

Statute

Volt Malta

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Introduction

Article 1 - Name

1. The political party is called Volt Malta. Shorthand name is Volt. The party may use the acronym VM.

Article 2 - Address

1. The party's registered address is 49, Patri Guze Delia Street, Balzan, Malta BZN 1711, or at any other place in Malta which the Board may from time to time determine.
2. The address may be changed by the Board with a 2/3rds majority vote, and must comply with the relevant laws of Malta.

Article 3 - Mission

1. Volt Malta is a progressive, pragmatic, European party and within the scope of legal possibilities, Volt Malta will comply with all requirements to become a member association of Volt Europa AISBL
2. Volt Malta firmly rejects totalitarian, dictatorial and fascist efforts of any kind.
3. Volt Malta observes the values on which the European Union is founded, as expressed in article 2 of the Treaty on European Union, namely respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities.
4. Volt Malta will participate in local, national, and European elections in Malta.

Article 4 - Term

1. The Party is incorporated for an undetermined duration as from its incorporation
On 02/03/2021

Membership

Article 5 - Obtaining Membership

1. Any person who wishes to become a member must accept the statute of Volt Malta and Volt Europa.

2. Any person who is not a member of another national Volt Party can become a member of Volt Malta.
3. Any person applying must be at least 16 years of age.
4. Any person who applies for membership of Volt Malta must not be a member of any other political party, the youth section of any other political party or organisation that aims to become a political party. If the person does apply for membership to Volt Malta, they must commit to immediately give up their membership of the other political entity.
5. The application for admission must be submitted using the relevant online form on the Volt Malta website. The receipt of the application for admission must be confirmed to the applicant in writing or by e-mail within two weeks.
6. The Board decides on applications for admission usually within six weeks after confirmation of receipt of the application for admission. The decision must be preceded by an on-boarding conversation between a designated member/s of Volt Malta with the applicant to ensure the person aligns with Volt's values.

Article 6 - Resignation, Exclusion

1. An appeal against a decision relating to membership can be lodged with the Board of Volt Malta or at the level of Volt Europa with the Conflict Resolution Body (as defined in Volt Europa's articles of incorporation.)
2. A member can resign from Volt Malta at any moment, provided written notice is given to the Board of Volt Malta.
3. It is equivalent to the declaration of resignation if a member is late in paying their membership fees for more than six months, has been reminded in writing or by e-mail within this period and then, after a second reminder, fails to pay the outstanding membership fees despite setting a payment deadline of one month and pointing out the consequences of the delay.
4. The grounds for exclusions include, non-exclusively; the non-compliance to the policies adopted by the movement, and conflict between their own views and values, to that of the party.
5. The Board must respect the right of defence of the defendant before the decision is taken, and even after. To ensure the right is respected, the procedure must follow the following steps;
 - a. The Board must inform the defendant with a notice in writing that the Board will be excluding the member. The notice must include the reason for the exclusion, and that they have 2 weeks to submit their appeal statement, and be informed of their right to appeal at the next General Assembly.
 - b. The Board must ensure by any means possible that the notice is received, meaning that the Board must make use of email, cellular and messaging applications among other methods to ensure that the defendant receives the notice.

- c. Upon receiving the notice, the defendant then has 2 weeks to respond with their appeal statement, which must then be sent to the Board.
- d. If the defendant chooses to appeal at the next General Assembly, the case would be heard from both sides with, both the defendant and the Board as a whole being allocated equal time to present the case.
 - i. After the presentation from both sides, the final decision is taken by the General Assembly through a vote.
 - ii. Until then the decision for exclusion does not take effect.
- e. If the defendant does not choose to appeal at the next General Assembly, or withdraws their appeal to the General Assembly, the Board must examine the case, and take into account the evidence at hand, and the initial appeal of the defendant, and take a pragmatic decision whilst upholding the values of natural justice.
- f. If the Board does decide to exclude the member, the defendant may within 2 weeks of receiving the exclusion appeal to the Conflict Resolution Body of Volt Malta, or if not possible, to the Conflict Resolution of Volt Europa.

