action Plan that includes policies and actions on government process redesign, transition to paperless processes, adaptation of harmonized ICT standards and multi-device friendly services. Furthermore, to ensure that the development of the Interoperable Europe Act (2022/0379 (COD)) takes an inclusive approach to stakeholder involvement, Volt advocates for the final act representing our principles, digital rights, open data and Free Libre Open Source Software (FLOSS).

## Costs and Income of the proposals included in the Act

The total costs of this Act, which consist of the implementation costs and the annual costs for five years, is € 2.864.062.000.000. The implementation costs are € 1.295.637.500.000 and the annual costs are € 313.684.900.000.

Examples of implementation costs in the Moonshot Program are the policy and legal framework development, the capacity building and training of (new) staff, the building of IT or physical infrastructure, or public awareness campaigns.

Examples of annual costs are salaries and benefits, administrative costs, infrastructure maintenance, or the costs associated with the running of the proposed policies.

The total costs of the complete Moonshot Program are mentioned separately from the total income.

## 4. Good Jobs and Shared Prosperity Act

Incomes, on average, have been growing in Europe over the last decades. However, they have not done so fast enough and not to the benefit of everyone. Productivity gains have also been slowing, showing the same uneven distribution. As a result, large inequalities persist across the EU, both locally and bloc-wide. Such a two-tier labour market means that some workers have safe and stable jobs, while others work with fewer rights and in unprotected workplaces.

At the same time, areas with large potential for sustainable growth have witnessed severe skill shortages that hold back potential and hinder the labour force participation of young people and women, who additionally face a persistent gender gap in well-paying jobs and carry the larger burden of unpaid housework.

Many vacant jobs exist and remain unfilled due to their poor working conditions, with labour protections and workplace rights enforced unevenly across Member States. These inequalities undermine the well-being of workers and hinder the establishment of a cohesive cross-border social fabric.

The glaring absence of sufficient European social cohesion mechanisms further exacerbates the situation, preventing the pooling of resources and efforts necessary for tackling shared challenges. Consequently, poverty continues to persist at concerningly high rates, tarnishing the EU's reputation as a bastion of prosperity and equality. Yet, these challenges are not insurmountable. They are self-made.

By creating a highly productive, fair, and meaningful work environment for all citizens we can promote the creation of a European Social Union that supports all Europeans and guarantees their rights. Harnessing technologies such as automation, AI and green technologies will boost labour productivity, resulting in new types of jobs, higher wages, and reduced working hours. Ensuring that EU citizens have the skills and education necessary for these technologies will guarantee their adoption to the benefit of workers. Remote work can unlock the full potential of the European labour market and robust workers' rights will guarantee fair wages and working conditions for all workers, harmonising standards across the bloc.

Finally, to end tax competition between Member States and facilitate the harmonisation of taxation, we propose to define a common minimum EU tax base for direct taxation.

## 1. A Truly European Social Union

- Develop a truly European Social Union, leveraging the establishment of the new EU Ministry of Finance (see Empowering Europe's Path to Prosperity and Reform the EU Acts) as a coordinating institution, and a tripled EU budget which provides investments, addresses social imbalances, and shields against economic downturns:

- Create a European Basic Income (EBI), modelled after a negative tax system, where people earning below a certain income threshold receive payments instead of paying taxes. This provides a safety net and incentivises work to support people in escaping poverty traps. Have the EU's Ministry of Finance make such payments from the EU budget, cost-adjusting to each region to at least 500 Purchasing Power Standards, which is an income sufficient to cover basic living expenses. The principles of EBI (European Basic Income) are necessary to harmonise and execute by the member states to reach a truly European union. The legal fundament for EBI is already binding for all member states by the TFEU (Treaty and Functioning of the European Union) article 107, concerning state aid.

- Incentivise Member States to reduce the number of deductions in favour of lower income tax rates and to shrink the number of taxes to promote simplicity while ensuring citizens have dignified lives with the European Basic Income.
- Define and enforce, in coordination with Member States, regionally adjusted minimum wage standards or a high level of union coverage, which ensures the European Basic Income cannot be exploited.
- Harmonise taxation processes so that people have fewer barriers to work and living in multiple different European countries.
- Ensure a common EU tax base for direct national taxes by introducing EU-wide minimum effective rates for gift, inheritance, and wealth taxation, using the European Central Financial Wealth Data Register (see Empowering Europe's Path to Prosperity Act).

## 2. European welfare for all

- Align social systems across the EU by harmonising systems of pensions, sick leave, unemployment insurance, and childcare benefits.
- Ensure universal childcare, shared parental leave, and transferable pension rights.

## 3. Protection of workers' rights

- Harmonise European labour law, with an exemplary European default work contract.
- Enforce the protection of the rights of gig workers by requiring Member States to protect them either in the same way as individuals in full-time employment or create similar protections in terms of health, pension, and unemployment.
- Actively enforce the Blue Book Rights of workers across the continent, creating a European mechanism for monitoring workplace abuses, both for citizens as well as migrants.
- Incentivise the introduction of gender equality measures.
- Establish ethical recruitment policies and principles. This can include bans on abusive practices and recruitment fees, as well as improving access to information for workers, including labour and trade union rights, complaints and redress mechanisms.
- Establish a protected right to be offline outside of working hours.

## 4. Protecting remote work

- Require employers to accept the request for remote work from employees, unless a reasonable and fair reason can be provided as to why it should not take place.
- Update regulations so that it becomes legally and fiscally simple to work remotely from anywhere in the EU.
- Institute special regulations to protect the right of remote workers to disconnect.

## 5. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education

- Align the EU approach to education with the promotion of STEAM subjects and “Life competencies and responsibility” subjects in the Thriving Together Act:
  - Create a special program introducing entrepreneurship and financial literacy education in schools EU-wide.
  - Increase focus on developing digital skills in elementary and secondary schools within the EU, such as the already named media literacy in the Thriving Together Act, but also basic IT skills, information skills and computational thinking (including understanding how AI works), by renewing the commitment and accelerating the timeline of the ‘Digital Education Action Plan’.
- To enhance European productivity through locally produced sustainable consumer goods and enhance the value of technical education, we suggest establishing European Secondary Schools focused on craftsmanship, backed by EU funding and industry expertise, nurturing students aged 10 to 12 towards trade skills, internships, specialisation, and a final masterwork, aiming to provide technically gifted students with an appealing educational path devoid of academic stigma.

## 6. Reskilling and retraining

- Establish a European Skills Fund to:
  - Subsidise on-the-job training for incumbent workers in firms that adopt new green technologies and automation technologies.
  - Provide all Europeans with one grant every three years to be spent on accredited retraining schools in a dual system of classroom and on-the-job training/apprenticeships.

## 7. Democracy in the workplace

- Democratise the workplace by requiring worker participation in boards of large companies.
- Promote unionisation by protecting the right to collective bargaining and lifting barriers to entry for new and accountable unions and forms of representation
- Create a harmonised status for cooperative companies so that they receive administrative support and tax incentives. Promote this status in key sectors of the economy to ensure the financial capital stays within the EU market.

## How we will pursue this act in the European Parliament

The European economy should not exist as an end in itself but as a guarantee for prosperity and economic security for all citizens of the European Union. The legislative framework of the European Union needs to reflect the objective of shared prosperity and economic security more strongly by creating and changing legislation as proposed by this act.

The act expresses the legal ambitions for a European Basic income, an EU-tax reform, a European minimum wage and collective bargaining and a European Social Union. The establishment of a European Basic Income requires far-reaching amendments as the EU is currently not vested with direct authority over social security. Article 153 TFEU permits the European Parliament to adopt supportive measures regarding the achievement of fundamental social rights. A new protocol could grant the EU competence to develop and fund a basic income system. A harmonized EU tax base for gift and inheritance taxation and wealth taxation as well as minimum rates can be achieved by adopting directives similar to the VAT Directives. Implementing EU taxes necessitates, among others, amending Article 311 TFEU, which deals with the European Union's own resources system. A Treaty change is necessary to enable direct tax collection by

the European Union. Therefore, we support the Parliament's call to open the EU Treaties via a convention composed of representatives of the national Parliaments, the heads of state or government of the Member States, of the European Parliament and of the Commission who examine the proposal for a Treaty change. Here, we will make sure that the European Union receives the competence to collect taxes and issue debt. Potential indirect taxes, such as digital or carbon taxes, could be outlined in a new protocol with the unanimous consent of the Member States. The Directive (EU) 2022/2041 on adequate minimum wages in the European Union already exists but needs to be strengthened. To establish European minimum wages and enable cross-border collective bargaining, Article 153 TFEU is employed. This provision allows for coordinated action on working conditions and social protection. Amending the TFEU to include a new chapter explicitly addressing social Union objectives and principles would allow for the deepening of social policy integration. This would provide a legal framework for cooperation while respecting Member States' autonomy.

## Costs and Income of the proposals included in the Act

The total costs of this Act, which consist of the implementation costs and the annual costs for five years, is € 1.290.559.000.000. The implementation costs are € 20.929.000.000 and the annual costs are € 253.926.000.000.

Examples of implementation costs in the Moonshot Program are the policy and legal framework development, the capacity building and training of (new) staff, the building of IT or physical infrastructure, or public awareness campaigns.

Examples of annual costs are salaries and benefits, administrative costs, infrastructure maintenance, or the costs associated with the running of the proposed policies.

The total costs of the complete Moonshot Program are mentioned separately from the total income.

## 5. Asylum Seekers and Refugees Act

**Asylum seekers and refugees in Europe endure distressing conditions due to delayed decisions, inhumane reception conditions, mass detention and exclusion at EU borders. The distribution of asylum seekers among Member States remains contentious, leaving vulnerable individuals in legal limbo.**

**The current system is dysfunctional, forcing asylum seekers onto unsafe irregular routes. Violations of EU law by European border agencies and limited search and rescue missions exacerbate the disorganisation. Consequently, EU Member States' obscure deals with autocratic regimes near their borders are not a viable solution and contribute to unnecessary deaths.**

**The urgency for change is magnified by global displacement on an unprecedented scale, driven by various factors including armed conflicts, persecution and environmental disasters. However, most refugees from Africa and Asia seek refuge in neighbouring countries, not Europe. Volt recognises that although the EU's refugee population is a small fraction of its total, it still contributes to the multicultural and diverse fabric of European societies. To address these challenges, Europe needs an efficient, fair and humane system. The Asylum Seekers and Refugees Act offers concrete solutions to address the challenge of integrating asylum seekers and refugees. It establishes common, swift and fair asylum procedures and reception conditions to ensure humane treatment.**

**To ease the disproportionate burden on border Member States and ensure that people are placed in environments where they can rebuild their lives, this act introduces a fair relocation system triggered upon arrival, which distributes asylum seekers evenly within the boundaries of objective criteria, while considering personal preferences. Immediate access to social, legal, medical and psychological assistance is prioritised. Subsequently, it promotes immediate integration and empowerment of refugees and asylum-seekers, recognising their potential to contribute to society.**

**Furthermore, this Act emphasises protecting the human rights of vulnerable individuals by establishing safe regular pathways for refugees and monitoring violations of those rights. By the same token, legally recognizing climate refugees upholds human rights and promotes a forward-looking approach to addressing the challenges of climate-induced displacement. Meanwhile, through the establishment of additional regular channels for labour migration, as discussed in the labour migration act, the influx of asylum seekers to Europe is reduced. This Act improves conditions for asylum seekers in the EU and addresses concerns outside EU borders, focusing on root causes and reception improvements in the region.**

## 1. Right to seek asylum

- Support decentralised asylum procedures in final destinations where integration efforts are possible during the asylum process. Do not outsource asylum applications to remote locations or even third countries.
- Support the EU's commitment to human rights and its international obligations and ensure the integrity of the asylum-seeking process within the EU.
- Provide refuge and protection under the Geneva Convention, and refuse external agreements that might compromise refugees' well-being or infringe upon their human rights. Invest further in international instruments, like the Global Refugee Forum, to cooperate constructively with third countries, the UNHCR, academics, and other voluntary refugee organisations.

## 2. Safe and regular pathways for refugees

- Establish regular pathways to the EU and end the massive losses of lives in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic by simplifying visa processes, the provision of humanitarian visas and resettlement.
- Make use of *prima facie* recognition and temporary protection mechanisms.
- Create humanitarian corridors to provide safe and regular passage to vulnerable individuals, who often resort to dangerous and irregular routes.
- Support the collaboration among governments, international organisations, and NGOs for identifying and offering reception to vulnerable individuals, either during crises or as a long-term solution to displacement challenges.

## 3. Humane, fast and fair asylum procedures

- Register asylum-seekers upon arrival and inform them about the procedure swiftly in open registration centres at EU borders for efficient initial documentation, security and medical checks.
- Provide streamlined procedures to prevent unnecessary delays and protect persons in vulnerable situations, including (unaccompanied) minors, pregnant women and persons with disabilities, who should be identified throughout the asylum procedure, particularly upon arrival, and receive adequate support. Guardians or specially trained assistants must be available for unaccompanied minors seeking asylum as soon as they are identified.
- Build a system through which children are never detained.
- Ensure a unified database accessible to both national authorities and EU agencies.
- Ensure a system through which all asylum seekers are transferred to their final Member State as swiftly as possible.

## 4. Fair relocation system

- Commit to a Common European Asylum System in which responsibilities are shared in a spirit of solidarity among Member States and supported in all aspects by the European Asylum Agency (EUAA). Work towards a European Asylum Status that is granted by the European Asylum Agency across the Union.
- Abolish the principle of first entry and ensure asylum seekers are distributed according to a mandatory distribution key among Member States.
- Use important indicators, such as GDP and population density, to determine each Member State's asylum seeker quota. Consider meaningful links that the asylum seeker might have, such as family and community ties, language proficiency and qualifications. Consider the voluntary solidarity capacity of regions, cities, and municipalities in the relocation efforts. Ensure that cities and municipalities can plan more long-term in terms of their housing and integration capacities with the distribution key.
- Enforce compliance through a robust system of penalties for non-compliant Member States.

## 5. No detainment of asylum seekers

- Enforce that the Member States shall not hold a person in detention for the sole reason that he or she is an applicant.
- The grounds for and conditions of detention, and the guarantees available to detained applicants, shall be in accordance with the Reception Conditions Directive.
- Ensure that children are never detained.
- Develop and apply alternatives to the detention of asylum seekers in all Member States.
- Ensure that detention of asylum seekers is always the last resort after all alternatives have been exhausted.
- Ensure that the rules for the detention in the framework of the asylum or the return procedures are harmonised among Member States.
- Ensure that applicants with special reception needs have access to full reception conditions, including rehabilitation (qualifications for such exemptions should require minimal criteria, relying on an initial assessment of their narratives by a psychologist).

## 6. Common European Asylum System

- Establish a Common European Asylum System with a uniform asylum procedure that respects the dignity and rights of asylum-seekers while fostering social integration and cooperation.
- Speed up all asylum procedures to a maximum of 3 months from entering the country to the first decision, while guaranteeing social, legal and psychological support and decent conditions throughout the procedure. Make use of written *prima facie* procedures for positive decisions when administrations are overburdened.
- Ensure that the EUAA remains at the forefront when it comes to a standardised asylum process; enable the EUAA to cooperate intensively with Member States to modernise their asylum systems so that they are up to the challenge and to intervene independently to ensure that even large numbers of arrivals are dealt with in an orderly way, in particular regarding arrivals by sea.
- Harmonise standards for uniform procedures and reception conditions, including the notion that the decision to grant asylum is the same for each Member State.
- Protect against threats and violence arising from an applicant's gender, including gender identity and sexual orientation, by systematically applying the concept of "particular social group" under the Geneva Convention.
- Allow asylum-seekers to recover from their journey before their asylum interviews, to prevent them from having inadequate preparation or limited opportunities to seek legal counsel, reducing the risk of negative decisions due to difficulties in presenting their case.
- Update the Eurodac database for efficient identification with health information.
- Establish a transparent system for monitoring the compliance of Member States with the EU asylum rules.

## 7. Integration and empowerment of refugees and asylum-seekers

- Ensure refugees have at least the same rights and pathways to citizenship as other third-country nationals in the member states.
- As all integration is local, set up a local integration fund to address the growing needs of cities and municipalities and add integration as a European competence.
- Support community-based decentralised social housing and other infrastructure for the most vulnerable groups, including locals and asylum seekers, and build inclusive local centres, offer health services, education, cultural exchange, voluntary activities, language training, and upskilling and reskilling benefitting as well as the local population, asylum seekers and migrants in need.
- Allow asylum seekers to work from day one. Ensure that work permits are always granted for a sufficient time frame to allow for meaningful employment.
- Reunite asylum seekers with their families as quickly as possible after arrival. Let refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection be equally entitled to be reunited with their families under the Family Reunification Directive (2003/86/EC).
- Ensure better representation of migrants' voices in the political sphere and active engagement with migrant communities on local, national and European levels.

## 8. Ending statelessness

- Harmonise administrative procedures for statelessness recognition ensuring access to nationality for stateless persons, granting access to essential services, supporting unaccompanied stateless minors and sharing best practices among EU Member States.
- Uphold the rights of stateless individuals and contribute to their integration and well-being in the European Union.

## 9. Fixing Border and Coastal Guard Agency

- Enhance EU search and rescue missions, and ensure SAR operations and humanitarian efforts that mitigate or eliminate the risks of irregular pathways (e.g. sea rescue or evacuation). Protect the legality of humanitarian efforts and ensure official collaboration with EU and national authorities.
- Prioritise transparency through regular report publication, and share reports with Members of the European Parliament and national parliaments. Ensure Frontex Fundamental Rights officers are part of any operation and all pushbacks by national border control are brought to a national court. Reinforce the cooperation of the EUAA with Frontex to enhance the protection of asylum seekers.
- Reinforce the fundamental rights monitoring mechanism as part of the operational plans, systematically investigate human rights violation allegations and adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards personnel involved in fundamental rights violations or obstruct their investigations.

## 10. Combating human trafficking

- Integrate a victim-centred approach to the complex challenge of human trafficking intertwined with crimes like migrant smuggling and cybercrime. This means an all-encompassing strategy, prioritising the assessment of individual needs over law enforcement interests, which should extend across European, national, and local levels to provide assistance and protection for trafficking victims.
- Address the challenges posed by the increasing digitisation of trafficking in human beings and enhance the criminal law response to technology-facilitated offences.
- Facilitate the tracing, freezing, management and confiscation of proceeds of trafficking in human beings.
- Incorporate feminist and disability perspectives, focusing on prevention strategies.
- Promote international cooperation.

## 11. International development cooperation

- In the medium term, ensure that nobody is forced to leave the safety of their homes, by promoting development cooperation:
  - Continue to combine short-term humanitarian aid with long-term development strategies.
  - Bolster economic opportunities in vulnerable countries through support packages and direct investments, reinforcing partnerships with African nations under the Strategy with Africa.
  - De-link cooperation with third countries from migration control policies.
  - Promote education programs on migration realities, supported by the EU through migrant associations in these countries.
  - Ensure that human rights are safeguarded in any migration pact with third countries with a human rights yardstick.
- Improve the regional reception also via the Global Refugee Forum.
  - Build international support structures for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) who are displaced within their countries.
  - Offer international assistance to host countries and allocate resources for secure humanitarian centres in crisis-prone areas, providing shelter, education and streamlined resettlement processes.

## 12. Improving returns

- Put human rights at the core of the Union readmission agreements and oppose deals with authoritarian regimes. Prioritise partnerships with third countries for coordinated returns in the framework of a respectful and mutually beneficial readmission process combined with legal migration policies.
- Ensure that EU countries uphold fundamental rights and procedural safeguards during the application of returns and support voluntary returns.
- Harmonise the approach across Member States regarding safe third-country concepts.
- Ensure that Member States strictly respect the non-refoulement principle. Oppose the repatriation of migrants to countries that are not considered safe.
- Establish access to legal advice and support, along with integrated reintegration programs in the country of origin tailored to returnees' needs.
- Respect individual circumstances and human dignity when promoting successful reintegration in countries of origin.

## 13. Legal protection for climate refugees

- Adapt the current EU framework to recognise a legally binding definition of climate refugees, ensure that the term is adopted under international law, and extend humanitarian visas to climate refugees.

## How we will pursue this act in the European Parliament

The right to asylum, enshrined in Art. 18 of the EU Charter is a fundamental right that Volt wants to safeguard and strengthen in subsequent legislation. This includes a revision of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum which was proposed in September 2020. The Pact is accompanied by several legislative proposals among others, the Qualification Regulation 2016/0223 (COD), the Asylum Procedure Regulation 2016/0224 (COD), the Reception Condition Directive 2016/0222 (COD), as well as the Asylum and Migration Management Regulation 2020/0279(COD) (AMMR) recently agreed upon by the Council.

Volt aims at providing the Union with competencies to legislate on harmonized integration policies on the occasion of a forthcoming Treaty change. Based on the Moonshot policies falling under this act further updates are suggested to EU legislation. In addition, the so-called solidarity mechanism as set out by the AMMR, which is currently facilitating the mandatory relocation needs to be altered to ensure a fair and efficient relocation by accounting for personal links of refugees and Member States' key indicators such as, for example, GDP. Furthermore, Volt

requires the proposed Asylum Procedure Regulation 2016/0224 (COD) to further harmonize asylum procedures and to account for humane and streamlined procedures at the borders. The proposed Qualification Regulation 2016/0223 (COD) and Reception Condition Directive 2016/0222 (COD) must harmonize standards across Member States including a uniform approach to granting asylum and sufficient reception conditions. In addition, the Pact shall highlight that detention of asylum seekers can only be a measure of last resort and ensure that minors may not be detained. Moreover, Volt wants to support the revision of the Anti-Trafficking Directive 2011/36/EU and call on all Member States to improve the early identification and referral of victims to support services, in particular in the context of the asylum procedure. Refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection shall be equally entitled to be reunited with their families under the Family Reunification Directive 2003/86/EC. To recognise the status of climate refugees, Volt will advocate for international and EU treaties as well as secondary legislation such as the Qualification Directive to recognise the status.

## Costs and Income of the proposals included in the Act

The total costs of this Act, which consist of the implementation costs and the annual costs for five years, is € 66.314.000.000. The implementation costs are € 3.539.000.000 and the annual costs are € 12.555.000.000.

Examples of implementation costs in the Moonshot Program are the policy and legal framework development, the capacity building and training of (new) staff, the building of IT or physical infrastructure, or public awareness campaigns.

Examples of annual costs are salaries and benefits, administrative costs, infrastructure maintenance, or the costs associated with the running of the proposed policies.

The total costs of the complete Moonshot Program are mentioned separately from the total income.