Article 7 - Membership Fee

1. Members may be required to pay a membership fee on a regular basis, the amount of which is determined each year by the General Assembly
2. The General Assembly can foresee different membership fees depending on the revenue of the effective members. In particular, membership fees will be reduced for students, pensioners or other scenarios not foreseen by the Articles, subject to a specific written request to the Board.
3. A member may submit a request to the Treasurer, for the ability to pay a higher membership fee than the one set by the General Assembly for the remaining duration of the party's financial year. The request can not exceed 40 euros a month, or the sum total of 40 euros x the remaining quantity of months of the financial year. The Board may accept the request by simple majority, and the member may start paying the new membership fee the following month.
 - a. Payment of a higher membership fee does not grant any additional rights in the party.
 - b. If the member is unable to continue committing to the same rate for the remainder of the financial year, then the fee reverts to the one set by the General Assembly, and the member is unable to request to pay a higher membership fee than the one set by the General Assembly for 2 years from the date.

Article 8 - Rights and Duties of members

1. Members are obliged to support the goals and interests of Volt Malta and to follow the decisions and orders of the party organs.
2. Members are entitled to use the facilities of Volt Malta according to their purpose for party purposes and to participate in events.
3. Members have equal voting rights at party conferences, general meetings and other votes of all members.
4. A transfer of the right to vote is not permitted.
5. Each member must notify the party of any change of residence. The notification can be made by e-mail and should be sent to the Board.
6. Each member is obliged to pay a regular membership fee to the party if such a fee exists
7. The rights of a member shall be suspended if they are culpably in arrears with the payment of their membership fees for more than three months and have received a reminder in writing or by e-mail at least one month before the suspension of membership rights, pointing out the consequences of the delay. The member must be informed immediately of the suspension of membership rights.

Article 9 - Disciplinary measures against members

1. The following disciplinary measures may be imposed by the Board through a majority vote, on a member who violates the statutes, principles or order of Volt Malta or who otherwise damages the reputation of the party.
 - a. Warning
 - b. Removal from a party office
 - c. Disqualification from holding party office for a maximum period of 2 years
2. A member may be expelled from the party if they willfully violate the statute or seriously infringes the principles or order of the party, thereby causing serious damage to it.
3. In particular, an infringement within the meaning of the previous point shall normally be deemed to exist, but is not limited to, to where the Member;
 - a. within the area of activity of Volt Malta, is at the same time a member of another political party, the youth section of any other political party or organisation that aims to become a political party.
 - b. belongs to or promotes an organisation whose objectives, in the Party's objectively justified understanding, preclude the simultaneous pursuit of the Party's objectives and principles, thereby damaging the Party's credibility.
 - c. publishes confidential party proceedings or betrays them to political opponents,
 - d. misappropriates property belonging to or at the disposal of the party, or

- e. publicly insults, denigrates or slanders other party members or the political opponent, or makes himself liable to prosecution for slander.
4. The disciplinary action procedure must respect the right of defence of the defendant before a decision is taken, and even after. To ensure the right is respected, the procedure must follow the following steps;
 - a. The Board must inform the defendant with a notice in writing that the Board is initiating disciplinary procedure on the member. The notice must include the reason for the disciplinary action, and what the disciplinary action will be, and that they have 2 weeks to submit their appeal statement.
 - b. The Board must ensure by any means possible that the notice is received, meaning that the Board must make use of email, cellular and messaging applications among other methods to ensure that the defendant receives the notice.
 - c. Upon receiving the notice, the defendant then has 2 weeks to respond with their appeal statement, which must then be sent to the Board.
 - d. The Board must examine the case, and take into account the evidence at hand, and the appeal of the defendant, and take a pragmatic decision whilst upholding the values of natural justice.
 - e. If the Board does decide to carry out the disciplinary action, the defendant may within 2 weeks of receiving the disciplinary action appeal to the Conflict Resolution Body of Volt Malta, or if not possible, to the Conflict Resolution of Volt Europa.

Article 10 - Conflict Resolution Body

1. Volt Malta must establish a Conflict Resolution Body within a year of becoming a registered political party, until a Volt Malta Conflict Resolution Body exists, Members may use the Volt Europa Conflict Resolution Body.
2. The Conflict Resolution Body is composed of 3 members, and are elected individually at the soonest General Assembly.
3. The members of the Conflict Resolution Body shall elect among themselves a chair.
4. The Conflict Resolution Body can only deliberate when all its members are present and takes its decisions by simple majority. The Conflict Resolution Body can meet in person or via conference call or video conference.
5. Members of the Conflict Resolution Body cannot be part of the Board.
6. The Conflict Resolution Body shall have the following competencies:
 - a. decide on the appeals of persons against the decision by the Board, such as regarding;
 - i. Disciplinary action
 - ii. Exclusion/ Rejection of Membership

Article 11 - Equality and Discrimination

1. The Board are obliged to decisively counteract any discrimination, in particular on the basis of nationality, origin, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief or disability.
2. In order to achieve these goals, the Board shall appoint an Equality Officer.
3. Every member is required to report any discriminatory activities to the Equality Officer.