## 6. Labour Migration Act

**Europe's demographic challenge, characterised by an ageing population and skill shortages, presents an opportunity for innovation and adaptability that could enhance its long-term competitiveness and economic resilience. Therefore, there is a need to attract and retain international talent while ensuring equal rights for non-EU workers. This is essential to prevent labour exploitation and create an attractive environment for third-country nationals across all wage levels.**

**Low- and medium-wage sector workers often face precarious conditions and risk labour exploitation due to their non-EU status, as their employment is tied to specific employers. In contrast, high-wage labour migration faces bureaucratic hurdles that limit their mobility within the EU and lead many skilled workers to emigrate to more favourable destinations like Canada, the US and Australia.**

**The fragmentation of labour markets across Member States presents challenges to competitiveness. A common European migration code would enhance vitality and growth by effectively managing migration, filling skill gaps, fostering innovation and sustaining critical industries. Facilitating the mobility of third-country nationals would enable them to address labour market challenges not only in one country but across the entire EU, benefiting both economies and societies.**

**Volt aims to create an efficient system that respects migrant workers' rights, enhances their appeal to the EU labour market, boosts competitiveness, and fosters European Union prosperity and social cohesion.**

**To this end, we advocate for a uniform EU rights-based framework, including decoupling residence permits from employers, ensuring family reunification rights and providing access to social benefits. These changes empower migrants, creating a fair and equal labour market.**

**We also prioritise establishing safe and regular pathways for migrant workers to address labour shortages and skills gaps, making the EU labour market more dynamic and responsive.**

**Recognizing the benefits of intra and inter-EU mobility, we streamline processes for efficient labour markets and better migrant integration, promoting social cohesion. This approach enhances the EU's overall attractiveness, making it more competitive for skilled workers while benefiting all member states' development and prosperity.**

# 1. Low and medium-wage labour migration

- Establish a European Migration Code with new legal pathways for all wage and skill levels to address labour shortages in an ageing society.
- Attract international talent with a “Make it in Europe” programme to match vacancies of European employers with international talent for all wage and skill levels and from all countries of origin.
- Create an EU Talent pooling and matching platform for labour migrants that addresses skills shortages and mismatches within the EU labour market and that facilitates recognition of foreign qualifications and skills on the EU level.
- Ensure that recognition of non-EU qualifications and skills is eased for the benefit of mutual recognition on the EU level, which will open up new opportunities for students, researchers and other professionals.
- Speed up visa processes to last a maximum of 3 months.
- Create regular and safe pathways to address the current unmet demand in low and medium-wage sectors. This includes new channels such as job-seeker and vocational-training visas, job-seeking visas, and youth mobility schemes, accessible to all migrant workers.
- Grant visa holders the freedom to move across the EU to unify the European labour market for third-country nationals. Harmonise intra-EU mobility right across various directives.
- Allow migrant applications for a residence permit from within the EU for all migrants, irrespective of their status or lack of residence status.
- Grant and strengthen family reunification rights for all migrant workers by improving the implementation of the family reunification directive.
- Strengthen access to social rights, including the right to healthcare, social security, housing, justice and realisation of gender equality.
- Add English as an official language. Migrant workers, whether outside the EU or intra-EU migrant workers, should have access to language services when dealing with governmental bureaucracy so that local language does not become a barrier. This could be optimised through centralised, digital platforms. For example, this will improve access to Social Security or unemployment rights.
- Protect migrant workers from labour exploitation by delinking residence permits from single employers and their particular jobs and increasing the length of stay to protect especially those in seasonal and temporary work arrangements since the loss of employment would not automatically lead to a loss of residence status.
- Adopt the Commission guidelines to incentivize victims of labour exploitation to report their experiences to a monitoring authority without facing the risk of expulsion.
- Put a special emphasis on establishing a ‘firewall’ between labour justice and immigration enforcement, which would allow migrant workers to safely file a complaint against abusive employers without fear of losing their residence status, or in the case of undocumented migrants, being detained and deported. The European Labour Authority can play an important role in coordinating this.
- Enforce strict and heavy EU penalties on member states where there are recurring situations of exploitative work for migrant workers.

## 2. High-wage labour migration

- Embrace an open and dynamic approach to immigration, especially for high-skilled workers from outside the EU, to fight the unprecedented challenges of the 21st Century, from geopolitical tensions and competition to the climate crisis and growing inequalities.
- Develop a new framework to attract talent that contributes to innovation, growth and competitiveness and ensure fair and transparent conditions for all workers, regardless of their origins.
- Foster social cohesion and integration by promoting cultural diversity, mutual respect, and civic participation.
- Launch an EU Blue Card scheme to simplify and harmonise the admission criteria and procedures for highly skilled workers:
  - Application: unbureaucratic, fast-track, simplified, online process at single EU-wide application points (maximum of 14 days processing).
  - Renewal: simplified online renewal process with a longer validity period.
  - Mobility: flexible single EU-wide mobility scheme for highly skilled migrants who wish to move to a job in another EU country, to retain highly skilled workers in the EU.
- Naturalisation: free, simple and quick naturalisation process for labour migrants who have spent 3 years in the EU contributing to the EU economy (maximum of 2 months processing).
- Launch an EU Talent Pool to match highly skilled workers with employers across the EU, based on an online platform that allows workers to register their profile, skills, qualifications, and preferences and allows employers to access the pool and offer jobs to suitable candidates.
- Launch an EU Skills Recognition Framework to facilitate the unbureaucratic recognition of foreign qualifications and competencies across the EU, providing common standards, guidelines, and tools for assessing and validating skills acquired outside the EU.
- Launch an EU Integration Strategy to support the social inclusion of highly skilled workers and their families through language courses, cultural orientation programmes, mentoring schemes, and civic initiatives, and encourage greater dialogue and cooperation between migrants and host communities.

## 3. Undocumented migration

- Ensure that the EU offers crucial services, protection and support to those lacking legal status to reduce exploitation and foster social cohesion by facilitating fair treatment and integration opportunities.
- Implement an orderly and condition-based administrative system that enables status change from irregular to regular economic migrants, without undermining the asylum decision.

## How we will pursue this act in the European Parliament

According to Article 79 of the TFEU, the EU may adopt measures relating to conditions of entry and residence, as well as the definition of rights of third-country nationals legally residing in the EU. Moreover, Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union lays down the right to non-discrimination.

Volt requires the New Pact on Migration and Asylum to further implement the notion of reinforcing safe and legal migration, equal rights for non-EU workers and approaches to regularize undocumented migrants. To strengthen existing legislation in the field of integration of third-country nationals and, the rights of migrants and their families as well as to facilitate legal pathways to the EU, Volt wants to establish a European Migration Code. This will include, *inter alia*, a talent pool to match and facilitate labour needs among

EU Member States for all wage and skill levels to address labour shortages in an ageing society. Volt wants to grant and strengthen family reunification rights for all migrant workers by improving the implementation of the Family Reunification Directive 2003/86/EC. Moreover, a modernized Single Permit Directive 2022/0131(COD) shall strengthen the right to work and stay in the EU as well as the right to equal treatment, particularly for low- and medium-waged workers. Volt supports the revision of the Long-term Residents Directive 2003/109/EC, to allow third-country nationals to ask for citizenship after 3 years of legal stay in the Union in all Member States. Furthermore, Volt wants to expand the new rights under the revised BlueCard Directive by exempting more professions from the university degree requirement.

## Costs and Income of the proposals included in the Act

The total costs of this Act, which consist of the implementation costs and the annual costs for five years, is € 4.753.000.000. The implementation costs are € 645.500.000 and the annual costs are € 821.500.000.

Examples of implementation costs in the Moonshot Program are the policy and legal framework development, the capacity building and training of (new) staff, the building of IT or physical infrastructure, or public awareness campaigns.

Examples of annual costs are salaries and benefits, administrative costs, infrastructure maintenance, or the costs associated with the running of the proposed policies.

The total costs of the complete Moonshot Program are mentioned separately from the total income.

# 7. Reform the EU Act

A fully integrated European Union remains a work in progress. An “ever closer Union among the peoples of Europe” cannot be achieved if we do not take ambitious steps towards a Federal EU.

This Union is today as essential as it was when it was created in the aftermath of the Second World War and is increasingly becoming a geopolitical necessity. Issues such as climate change, migration, global economic competition and the disregard for the rules-based international order cannot be tackled by small, individual actors, and demand unified action. Even within the EU, the current structure allows any single Member State to block crucial legislation, sanctions packages or trade deals that may be of fundamental importance to millions of European citizens. To deliver tangible benefits and better serve its citizens, the EU needs to reform.

The “Reform the EU Act” seeks to fortify the EU’s capacity for collective action, ensuring that Member States collaborate effectively to address shared challenges. Central to this is the bolstering of the EU’s democratic legitimacy. The current institutional framework prioritises the interests of Member States over those of citizens, creating decision-making processes that are inefficient and heavily influenced by national interest, limiting the EU’s ability to act fast and with ambition in the interest of the people.

With EU enlargement on the horizon, the old ways of decision-making also require reform to reflect the myriad of interconnected challenges we face. Additional voices in the Council after enlargement will intensify debate and risk regular gridlock. At the same time, the European Parliament, the only directly elected EU institution, remains unable to propose legislation and must wait for other institutions to act.

Establishing a European Constitution and an elected EU government will increase transparency and place citizens and democratic legitimacy at the heart of European democracy. Bridging the gap between citizens and the institutions will reinforce trust in the Union, creating a true European representative democracy and counteracting harmful disillusionment in the political system, and provide the EU with the capacity to effectively respond to challenges both at home and abroad. Forming a true fiscal and monetary union will enable a cohesive, unified and transparent system that enhances the EU’s capacity to address economic shocks effectively.

## 1. Federal Europe

- Initiate a European Convention to reform the European Treaties in the new legislative term:
  - Engage through citizen debates to define and shape the values, competencies, finances, and institutional setup of a Federal Europe, building on the European Parliament’s proposal to reform the EU.
- Build the path towards a European Federal Declaration and the legitimate basis for a Constitutional Convention to draft a European Constitution, which establishes a Federal Europe based on democratic legitimacy and accountability.

## 2. A European Government

- Reform the European Commission into a European Government:
  - Elect an EU Prime Minister from the Members of the European Parliament, in place of the President of the European Commission.
  - Grant the Prime Minister leadership over a Cabinet of Ministers, whose size is not determined by the number of Member States, but by the needs of the EU government and its citizens. There should be a maximum of one minister from each member state.

- Allow the Prime Minister to propose Ministers to be confirmed by the European Parliament. Each Minister will head a Ministry which will replace the current Directorates-General system in the European Commission.
- Allow for the removal from office of any Minister or of the European Government as a whole by a vote of no confidence by the European Parliament at any time, thus making it accountable to European citizens.
- Make this executive branch accountable to voters, depending on the European Parliament's confidence and the European Senate.

## 3. Legislative initiative for the European Parliament

- The role of the European Parliament must change from merely co-deciding laws to initiating new legislation - a power that would be shared with the Senate, the EU Citizens via the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) and the European Government.
- New laws can be proposed by a political group or an equivalent minimum number of individual MEPs that would be required to form a political group.
- The EU government is consulted and can propose amendments, though the voting power lies with the co-legislators: the European Parliament and the European Senate.

## 4. A European Senate

- Establish a European Senate:
  - Transform the Council of the European Union into the European Senate, serving as the EU's second chamber. Abolish the European Council.
  - Design the European Senate to represent Member States with an equal number of senators per Member State designated by national parliaments. This chamber would have an equal number of senators per member state, ensuring that all states have an equal say in the legislative process.
- In the meantime, ensure the ability to make decisions through Qualified Majority Voting (QMV) instead of unanimity. This is particularly relevant for those topics that currently fall under the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), for example, sanctions, but also for enlargement or taxation. For certain decisions, such as treaty change, military deployments or EU enlargement, a form of reinforced qualified majority voting will apply.

## 5. Constitutional Court and European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)

- Transform the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) into a Constitutional Court to consolidate the legal and democratic foundations of the European Union, contributing towards a uniform interpretation of EU laws and affirming the primacy of EU legislation. Deepen democratic engagement by empowering citizens and member states with a structured platform to challenge and scrutinise EU decisions on constitutional grounds and the basis of fundamental rights.
- Make ECHR rulings universal to bring uniformity to human rights standards across the bloc, incentivising proactive compliance and streamlining enforcement processes.

## 6. Fiscal and monetary union

- Reform the fiscal architecture of the European Union by tripling the EU budget to provide investments, address social imbalances, and shield against economic downturns.
- Allow a democratic Europe to levy its taxes, especially on unsustainable consumption and severe wealth inequality, to fund its budget, supported by clear and binding budget rules for Member States and greater flexibility than in the current Maastricht criteria.
- Promote debt issuance by the EU aimed at fostering investments into economic development projects in line with common European needs. The creation of such European debt will safeguard financial stability in an integrated financial market. At the same time, the new fiscal and monetary union should provide more effective institutionalised tools to guarantee that Member States maintain a balanced budget in structural terms.
- Create budgetary instruments that automatically increase spending in downturns and allow more budgetary flexibility if a recession looms to weather cyclical macroeconomic downturns.
- Encourage the remaining Member States to adopt the Euro, fostering economic cohesion and stability.
- Create a dual mandate for the European Central Bank (ECB), ensuring both price stability and employment, committing to a Europe that thrives on both financial prudence and inclusive growth.
- Establish an EU Ministry of Finance to act as a regulator, setting and harmonising standards for national tax administrations.

## 7. Regulatory enforcement

- Establish independent authorities at the European Level that support the interpretation of core concepts and the harmonious application of the EU normative corpus, which grows consistently, across various EU jurisdictions:
  - Work in collaboration with representatives from Member States, researchers and civil society. They will not take their instructions from anybody.
- Issue guidance and binding decisions on the application of the horizontal legal framework and on any legislative (vertical) proposal that stems from it.
- Oversee the application and cross-border enforcement of the regulation, adopt opinions to ensure the consistency of application of the regulation by the national supervisory authorities and act as a dispute resolution body.

## How we will pursue this act in the European Parliament

To fortify the EU's capacity for collective action, Volt aims to establish a European Convention on a Federal Europe. This Convention would transform the two EU Treaties into a European Constitution and modernize the legislative framework by reforming the role of the European Union institutions. The Council of the European Union should be transformed into the European Senate, serving as the EU's second chamber which requires a Treaty change regarding the procedure of the creation of the Council in Article 15 TEU. Moreover, the European Parliament's legislative powers shall be extended by granting it legislative competence, requiring a change of Article 17 TEU, which as of now only allows the Commission such initiative unless stated otherwise in the Treaties.

Volt strives to make the EU's decision-making process more effective by strengthening qualified majority voting as opposed to unanimity decision-making for Council decisions under Article 7 TEU. Additionally, by removing the veto ability of Member States in Council decisions Volt wants to reinforce the Union's founding values and principles in Article 2 TEU such as human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights. Regarding the judicial system of the Union, Volt advocates for the enforcement of Article 6 TEU for the judgments of the European Convention of Human Rights to become binding on the EU and in turn on the Member States. This is essential for the equal protection of human rights standards across the Union. Furthermore, for a true unified fiscal system to be achieved, European taxes must be levied. The competence to raise direct taxes requires new primary and secondary EU legislation to expand and add to the existing harmonized standards on taxation on a supranational level. To realize the potential of indirect taxes, such as digital or carbon taxes, a new protocol may be established based on the consent of Member States. Implementing binding budget rules that keep national debt in check requires, among others, a reform of Article 121 TFEU.

## Costs and Income of the proposals included in the Act

The total costs of this Act, which consist of the implementation costs and the annual costs for five years, is € 4.306.500.000. The implementation costs are € 876.500.000 and the annual costs are € 686.000.000.

Examples of implementation costs in the Moonshot Program are the policy and legal framework development, the capacity building and training of (new) staff, the building of IT or physical infrastructure, or public awareness campaigns.

Examples of annual costs are salaries and benefits, administrative costs, infrastructure maintenance, or the costs associated with the running of the proposed policies.

The total costs of the complete Moonshot Program are mentioned separately from the total income.

# 8. European Democracy Act

**Creating a more democratic union is a path to a fairer and more just EU and a necessity for tackling modern challenges. A system prioritising the national interest over that of 500 million citizens creates fundamental problems and a deepening divide between citizens and the institutions that govern them. This resulting misalignment gives rise to a democratic deficit that erodes public trust in the European project.**

**Political discontent is further exacerbated by the lack of transparency that shrouds EU decision-making. The European Council has become one of the most powerful political bodies and yet is the most untransparent, making backroom deals without scrutiny that seal the fate of millions of European citizens. This opacity has contributed to a growing disillusionment among citizens who feel disconnected from the processes that shape their lives.**

**The European Democracy Act will seek to create a clear link between European citizens and the EU decision-making processes, rectifying systemic deficiencies and bridging the gap between citizens and their institutions. Citizens will understand and be able to influence the decisions that shape their lives. Transparency in EU processes will enhance accountability by establishing unequivocal lines of responsibility within the EU apparatus and promote citizens' participation in the decision-making process.**

**Crucially, this Act envisions a Europe where individual citizens' interests and voices take centre stage, transcending the constraints of national politics. By reimagining electoral and parliamentary systems, it seeks to create a European democracy that is genuinely representative, accountable, and responsive to the needs of all its citizens.**

**This requires a robust European media landscape that fosters transparency and an informed citizenry. This act therefore promotes media independence, diversity and integrity, and takes measures to fight rampant disinformation in the digital age.**

## 1. European political parties

- Reform the current structure of European political parties (EuPP), which consists of national parties with often conflicting interests and priorities, focused on representing national or regional interests, rather than the interests of European citizens.
- Create full-fledged, pan-European political parties that promote the general interest of all European citizens.
- Reform the regulation on EuPPs, making individual membership of citizens standard, in contrast to the current model where EuPPs are alliances of national parties.
- Allow for a stronger and more cohesive link between EuPPs and their national, regional and local branches, operating across the EU under one name.

## 2. Harmonized voting systems for European elections

- Make voting and being elected as accessible as possible and make EU elections Europeanised, making MEPs truly accountable to citizens.
- Reform and harmonise the EU's voting system by setting the legal voting age to 16 and the minimum age for running for candidacy to 18, proposing an EU-wide single election date, and establishing common campaign rules and voting mechanisms.
- Make gradual steps towards making the EU a single electoral district where voters choose representatives from transnational lists. Allow voters to cast two votes, with one vote electing an MEP from a single national district and the other from a Europe-wide list. Make the number of MEPs elected from each list as close as possible to the proportion of votes received. This excludes the use of any artificial threshold.
- Make party lists of gender alternated in their ranking to promote gender equality in political representation. Establish additional representation goals for other minorities to ensure a plural and representative parliamentary composition.
- Put in place voter education initiatives to ensure voters are well informed about the electoral process, their rights and responsibilities. Establish systems to help everyone, including people with disabilities, participate in the democratic process.

## 3. Voting rights in country of residence

- Give full voting rights (universal suffrage) to EU mobile citizens. Following the principle of "No taxation without representation", grant a 5th freedom to the European single market: the right to choose to vote in all elections in the country of residence.
- Expand the voting rights granted by the Maastricht treaty in municipal and European elections to mobile EU citizens, in place since 1992, to regional, national and presidential elections.
- Grant conditional full voting rights following 24 months of continuous residence, introduced based on reciprocity in an opt-in process for Member States ready to advance from voting according to citizenship towards voting according to residency.
- Ensure that the votes of the 15 million citizens that today live in another EU Member State than that of their country of origin are not lost. Not having voting rights in both the country of residence and the country of origin would mean that the more integrated Europe becomes, the more elections are tainted towards nationalism.

## 4. Citizen participation in policy-making

- Establish a permanent European Citizens' Assembly, made up of a rotating group of randomly selected citizens, with rotating membership. The Assembly would spark transnational dialogues on a broad spectrum of issues, setting agendas, and providing feedback on legislative proposals. The resultant recommendations must be considered in relevant policy discussions.
- Establish the Conference on the Future of Europe as a recurring event, strengthening its role in shaping our future and that of future generations.
- Reform of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECIs), empowering citizens to initiate policy, by lowering the number of signatures required from one million to 500,000 and improving the online signature collection. All ECIs that pass this threshold must be deliberated in Parliament.
- Make sustainability protected as a core European value, to be added to the existing protection of democracy, justice, rule of law, human dignity, human rights and equality.

## 5. Preventing democratic backsliding

- Accelerate infringement procedures tailored for situations with an immediate threat to democratic values, human rights, or the rule of law, ensuring the EU can put an end to EU law violations promptly through robust mechanisms to protect our foundational values.
- Put in place early warning systems that trigger preemptive steps to address the situation before further escalations.
- Treat and address whole-of-society threats, such as hybrid threats (e.g., disinformation), under a unified strategic deterrent framework (Act 2, Proposal 7).

## 6. Fighting corruption

- Strengthen existing anti-corruption instruments and mechanisms, such as the European Union Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO). Corruption is a seed that yields mistrust that needs to be uprooted.
- Enhance transparency by providing detailed and comprehensible reports on the allocation and use of funds assigned to EU elected officials and supporting the disclosure of incomes and assets for all elected EU officials.
- Create a more ambitious [EU Ethics Body](#) that serves as a dedicated watchdog to investigate and adjudicate cases of ethical misconduct, conflicts of interest, and breaches of integrity within EU institutions.

## 7. Lobbying regulations

- Increase the "cooling off" time between working for EU institutions and the private sector from 6 months to 12 months, to close the "revolving door" that allows unchecked and direct access by corporate lobbyists to influence EU policy.
- Make the EU Transparency Register mandatory and introduce a legally binding code of conduct, building on the current response to Qatargate.
- Create transparency by ensuring EU Parliamentarians and officials publish their assets and by obliging lobbyists to register meetings with EU officials in a centralised, publicly available platform

## 8. Safety and protection of journalists

- Enact robust anti-SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation) laws to deter powerful individuals or entities from filing baseless lawsuits against journalists with the sole intent of silencing or bankrupting them, thus protecting journalists and their role in holding power accountable.
- Establish rapid response mechanisms at the EU level to provide immediate assistance to journalists facing threats or violence, including legal aid, temporary relocations, and security services.
- Strengthen and expand protections for whistleblowers, who often collaborate with journalists to expose wrongdoing.

## 9. European Broadcasting agencies

- Support the creation of a strong network of European public broadcasters, building on experiences from corporations like EBU, ARTE and 3sat, functioning as forums for all European public broadcasters to share information and best practices, while also facilitating the exchange of national content. This will ensure that information is not limited to specific areas.
- Offer financial support to encourage European Broadcast agencies to provide translated content from national services across multiple channels, including radio, television, and the Internet. This also allows for better reporting on important issues and discussions on the European level.
- Establish a European Netflix as a European broadcaster, combining access to all media produced with public money across the union. Establish a TV programme under the auspices of the broadcaster. Abolish geoblocking.

## 10. Transparency, accountability and informed decision-making

- Ensure wider access to public data that encompasses statistics, research, geospatial data and all other kinds of public data, as well as governmental decision-making information on all levels of government within the EU, such as voting records, debates, financial information and decision memos, unless an exemption for security or confidentiality is necessary.
- Integrate and extend existing open data dashboards and public information platforms to take on the citizen's perspective by providing accessible tools optimised for their user experience.
- Harmonise legislation so that commercial registries of Member States will publish annual reports on private enterprises free of charge.