Volt Europa

1. Volt Malta is a Member Association of Volt Europa AISBL (Volt Europa), or must apply to become one within a month of incorporation of Volt Malta as a party.
2. Volt Malta recognizes the statutes of Volt Europa, fulfils the resulting obligations and exercises its rights, as far as no legal regulations contradict this. To this end, Volt Malta will work to eliminate and resolve differences and inconsistencies between this statute and the statutes of Volt Europa in consultation with Volt Europa, to the extent permitted by law.
3. Volt Malta cooperates with the Volt Parties of other European member states within the framework of the statutes of Volt Europa.
4. Volt Malta pledges to pay any membership fees required of it to Volt Europa A.I.S.B.L as part of its commitments as a Member Association.

The General Assembly

Article 12 - Definition

1. The General Assembly is composed of all the members of Volt Malta.

Article 13 - Powers

1. The General Assembly is the supreme body of the Party. It has the powers conferred to it by the law and the present Articles.
2. The following are decisions the General Assembly takes by Simple Majority:

- a. the appointment and dismissal of the members of the Board of Directors;
 - b. the approval of the budget and of the accounts;
 - c. Party and Election Programmes;
3. The following are decisions the General Assembly takes by Qualified Majority:
 - a. The amendment of the Articles of the Statute
4. The following are decisions the General Assembly takes by Qualified Majority, with at least 50% of the membership voting:
 - a. Dissolution of the party
 - b. The merger of Volt Malta with another party

Article 13 - Convening of the General Assembly

1. The General Assembly has to be called by the Board or on the request of at least one-quarter, consisting of a minimum of three (3) Members.
2. The General Assembly meets at least once a year.
3. Each General Assembly is to be held on the day and at the hour and the place set out in the convening notice.
4. All Members have to be invited thereto.
5. The General Assembly is convened by the Board by a digital letter, signed by any member of the Board, which is sent to each Member at the latest 30 days prior to the assembly.
6. The draft agenda is mentioned in the convening notice.

Article 14 - Functioning of the General Assembly

1. Unless otherwise provided for in these statutes, abstentions and invalid votes shall be considered as votes not cast.
2. A deadline of 21 days before the General Assembly shall apply to the submission of factual motions and motions to amend the agenda at General Assembly conferences unless other deadlines are regulated. Motions that relate to a substantive motion that has already been submitted (amendments) and motions that the party conference decides to deal with because of their particular urgency (urgent motions) are not covered by the regulation in accordance with sentence 1. Further details are regulated in the Rules of Procedure for General Assemblies.
3. Amendments received thereafter shall be communicated to the party.
4. The General Assembly has a quorum regardless of the number of members present.
5. Minutes must be taken of the proceedings of the General Assembly, in which the motions submitted, the resolutions passed and the results of the elections must be recorded.

Article 15 - Attendance

1. Each Member has the right to be present at a General Assembly.

2. Members of Volt Europa or other national Volt parties may participate in the General Assembly. Guests may attend party conferences upon invitation by the Board. The Board may limit the number of non-voting participants at the party congress for organisational reasons.

Article 16 - Opening of the General Assembly

1. The General Assembly is presided by the co-president/s, co-chairs or by one other member elected by the General Assembly at the opening of the General Assembly.

Article 17 - Voting rights of the Members

1. Each Member has one vote, as long as they've been members of Volt for a minimum of 2 months.
2. A possibility to vote digitally has to be foreseen at all times.
3. It should be possible to vote secretly i.e without revealing one's identity
4. The decisions are taken by a simple majority of votes of the present or represented Members, unless provided otherwise by law or in the present Articles.
5. The decisions are drawn up in digital resolutions, which are signed by the co-presidents and are communicated to all members digitally.