## 11. Open-source software

- Release software components funded by public resources under a free/libre and open-source software (FLOSS) licence to ensure transparency and to enable the use and adaptation of the software and its source code by the broad public for both private and commercial use.
- Pave the way for initiatives analogous to the Open Technology Fund, the Open Collective or the Sovereign Tech Fund, that help generate funding for open digital technologies, such as widely used open-source software that serves as a critical component in software products and services many Europeans use.
- Cultivate a financially sustainable ecosystem that reduces our dependency on precarious volunteer efforts for key software libraries and infrastructure, utilised by both the public and private sectors.
- Treat open-source solutions as a deciding factor, on par with accessibility, functionality, and usability, when considering software products for public services and operations. In cases where new software components are developed using public funds, the software must be published under a FLOSS licence.
- Place the burden of liability of open-source software components onto those commercially deploying (e.g. integrators) the software and require the stakeholders who benefit the most from this deployment to ensure CE compliance of the software (excluding end consumers).

## 12. Strengthening Euroregions

- Strengthen Euroregions across the EU:
  - Recognise that cross-border collaborations show a great variety in how they work and are pivotal in shaping a truly federal Europe. Around 30% of the people living in the EU live in one of the 152 active Euroregions.
  - Place focused attention to bring Euroregions closer to the national and regional governments. The current organisation of the Euroregions shows a differentiation in the goals they seek to achieve and the themes they work on, their legal status and their funding.
  - Develop policies that make the organisation of funding of these regions more transparent. Allow citizens to actively participate in the decision-making process for Euroregions. Promote a coherent policy approach across the EU.

## How we will pursue this act in the European Parliament

The European Democracy Act comprises 11 Moonshot policies, which strengthen democratic rules for the European political parties including lobbying regulations, increasing citizens' participation in the policymaking processes, fighting corruption and hindering a democratic backslide of Member States, strengthening the protection of journalists and fighting disinformation as well as illegal data sharing.

The proposed policies require adapting primary EU legislation. Based on amending Art. 11 TEU, Volt wants to encourage and facilitate citizens' participation through a reform of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) to allow for easier citizen participation. Moreover, Article 7 TEU procedure, which allows the Council to suspend certain rights, including voting rights, of a Member State when in breach of EU values, forms a vital part of the European Democracy Act. This is why, for serious and persistent breaches, an accelerated infringement procedure against the Member State in breach is necessary based on an expansion of the stated provision. The existing Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament (Chapter 4, Title I) need to be amended to establish

clear campaign financing rules, individual membership and joint financing. Additionally, a legally binding Code of Conduct should be introduced for EU policymakers to increase transparency of the actions taken by EU policymakers and the reasoning behind them. A refinement of the existing rules regulating lobbying in the Rule of Procedure of the European Parliament (2019), such as Rules 11 and 35, is also necessary. To tackle corruption effectively, the European Union Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) Regulation No 883/2013 must be amended to vest more investigative and enforcement powers to the institution. Moreover, the Commission's proposal for an EU Ethics Body must be realized by amending Article 13 TEU to include this institution. Furthermore, a more democratic and transparent Union also requires the protection of journalists, which may be realized through the enactment of the proposed Directive aimed at addressing abusive lawsuits called 'SLAPPs'. Additionally, the Whistleblower Directive (EU) 2019/1937 must be amended to provide more protection for whistleblowers who collaborate with journalists to expose wrongdoing.

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## EU Ethics Body

- Whilst the European Commission has presented a proposal for the creation of an interinstitutional Ethics Body, this proposal lacks ambition. Rather than having its members be predominantly representatives of different EU institutions, the Ethics body should be presided over by independent ethical experts.
- In addition to providing guidance recommendations, the ethics body should receive investigating and sanctioning powers in all areas to which it has purview.

- To simplify ethical regulations, the ethics body should replace other existing bodies for the EU, creating a clear authority for ethical matters.

## Corruption

- To address issues of financial impropriety, empower OLAF with enhanced investigative authority in these matters.

## Lobbying regulations

- Refine the existing lobbying regulations outlined in the Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament and enhance the criteria in the Transparency Register.
- Introduce measures that deter unchecked access, make registration mandates more stringent, and establish firm legal frameworks to ensure ethical conduct.

## Protection of journalists

- Review the proposed SLAPPs Directive aimed at addressing abusive lawsuits that target journalists and human rights defenders and ensure that it contains adequate safeguards to protect individuals and organisations who defend fundamental rights, including environmental and climate rights, women's rights, LGBTIQ rights, disability rights, the rights of minority racial or ethnic groups, labour rights, and religious freedoms.
- The Directive should cover all individuals involved in public participation in matters of public interest. Volt is actively working at the European level to strengthen these rules and will explore the introduction of further measures that safeguard media independence at the European level.

## European Broadcasting Agency

- To serve the goals in both Article 165 (education) and 167 (culture) of the TFEU, and within the Creative Europe Programme, the EU must adopt incentive measures to facilitate exchanges of information between national news agencies and outlets, by, among other things, translating national content and establishing a European Broadcasting Platform.

- The platform will give special attention to improving knowledge of European culture, history, and diversity, and serve as a platform for artistic and literary creation and exchange.

## Costs and Income of the proposals included in the Act

The total costs of this Act, which consist of the implementation costs and the annual costs for five years, is € 10.540.000.000. The implementation costs are € 1.440.000.000 and the annual costs are € 1.820.000.000.

Examples of implementation costs in the Moonshot Program are the policy and legal framework development, the capacity building and training of (new) staff, the building of IT or physical infrastructure, or public awareness campaigns.

Examples of annual costs are salaries and benefits, administrative costs, infrastructure maintenance, or the costs associated with the running of the proposed policies.

The total costs of the complete Moonshot Program are mentioned separately from the total income.

## 9. Climate Transition Act

**The danger and threat posed by climate change is undeniable. There is overwhelming evidence that human-made climate change leads to a destabilisation of weather patterns and the collapse of ecosystems. The human and economic cost of adapting to these negative consequences rises exponentially with every additional degree of global warming. It is well established that the only path toward mitigating climate change is the rapid and complete elimination of greenhouse gas emissions. Yet, despite this clear political imperative, robust and ambitious climate policies are lacking on many fronts due to strongly established interests working against the transition.**

Still, we must acknowledge the steps taken by the 2015 Paris Agreement as a diplomatic breakthrough in the fight against climate change. Almost all countries committed to limiting global warming to 2°C, aiming for 1.5°C, through strict and continuously reported nationally determined contributions (NDCs). This sets the groundwork for continuing to push for an ambitious climate agenda and adding layers of international climate policy such as the creation of a Loss & Damage fund.

The EU has implemented and proposed various policies to reach net-zero emissions by 2050, the latest being the “European Green Deal” with the “Fit for 55” legislation. This was a big step forward, but still not ambitious enough to be in line with the Paris Agreement. Volt is strongly committed to ensuring that European policies are in line with the Paris Agreement and that the EU does its fair share of staying within the 1.5°C scenario of global warming.

The CO2 reductions we can achieve by 2030 are crucial and of the highest priority. We will therefore push for an additional climate emergency legislation package that pushes for CO2 reductions until 2030 as much as possible.

More importantly, climate change is developing along with large injustices. The richest 10% of Europeans emit over three times more greenhouse gases (GHGs) per capita than the rest, while those who have contributed the least are likely to be the most affected by its devastating consequences and associated policies through higher food and energy prices. Policies must account for their disproportionate effects on different parts of society and introduce climate reparations and adaptation support as a fundamental part.

# 1. Setting ambitious targets to meet the Paris Agreement

**While the EU only represents 6.9% of global GHG emissions and around 5% of the population, it holds significant influence in international trade due to its consumption patterns and EU standards on products entering its borders. The current members of the EU are responsible for 17.3% of the global historic greenhouse gas emissions. It is therefore vital that the EU not only considers the decarbonisation of its modes of production but also its consumption and impact on global supply chains. Member States must also be given the technology and funding needed to decarbonise their electrical grid and transportation and convert to greener forms of energy.**

**Our Climate Transition Act focuses on reducing emissions as fast as possible and takes a holistic approach to a complex issue. It pairs novel interventions with specific measures targeting the largest emitting sectors, transportation, energy supply and industry. The Climate Transition Act protects and strengthens European Competitiveness. The green transition offers a vast opportunity for the EU's economy, since through public and private investment we can stimulate growth, create jobs, and place the EU as a global leader in green technologies and climate policy.**

- Define the overall CO<sub>2</sub>e maximum budget for the EU that is in line with the 1.5 °C global warming scenario and takes into account the EU's responsibility and capabilities. Make sure all legislation is in line with that maximum budget.
- Initiate a climate emergency legislation package to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2030 compared to 2019.
- Work towards climate neutrality in energy production and use by 2035.
- Aim for net climate neutrality of the EU in 2040.
- Foster public-private investment via a new EU Climate Investment Platform, which would be an extension of InvestEU.
- Boost the Net-Zero Industry Act through EU funding and provide greater financial resources to create a level playing field on the global stage.

## 2. Just transition without harmful subsidies

- Extend the Emissions Trading System (ETS) to include negative emissions, and to cover at least 90% (2021 ca. 40%) of all EU carbon emissions under a single cap by the end of 2025 at the latest. This means expediting the introduction of the planned ETS 2, covering buildings, road transport and additional small industries, as well as including emissions from industrial animal farming. Reduce the number of allowances (scope-adjusted) in line with Volt's reduction targets.
- Extend the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) to all types of industrial animal farming, applying to holdings that contain the number of animals deemed relevant by science.
- Introduce a carbon tax for any sectors where an expanded ETS would cause disproportionate administrative effort (e.g., highly fragmented industries that can hardly be captured upstream).
- Support the final implementation of a robust carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM).
- Ensure proper taxation of kerosene and other fossil fuels as part of the wider strategy towards a just transition that provides clear and accountable targets for ending subsidies for fossil fuels.
- Maintain the high share of the total revenues generated by the EU ETS used for climate- and energy-related purposes (est. 75% between 2013 and 2021) while ensuring that these revenues are also used to support low-income communities, as well as those most heavily impacted by climate change ('carbon dividends', i.e., direct cash payments to citizens, have proven a successful best practice in Switzerland and Canada).
- Ensure that the transitions include adaptation strategies that allow communities to increase their adaptive capacity. We strongly advocate for consistent and binding climate impact adaptation measures:
  - Strengthen flood defences and coordinate adaptation plans in vulnerable European coastal areas.
  - Expand the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations to prepare for an increasing and intensifying number of natural disasters.
  - Develop a strategy for insurance underwriters and risk management, ensuring long-term protection assessments and funding for climate-resilient infrastructure.

- Support legally binding treaties for planned climate migration, aiming to prevent conflicts and preserve lifestyles.
- Explore circular economy principles in policy reform, focusing on waste reduction, material retention, and natural ecosystem regeneration in adaptation plans.
- Support local, national and effective cross-border deposit and lending systems for reusable packaging, bottles and cans that are eventually recognised across Europe.
- Extend the Innovation and Social Climate Funds and direct funds toward disadvantaged communities and innovative industries.

## 3. Sustainability Disclosure and Consumer Empowerment

- Ensure the transparent reporting of all climate-relevant externalities of products and services, empowering consumers to make more sustainable choices.
- Extend the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive to include an end-customer component. This will require companies to establish transparency for individual products and services on GHG footprint, recyclability, environmental impact, and other metrics at the point of sale.
- Create an EU-wide sustainability index, similar to the existing ones for the efficiency of domestic appliances and houses, that considers the complete environmental footprint of products and rates it on a simple scale that translates its impact on sustainability.
- Enforce the use of this objective sustainability index as one of the criteria used on all public procurement across member states.

## 4. Holistic climate governance

- Embed climate mitigation and adaptation considerations into every sphere of policymaking to ensure consistency and coordination across all aspects of climate change that impact our lives.
- Improve cross-functional collaboration, fast-tracking climate-relevant legislation and taking a risk management approach to climate policy.
- Give greater emphasis to the impact on vulnerable communities and include contingency strategies in long-term policies.

## 5. Negative emissions strategy

- Commit to a Climate Neutral Economy by 2040 (Energy sector by 2035), aiming for a negative emission capacity. Ensure the protection, restoration and growth of natural carbon sinks that are vital to achieve this:
  - Increase efforts in sustainable forest management, restoration and afforestation.
  - Push for conservation and restoration of wetlands.
  - Replace current subsidies for unsustainable agricultural practices with subsidies to promote the quick adoption of eco-friendly practices that are known or under development (e.g. perennial and polyculture agricultural production systems).
  - Promote the diversification of crop species that have a very high rate of carbon sequestration per unit of area and time and constitute a source of sustainable raw materials for a variety of value-added products, such as hemp and bamboo.
  - Increase the number of protected wildlife areas, as per the UN biodiversity plan.
  - Improve the protection and health of European waterways.
- Spearheaded a coherent strategy to leverage scientific knowledge, cross-country collaboration, and design appropriate economic incentives.
- Launch large-scale European research programs on carbon sequestration methods, both artificial and biological.
- Bring an end to harmful subsidies and ensure proper taxation of fossil fuels.

## 6. Low-carbon transport sector

- Strengthen and expand the rail system in Europe, since more than 20% of CO<sub>2</sub> in the EU originates from transport, be it from road transport (72% of total) or aviation (14%), while rail makes up only 0.4% of carbon emissions:
  - Harmonise infrastructure across Europe, in particular about the European Train Control System (ETCS), platform height, track gauge and the approval of railway vehicles.
  - Propose considerable EU-wide investments and subsidies on all levels of rail transportation, such as integrated long- and medium-distance railway networks for goods and passengers, a European High-Speed Rail (HSR) network, and regional and local public transport. Expand and improve national and international night train services as a convenient alternative to air travel.
- Empower the proposed European Transport Authority (ETA, see Thriving Together Act) with consultative legislative authority and financial resources to oversee investments in cross-border and high-speed rail infrastructure across Europe and to push innovation and sustainability in the aviation and shipping industries.
- Promote and subsidise an EU-wide MaaS (Mobility as a Service) Platform aiming to provide seamless, affordable, and eco-friendly transportation options, making it easier to transition away from private car ownership.
- Ban the use of fossil fuels in road vehicles by 2035. This does not ban the sale or use of internal combustion engines as long as they burn biofuels or synfuels.
- Abolish taxation exemptions on aircraft fuel and increase efforts to achieve net zero emissions in European international and domestic aviation by 2040 through the Aviation Advisory Council (ACARE).

## 7. Renewable Energy Systems

- Promote changes in the energy supply mix and enforce alternative and carbon-free sources of energy, transitioning to a sustainable European system and achieving full decarbonization of the energy system by 2035:
  - Promote the total phase-out of coal by 2030 (lignite by 2025), prohibit new permits to drill for fossil fuels, and eliminate flaring immediately. In addition, ensure that 80% of all known fossil fuel reserves are left in the ground. Prohibit the advertising of fossil fuel products, similar to bans on cigarette advertisements.
  - Promote a diversified portfolio of renewable energy sources (RES). To enable a mix of intermittent and mutually complementing sustainable energy sources, promote further research on geothermal energy, alongside research on ocean thermal energy conversion, tidal and wave energy, residual heat from industry, biomass, and new designs for solar and wind energy. Promote research in alternative technologies, including low-carbon and disruptive technologies such as sustainable chemistry concepts, bio-based solutions, and organic and plastic waste-to-fuel concepts, with particular emphasis on large-scale applications.
- Promote functional and efficient renewable energy systems by counteracting the increased volatility on the generation side caused by these fundamental changes to the energy supply mix. To that effect, introduce flexibility measures:
  - Leverage the flexibility on the demand side by promoting the necessary technical solutions (digital monitoring and control systems) and business models (e.g. aggregation-based models such as virtual power plants).
  - Deploy storage solutions for leveraging short-term (intraday) to long-term (seasonal) flexibility.
  - Promote smart planning and operation of infrastructure for improving the connectivity between generation and consumption hubs, thus leveraging the flexibility of a large interconnected system.
  - Eliminate existing sectoral silos and strengthen cross-sectoral links (electricity, gas, heating & cooling, mobility, waste, water) through technologies, business, regulatory and governance models, in line with the EU's Strategy for Energy System Integration, thus achieving the decarbonization of the entire energy system and not only of the electricity system.

- Prepare a differentiated, European strategy that prioritises decarbonization, ensures safety, introduces a nuclear waste disposal concept, and promotes research and development, seizing long-term opportunities:
  - Allow existing reactors to continue operating in their current form until the agreed-upon end of their lifecycle. Ensure that runtime extensions are permitted only if: (1) all safety regulations valid at the time of the decision are met; (2) long-term operations are performed at the full cost of the operator; (3) the latest level of technological advancements at the time of the evaluation is achieved; (4) the reactor is needed to ensure climate neutrality.
  - Allow the building and operation of already approved reactors under the respective agreed-upon contractual obligations.
  - Allow new reactors only if they are inherently safe (no active safety systems are required to bring the operation into a safe state of shutdown) and robust against outside influences.
  - Promote research and support the adoption of advanced nuclear fission and fusion concepts, such as thorium cycles, molten salt, liquid-metal, Gen4, fast breeder, or small modular reactors.
- Foster building new infrastructures to allow the production of millions of tons of low-carbon hydrogen by 2040, which can contribute to the decarbonisation of European industry and transport systems without financially disturbing them.
- Replace the use of natural gas by households with as much biogas as possible in the short and medium term. Produce the biogas in the EU with innovative methods and convey it to households via the same gas transport infrastructure. Introduce price caps for EU biogas.

## 8. Improved electricity market

- Adopt reforms that promote an effective electricity market as a prerequisite for a successful transition to renewable energy systems:

- Ensure that the market's original goals can still be achieved by a different or improved market design. First, ensure a high level of market competition on the supply side, through effective unbundling regulations and facilitated supplier switching for consumers. Second, ensure that there are enough incentives for the investments in new generation and infrastructure needed to implement renewable energy systems. Third, maintain an effective economic dispatch of generation and flexibility resources to cover the energy demand at all times. To enable this, increase cross-border trading capacities and allow more dynamic trading (e.g., decreasing minimum product volumes and trading times).
- Enhance the design to incorporate the new market goals, providing incentives for the deployment and effective operation of mechanisms for flexibility (storage and demand side management). Improve established centralised markets and introduce decentralised market-driven solutions that enable the deployment and

operation of tools to accommodate the flexibility needed locally (e.g., local flexibility markets, aggregator business models).

- Account for the new framework conditions, which are mainly driven by three factors: decentralisation (reallocation and fragmentation of generation and flexibility resources), digitalisation (improved monitoring and control), and subsequent democratisation (more energy resources at citizen and local levels that empower these local agents to become more active participants of energy systems).
- Propose a transitional period to account for the complexity of the identification and implementation of such far-reaching reform measures. Introduce short-term, possibly temporary measures that address issues in need of urgent action. Follow the general approach adopted by the Commission and approved by the Council:
  - Improve investment conditions for renewable energy sources by broadening the use of Contracts for Difference and promoting the uptake of Power Purchase Agreements.

- Improve the security of supply by removing the temporary nature of capacity mechanisms.
- Strengthen consumer protection by shielding consumers from price spikes and boosting retail market competition.

## 9. Energy system resilience and security of supply

- Reevaluate the scope and the standards of European energy systems' resilience and security of supply, to:
  - Ensure that improved European Resource Adequacy Assessments suitably include new options to guarantee resource adequacy, such as storage and demand-side management, and properly account for the non-uniform levels of adequacy between bidding zones due to structural constraints in the transmission networks.
- Prioritise measures for guaranteeing resource adequacy that lower the dependence on regions outside the EU.
- Promote resilience standards over absolute security standards about the energy system's digital infrastructure, building on the EU's action plan for Digitising the Energy System.

## 10. Low carbon-emitting energy sources

- Remove intricate regulatory hurdles in the process of obtaining permits for new low-carbon emitting energy plants, which can take several years, pushing for the quick conclusion stipulated in the EU Renewable Energy Directive:
  - Streamline and harmonise administrative procedures and reduce bureaucratic complexities.
  - Improve administrative frameworks for permitting and offer capacity-building support to enhance efficiency and effectiveness.
  - Identify and disseminate best practices to foster mutual learning and optimise permitting processes.
  - Facilitate spatial planning by creating low-carbon energy zoning maps and implementing participatory processes to ensure sustainable land use.
  - Increase public engagement by empowering communities to partake in the ownership and benefits of low-carbon energy development, as well as ensuring participation from low-income and vulnerable households.
- Improve certification and validation processes for nuclear installations and generalise them for all countries of the EU with nuclear energy in their program. This avoids unnecessary duplication of identical procedures in different countries.
- Facilitate and coordinate European initiatives for full recycling of used nuclear fuel and accelerate deployment of nuclear waste recycling technologies. This greatly reduces the volume of nuclear waste and the time that it needs to be stored.

## 11. Energy communities and decentralized energy systems

- Harmonise national regulations that empower consumers to actively engage in all energy markets, either individually or as part of citizen energy communities. This would encompass activities such as electricity generation, consumption, sharing, and sales, as well as offering flexibility services through demand-response and storage solutions. This aims to enhance the adoption of energy communities and streamline the integration of citizens into the electricity system as active participants.

- Ensure Member States have equal access to available support programs, levelling the playing field with larger participants.

## 12. Sustainable buildings

- Promote the replacement of individual fossil-fueled heating and cooling installations with alternatives such as renewably powered electric heating, heat pumps, and solar water heating.
- Promote better energy efficiency (e.g., insulation, energy-saving appliances, behavioural change) and the use of sustainable building materials when constructing or renovating buildings.
- Set near-zero energy building (nZEB) standards for all new buildings in the EU by 2030 and net zero emissions for all buildings (including existing building stock) by 2035.
- Develop standards for resource-efficient design and integrated construction processes. Measure the efficiency of building design with both the annual “in-use” energy and the carbon footprint of the overall construction process (differentiating between “Operational Carbon” and “Embodied Carbon”). Promote mapping buildings by continual energy performance data to allow consensus on the meaning of sustainable design and access to accurate measurement of “Whole Life Carbon” within the building lifecycle.
- Enable owners of homes and offices to make the necessary investments by harmonising and increasing public financing and by offering direct low-interest financing from the European Investment Bank (EIB). Raise awareness and engage citizens about the possibilities of green buildings.
- Encourage the development of a properly sized and well-qualified retrofit industry through training, labour mobility, and best practice sharing.

## How we will pursue this act in the European Parliament

Volt's Climate Transition Act touches on the Directives and Regulations falling under the European Great Deal, Net Zero Emissions by 2050, and Just Transition Mechanism initiatives. The Act, notably comprised of 11 Moonshot policies, which advocate for climate neutrality across various facets of climate policy, decarbonization, energy transition, and sustainable development, necessitates modifications within the purview of the following three central legislative instruments: Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 on EU Climate Law, Directive (EU) 2018/2001 pertaining to Renewable Energy Directive II, and Directive (EU) 2022/2464 concerning Corporate Sustainability Reporting, among others falling under the initiatives mentioned.

The Moonshot policies impact the already existing legislation by suggesting new innovative ways through which crucial matters can be remediated. For instance, Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 on EU Climate Law needs to be

amended to call more for the stark disparities in greenhouse gas emissions within Europe to be addressed as these are clear inequalities (i.e., the wealthiest 10% emit over three times more per capita than others). At the same time, Volt acknowledges the Directive (EU) 2018/2001 pertaining to Renewable Energy Directive II and adds to the already existing legislation the idea that decarbonisation should take place not only at the production level but also at the consumptions level and across global supply chains. Another impact on the already existing legislation that few of the Moonshot policies have on the Directive (EU) 2022/2464 concerning Corporate Sustainability Reporting as there is a clear emphasis on the fact that there should be more focus within the Articles drafted on the opportunities the green transition brings in terms of economic growth, job creation, green transition and climate policy.

## Costs and Income of the proposals included in the Act

The total costs of this Act, which consist of the implementation costs and the annual costs for five years, is € 446.782.500.000. The implementation costs are € 261.430.000.000 and the annual costs are € 37.070.500.000.

Examples of implementation costs in the Moonshot Program are the policy and legal framework development, the capacity building and training of (new) staff, the building of IT or physical infrastructure, or public awareness campaigns.

Examples of annual costs are salaries and benefits, administrative costs, infrastructure maintenance, or the costs associated with the running of the proposed policies.

The total costs of the complete Moonshot Program are mentioned separately from the total income.

# 10. Healthy Ecosystems Act

The environmental crisis we confront extends beyond climate change. It encompasses widespread pollution, biodiversity depletion, and the destruction of our natural habitats. These issues are not isolated. They are interconnected symptoms of our unsustainable production and consumption patterns and the exceeding of planetary boundaries.

To effectively address these multifaceted environmental challenges, we require a comprehensive 'One Health' approach and the involvement of all actors. It is essential to acknowledge that tackling climate change is inseparable from preserving vital natural ecosystems, which serve as carbon sinks and the foundation of our food supply. Furthermore, the degradation of these ecosystems renders us more vulnerable to rising natural disasters like floods and wildfires, which are already on the rise at an alarming rate.

Our impact on the environment affects planetary health and is intimately linked to human health. Increasing pollution, spanning from air pollution to land and ocean contamination, exacts a mounting toll on our well-being and places additional burdens on our already stretched healthcare systems. Overcoming short-term thinking is imperative.

Rather than viewing the natural world as something to be subdued and exploited at any cost, we must recognize that a harmonised coexistence is the only way to continue life on this planet. There are subsidies for harmful and polluting activities, supporting intensive animal farming and unsustainable deforestation, overuse of antimicrobials, overfishing, and unsustainable consumption patterns. This is what we currently witness - and it strongly motivates us to act.

Following the principle of public money for public goods, our view is that EU funds should focus on funding desirable practices and phasing out harmful subsidies and policies. We must empower consumers to foster choices that are more sustainable and promote circular consumption patterns to safeguard our natural world and its ecosystems. At the same time, other food chain actors must be engaged.

Moving towards a more sustainable agricultural sector, in collaboration with our farmers, is critical for the green transition. Small and medium farmers are being squeezed by exploitative commercial relations and this is reflected in the decrease of farms in Europe. We envisage a policy reform that promotes better livelihoods for farmers, intergenerational renewal, and stimulates local economies. Rewarding farmers who work in harmony with nature is essential for creating a green future and safeguarding Europe's strategic autonomy. The need for change extends to our forest and our ocean policy.

These actions collectively fortify the development of resilient and sustainable communities, ensuring they are endowed with accessible green spaces that augment human well-being, improve animal welfare, and combat antimicrobial resistance, underscoring the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health, to the benefit of public health, the well-being of present and future generations, and all living organisms on this planet.

## 1. Nature Restoration Law

- Align the Nature Restoration Law (NRL) with environmental science, also taking note of the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines on air pollution, residential green space, chemicals, and noise; and establish ambitious targets for all natural areas in need of restoration:
  - Re-wet at least 30% of EU peatlands by 2030.
  - Convert at least 10% of urban areas into green and blue spaces (open streams, rivers, ponds and lakes) by 2040, and at least 15% by 2050, and protect them legally.
  - Extend the NRL to include the habitats of fish species that are in critical state.
  - Set the target for at least 10% of each farm to be dedicated to nature restoration by 2030.
- Pursue a One Health approach by attaining World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines involves maintaining strict air quality standards to guarantee everyone's right and freedom to breathe clean air, limiting long-term exposure to pollutants like PM2.5 and NO<sub>2</sub> across Europe, ensuring levels do not exceed 5 µg/m<sup>3</sup> PM2.5 and 10 µg/m<sup>3</sup> NO<sub>2</sub>.
- Enforcing a thorough ban on chemicals scientifically proven to harm human and environmental health is crucial.

## 2. Ocean ecosystems

- Phase-out the use of fishing gear that has an undesired negative impact on ecosystems, such as the destruction of corals and catch of unintended species (bycatch); destructive practices, such as bottom trawling, starting in marine protected areas (MPAs); and harmful subsidies, particularly fuel tax exemption.
- Adjust fishing quotas according to the recommendations put forward by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), which officially informs the decision-making process. Promote transparency and accountability over the closed-door Council meetings that define the final quotas set by Member-states, often exceeding the advised limits.
- Support small-scale fisheries by providing fair incentives under the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and enabling their effective participation in the political decision-making process, as they play a vital role in the livelihood of coastal communities and local economies, and are known to have a smaller environmental impact when compared with large-scale fisheries.
- Support strong mechanisms and dissuasive penalties to tackle illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (IUU). For this, it is also vital to ensure effective cooperation with third countries to restore marine stocks and protect MPAs.
- Support only sustainable aquaculture. EU funds must only be directed towards truly sustainable aquaculture practices, and policies in parallel must work to effectively bring back overall food consumption patterns to sustainable levels.
- Reinforce legislation concerning aquaculture and its effluents and waste to prevent disruptive nutrient gradients, supporting a sustainable, circular, and biodiversity-friendly form of aquaculture.
- Create an action plan to boost the sustainable production of algae and promote the innovative use of products made with this protein. Europe consumes large quantities of algae, yet 97% of global production comes from Asia. There is a clear opportunity for strategic autonomy, which can be fulfilled by setting realistic enablers for the algae sector to take off, including funding, investment in R&D, and raising consumer awareness and acceptance of algae products in the EU.
- Support green hydrogen-powered fishing vessels to reduce fossil fuel dependence.

## 3. Forest restoration

- Promote natural carbon-capturing by increasing efforts in sustainable forest management, restoration, and afforestation. Focus agricultural and forestry practices on emission reduction and landscape preservation, aiming at pre-industrial levels of terrestrial carbon stocks in Europe and combating desertification.
- Push for conservation and restoration of wetlands. Focus on peatlands (which can store twice as much carbon as forests) by imposing an immediate moratorium on peat exploitation until legislation is strengthened to ensure its protection and sustainable management, in addition to actively restoring already exploited peatlands to their natural state.

- Improve the protection and health of European waterways by updating the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and speeding up their implementation, as only 40% of surface water bodies surveyed by the European Environmental Agency (EEA) in 2018 were found to be in a good ecological state.
- Set an EU-wide action plan for the forestry sector, supporting an ecosystem-based forest management approach, as reconciling nature protection with the commercial use of forest resources is possible and needed. This approach aims to respect the natural cycle of forests to the maximum possible, helping protect and restore the EU's forests and leading to a more consistent revenue stream for forest owners.

## 4. Social reform of the Common Agricultural Policy

- Support a deepened EU food market oversight, since it is an essential commodity, to protect consumers and provide stable and fair prices for farmers. Create a framework for fair retailer contracts, a mechanism for local and direct sale schemes, and improved anti-dumping measures and surveillance. Examine competition and pricing practices. Small and medium farmers face particular challenges from exploitative retailer relations, oligopoly corporate control, and WTO price issues. They face high production costs and the longstanding wrong CAP policies, which hinder fairness and sustainability.
- Support the establishment of local agricultural cooperatives to stabilise food prices, guarantee stable and fair incomes for farmers and stimulate local supply chains. Set guidelines for Member-states to promote the establishment of agri-cooperatives nationally. Launch an EU-wide public platform for knowledge and information for consumers and producers.
- Adopt EU-wide measures to reduce the production cost for farmers and the price paid by consumers of healthier and more sustainable foods, by rebalancing the Common Agricultural Policy's subsidies to production.
- Simplify bureaucratic procedures and increase transparency for CAP recipients, particularly small and medium farmers, through access to a centralised and intuitive EU platform for knowledge and advice exchange regarding procedures, rights and duties, farming practices, and for document submission, in cooperation with the relevant national ministries.
- Train the staff from the competent national ministries to empower them to help farmers with their queries adequately.
- Adequately support small and medium farmers and provide stronger incentives for young farmers to remain in the business and for new entrants, particularly women, to guarantee the intergenerational renewal of farmers. Double from 3 to 6% of Member-states' annual direct payments' envelope for interventions targeting generational renewal.
- Develop an exchange sub-program within Erasmus focusing on sustainable farming practices for apprentices, newcomers, or the wider farming community.

## 5. Environmental reform of the Common Agricultural Policy

- Phase out subsidies to environmentally harmful farming practices and payments by a hectare of land owned and allocate them to desirable farming practices, supporting a shift to a model of regenerative agriculture, where sustainable and organic food, soil-health restoration, pesticide reduction, sustainable water, and land use, reversal of biodiversity loss and animal welfare are strongly promoted. Guide and give financial support to Farmers during this transition period to guarantee their stability and income.
- Promote models of rural development that stimulate local supply chains by harmonising overarching policy fields. For example, an effective transport system incentivizes the fixation of people in rural areas and supports farmers and local supply chains. The agricultural green transition also provides repopulation opportunities for rural areas, as it creates new green jobs and attracts qualified young people.
- Provide incentives for the reduction of animals farmed, whilst limiting meat imports and adjusting meat demand with concurrent policies. Agriculture is responsible for 10.3% of the EU's GHG emissions and 70% of those come from the animal sector. It is all about "less but better quality" meat if we want to return to sustainable consumption levels while maintaining farmers' profitability.
- Support R&D for innovative farming systems powered by green energy, such as vertical farming and hydroponics, in urban contexts to ensure more sustainable and shorter food supply chains.
- Support precision farming and the implementation of automation for farms where such technology makes sense to reduce input dependency (like water and pesticides) and make farming practices environmentally sustainable. Promote farmer intergenerational renewal by attracting highly educated individuals.
- Create an agricultural green transition fund to enable farmers to get low-interest loans and state liability for adaptation to the green transition, facilitating farmers reaching sustainability requirements. Promote habitat restoration, low impact, and biodiversity-friendly farming, and exclude any greenwashed actions.
- Inform the next Common Agricultural Policy reform with an ambitious and scientifically-based action plan, mapping how the sector needs to change in the future years to guarantee its overall sustainability. Reduce the burden that the frequent and incomplete policy updates have on farmers' stability and income, and have a scientifically-guided CAP.
- Support further research and the eventual inclusion of genetically modified crops in the production portfolio of European farmers. Implement these techniques to promote climate change resilience and to ensure the sustainability of food production and farming practices.

## 6. Organic and regenerative farming

- Support the European Commission's target to reduce chemical pesticide use by 50% by 2030, while stimulating the mainstreaming of integrated pest management (IMP) practices to reduce the need for pesticides and supporting other agroecological practices.
- Provide reinforced financial incentives from the Common Agricultural Policy for farm conversion to achieve the Green Deal target of 25% organic farmland by 2030.
- Leverage the Common Agricultural Policy's "Eco-Schemes", whereby many of the agroecological actions proposed are common to organic farming requirements. The organic area made up only 9.1 % of total EU agricultural land in 2020 (5.8% in 2012), so if the growth continues at the same rate as 2012-2020, the EU will only reach 15% of organic farmland by 2031.

## 7. Healthy and sustainable diets

- Harmonise European policies to support a dietary shift to a *planetary health diet*, which is rich in plant-based foods and with fewer animal-source foods, conferring improved health and environmental benefits. Develop an overarching EU Action Plan to shape our food system and habits to reach nutritional and environmental scientific recommendations, as Denmark has recently done. Adapt Common Agricultural Policy subsidy schemes and establish consumption targets for the increase of plant-based food and decrease of animal protein.
- Adapt market mechanisms for better access and affordability of plant-based proteins along the food chain, creating a level playing field for these foods to compete in the market. Rebalance the Common Agricultural Policy to favour products that are not emission-intensive like animal-sourced foods.
- Adopt EU-wide measures within the Common Agricultural Policy to reduce the cost of healthy and sustainable foods, including plant-based foods.
- Make EU Green Public Procurement Guidelines mandatory for public food services, including those of the EU Institutions. The Guidelines set targets for the weekly availability (and often exclusivity) of plant-based dishes, food waste and organic ratios. Offer educational resources for professional training of chefs.
- Increase funding opportunities for R&D to develop healthy plant-based alternatives, as the sector remains largely underfunded compared to its animal-based counterparts.
- Restrict the use of EU marketing subsidies from the Common Agricultural Policy to promote the consumption of foods which, according to nutritional and environmental science, we should be increasing the intake of.
- Extend EU "School Schemes for fruit, vegetables and milk" to healthy plant-based alternatives to milk, catering for children with allergies and different preferences or ethical concerns and promoting more sustainable diets.
- Boost EU investment in R&D for cultivated meat, seafood and additional animal-derived products and for other relevant food technologies, to accelerate their study and development. These may be critical to making our food system more environmentally sustainable.

## 8. Consumer empowerment

- Establish mandatory and harmonised food labelling for origin and production methods and for processed food and meals sold through public institutions and restaurants. Introduce a mandatory labelling system for animal-derived products, including processed items, that classifies the rearing, transport and slaughter conditions.
- Establish a mandatory and harmonised labelling system for the nutritional value of food products, as a way to improve our health.
- Establish an EU-wide label with a scoring system for product environmental sustainability, applicable to a wide range of categories, including food. Take into account carbon emissions, pesticide use, air pollution, and other relevant environmental parameters.
- Revise the Textile Labelling Regulation to introduce information regarding sustainability, recyclability and circularity parameters to reduce textile waste, promote a circular economy and incentivise eco-designs.
- Promote the importance of organic and regenerative farming amongst the public through communication campaigns to attract more consumers and new farmers - financeable for example through the EU promotional schemes.

## 9. Animal welfare in farms

- Support a revision of the EU's animal welfare legislation (Council Directive 98/58/EC), which is scientifically outdated, excludes many farmed species, and is poorly enforced:
  - Include species-specific and scientifically updated laws that cover all animals that are farmed or kept by humans, including aquatic animals.
  - Phase out long-distance animal transport to non-EU countries and add strict limits within the EU, following species-specific and science-based minimum standards; transition to the transport of meat/carcasses and genetic material; promote local and mobile slaughterhouse; and establish a strict and transparent monitoring and reporting system to ensure that violations are effectively identified, prevented and sanctioned.
  - Phase out fur production with a financial incentive and prohibit imports of fur products from third countries, following scientific concerns with human health, animal welfare and the environment, and also the call of citizens in the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) 'Fur Free Europe'.
  - Phase-out individual caging in farming with the support of funds and policies from the Common Agricultural Policy,
- following scientific recommendations related to human and animal health and the environment, and the call made by citizens in the ECI 'End The Cage Age'.
- Outlaw the shredding and gassing of male chicks, which are routinely performed due to their unprofitability in the meat and egg industries, transitioning to technologies that identify the sex before hatching. In-ovo sexing is already being rolled out in some Member-states.
- Address the widespread non-compliance with legislation that prohibits routine pig tail docking (Council Directive 2008/120/EC), as it is still routinely performed in most member-states 15 years after the directive came into force, by sanctioning non-compliant Member-states, and outlaw painful mutilations without pain-killers.
- Outlaw rearing fast-growing breeds that inflict suffering and health issues on animals to increase profitability.
- Impose compulsory video surveillance in slaughterhouses to contribute to better enforcement of animal welfare laws (already mandatory in Spain).

## 10. General animal welfare

- Outlaw the reproduction and use of wild animals for entertainment, including the use in circuses, bullfights and events of similar nature, aquariums/dolphinaria and zoos, supporting a transition period for establishments to adapt their business and to pair the wild animals used for entertainment with sanctuaries.
- Address illegal pet trade in the EU and establish an action plan to tackle the issue. Implement coordinating legislation (under the Animal Health Law, Regulation 2016/49) for the licensing and registration of pet breeders to harmonise standards. Develop an EU database for the registration of pets (dogs, cats and ferrets), which must become mandatory (microchipping).
- Interdict the reproduction of physically impaired pet breeds that experience stereotypical chronic health and welfare issues. Some member-states are legislating individually to prohibit the breeding of physically impaired pet breeds (such as brachycephalic/flat-faced breeds), but a harmonised approach is preferred to secure cross-border animal welfare and harmonise the market.
- Increase the funding for research into alternatives to animal testing. Establish a roadmap with clear goals to reduce, refine and replace (RRR) animal testing, and enhance institutional cooperation to exchange knowledge and accelerate progress. The EU needs to step up to reach its commitments to RRR regarding the use of animals in scientific experiments, as over 10 million animals are still tested every year.
- Regulate exotic pet trade through an EU-wide positive list to protect biodiversity, human health, and that of other animals. The list would detail which animal species are allowed to be traded as companion animals.
- Support the inclusion of animal welfare explicitly in the job title of the relevant EU Commissioner to increase institutional accountability and emphasise the importance of the topic in decision-making expected by European citizens.

## 11. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR)

- Develop an EU-wide mandatory and scientifically-based preferential system for antibiotic use, so that the first choice treatment is the most appropriate one in all Member-states (as is already the case for veterinary usage), following the 'One Health' approach. This will limit the unnecessary use of antibiotics in cases where usage is not indicated.
- Adopt regulations for reserving antibiotics for emergency cases as an extension of the current regulation that limits access to certain antibiotics in the veterinary sector (Regulation 2019/6 on veterinary medicines).
- Expand the current R&D initiatives for new treatments and medical technology.
- Further reduce antibiotic usage in animal farming, which has dropped significantly in the last decade, since many multi-resistant pathogens are still found in animal products:
  - Limit mixing large numbers of animals from different origins (e.g. calf rearing). AMR is particularly aggravated by intensive animal farming since the cramped, unhealthy and stressful conditions in which animals are kept and transported create an environment where pathogens can thrive.
  - Support initiatives to de-intensify animal farming.
  - Rear a more diverse portfolio of animal breeds to prevent the occurrence and spread of diseases and have a more resilient production system.
  - Implement reinforced EU-wide education and training programs for farmers regarding antimicrobial usage, and awareness campaigns for the general public about the dangers of AMR.

## 12. Pricing the costs

- Ensure that the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) includes land use, land use change, and forestry (LULUCF), with each member state treated as a single emitter. Conduct the accounting at the EU level, while allowing each Member State to respect their circumstances and pursue their strategy.
- Tax agricultural emissions from animal husbandry and soil use at the source since they are local and fragmented. Cover other non-sector-specific emissions in the agricultural sector (such as electricity and tractor fuels) under the ETS, mid- or upstream.
- Extend the ETS system to animal farming, as pollution from this sector must also be accounted for.
- Extend the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) to all types of industrial animal farming, applying to holdings that contain the number of animals deemed relevant by science.

## 13. Transparency, monitoring and reporting

- Extend the Climate-ADAPT platform to become an EU-wide harmonised real-time monitoring and decision support system, as it currently only serves as a knowledge base for data and best practices regarding climate change mitigation and adaptation. Implement an early warning system for extreme weather events and interface with the European Emergency Response Coordination Centre and national governments for orchestrating public aid.
- Establish a comprehensive scoring system for monitoring ecosystem health and resilience, indicating areas in need of natural restoration. Apply it to all EU territories and make it publicly available online through an interactive map, containing regularly updated data. Link this scoring system to the Climate-ADAPT platform.

## How we will pursue this act in the European Parliament

The Healthy Ecosystems Act touches legally on the Directives and Regulations falling under the European Green Deal, Air Quality and Pollution Control, Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), Circular Economy, and One Health Approach initiatives. The Act, notably comprised of 13 Moonshot policies, which advocate for air quality, reduction of pollution, sustainable agriculture, waste management, and the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health, necessitates modifications within the purview of the following legislative instruments Directive 2008/50/EC on Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe, Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EU), Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC), Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (94/62/EC).

By calling for particular focus on the interconnected environmental challenges by recognising that tackling climate change is inseparable from preserving vital ecosystems (i.e., carbon sinks, food supply), the Moonshot policies push for amendments in the Articles tackling these topics falling under the Directive

2008/50/EC on Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe. Moreover, the Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EU) needs to call more for switching away from exploitative activities and unsustainable consumptions, and lastly by promoting the protection of natural resources, reversing species loss, mitigating climate change, and fostering resilient and sustainable communities that enhance human, animal, and environmental health, benefitting current and future generations and the entire ecosystem. Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC) and Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (94/62/EC) are requested to require more attention to reversing species loss and promoting sustainable communities by reducing the negative environmental impact of waste generation and disposal. The Act supports a revamp of the current animal welfare legislation, amongst which the Council Directive 98/58/EC on the protection of animals. Furthermore, the Act calls for alignment between the nature restoration law and environmental science.

## Costs and Income of the proposals included in the Act

The total costs of this Act, which consist of the implementation costs and the annual costs for five years, is € 1.015.000.000. The implementation costs are € 115.000.000 and the annual costs are € 180.000.000.

Examples of implementation costs in the Moonshot Program are the policy and legal framework development, the capacity building and training of (new) staff, the building of IT or physical infrastructure, or public awareness campaigns.

Examples of annual costs are salaries and benefits, administrative costs, infrastructure maintenance, or the costs associated with the running of the proposed policies.

The total costs of the complete Moonshot Program are mentioned separately from the total income.

# Costs and Income of the proposals included in the Moonshot Programme

The total costs of the Moonshot Programme, which consist of the implementation costs and the annual costs for five years, is € 5.452.156.000.000. The implementation costs are € 2.092.589.000.000 and the annual costs are € 671.913.400.000.

Examples of implementation costs in the Moonshot Programme are the policy and legal framework development, the capacity building and training of (new) staff, the building of IT or physical infrastructure, or public awareness campaigns.

Examples of annual costs in the Moonshot Programme are salaries and benefits, administrative costs, infrastructure maintenance, or the costs associated with the running of the proposed policies.

The total income generated by implementing the Moonshot Programme is € 5.452.156.141.973. This creates a total positive result of € 141.973 over five years. The income is generated over five years by the following proposals:

**Increasing the EU budget**  
€ 1.534.714.285.714

**Increasing the Horizon Europe budget**  
€ 191.034.000.000

## Proposed taxation of carbon emissions

€ 450.000.000.000

## Proposed taxation of digital services

€ 625.000.000.000

## Proposed taxation of unsustainable consumption

€ 125.000.000.000

## Proposed taxation of wealth

€ 100.000.000.000

## Proposed taxation of kerosine and fossil fuels

€ 2.426.407.856.259

It should be noted that the income from the taxation of carbon emissions and the taxation of kerosine and fossil fuels is expected to decrease over time, due to the proposals focussing on lowering the use of fossil fuels. Even without these incomes, the proposals remain financially sustainable, since the implementation costs are not recurring costs.



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