The Management

Article 18 - The Board

1. The Party is managed by a Board composed of at least 3 member and a maximum of 5, chosen from the Members by the General Assembly for a term of 2 years through an election.
 - a. If the minimum of 3 members fail to be elected, then the 1-2 elected members of the Board must hold a General Assembly for a By-Election to take place in the next 3 months for the vacant positions
 - b. If the By-Election fails to elect anyone to the vacant positions then a 'Provisional Council' is formed, and is made up of a maximum 5 persons and a minimum 1, which are created in order of seniority of membership, and whomever volunteers to accept the position of Provisional Council members, and must organise a General Assembly with the purpose of electing a Board every 2 months until a Board of at least 3 members is formed.
 - i. The Provisional Council elects up to 2 chairpersons by simple majority which will act as the de facto party leaders during this period of time.

- c. If the party succeeds in electing 3 members to the Board, however the quantity of members on the Board falls below 3 (due to resignation or other circumstances), then the remaining Board members must appoint a member to the vacancy within 3 months of the resignation, or else a General Assembly must be announced within the year to hold By-Elections for the vacancies within 3 months of failing to appoint a member to the vacancy.
2. The General Assembly may at any time vote out the Board or individual members of the Board by secret ballot with a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast. By-elections for individual members who have been voted out shall be held at the same party conference.
3. The number of Board members at all times has to be lower than the number of persons who are members of the Party, unless the party consists of fewer than 6 members.
4. Our elected Board will consist of
 - a. Two Presidents of different genders with equal rights. The Presidents are the elected leaders of the party.
 - b. A treasurer
 - c. Two Vice-Presidents, of different genders with equal rights.
5. Members of the Board are elected by secret ballot at the General Assembly.
6. Members of the Board are allowed to hold public office.
7. Successive re-election for the same or another Board office is possible once; thereafter the member may not run for the Board for one election period.
8. The General Assembly shall elect, separately, (a) a female Co-President from a list of female candidates, (b) a male Co-President from a list of male candidates, (c) the Treasurer from a gender-mixed list of candidates, (d) a female vice-chairperson from a list of female candidates and (e) a male vice-chairperson from a list of male candidates.
9. The election of the Board will take place with a voting system in which members will rank the candidates in order of preference on each of the lists under points (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) of the previous paragraph.
10. Non-binary individuals may select which gender list they'd prefer participating under.
11. If individuals are only participating in elections for 3 of the positions in the Board, the resulting Board must not be completely composed of members from the same gender.

Article 19 - Vacancy

1. In case of a vacancy during the term of a mandate, the Board will appoint a provisional Board Member if there are eligible and willing candidates.
2. By-elections due to the resignation of individual members of the Board will take place at the next General Assembly, for the remaining term of office. Re-election after a term of office in accordance with this paragraph shall not be considered a re-election.
3. If the entire Board resigns, in particular due to the resignation of all members, the term of office shall end prematurely and new elections shall be held at the following General Assembly within 3 months.

Article 20 - Convening of the meeting of the Board of Directors

1. The Board is convened by the two co-president, or by any three Board Members acting jointly. It can only validly take decisions if the majority of the members are present.
2. The decisions are taken by a simple majority of votes. The decisions are drawn up in digital minutes, which are signed by the co-presidents, or one of the co-president and one other member of the Board, and are included in a special register.
3. In case one of the members of the Board would have a conflict of interest, they shall not take part in the deliberation and the voting. They shall make a prior notice thereof to the other members, who shall appoint another person than the applicable director to represent them.

Article 21 - Role

1. The Board has the broadest powers to administer and manage the Party within the limits of its purpose. It can take all legal and other actions it deems useful for the realisation of the objectives of the Party, with the exception of the actions which are reserved for the General Assembly or which are in violation of the law.
2. The Board represents Volt Malta in and out of court. It conducts business on the basis of the resolutions of the General Assembly or the founding assembly. As far as the financial regulations do not determine otherwise, the Treasurer is authorized to represent Volt Malta in economic and financial matters, if there is no Treasurer then responsibilities are inherited by the Co-President/s. The Board can authorize individual members of its Board to represent Volt Malta alone or several members of the Board to represent Volt Malta jointly.
3. The Board shall adopt its own rules of procedure. These rules of procedure regulate, among other things, the distribution of tasks within the Board and the responsibilities of the individual members of the Board. These rules of procedure and any amendments must be notified to the members in writing or by e-mail no later than ten days after the resolution is adopted.
4. The Board passes its resolutions by a majority of the votes cast. Abstentions are considered as votes not cast. Resolutions of the Board may also be passed in telephone or virtual presence meetings if real-time communication is guaranteed. The Resolutions are included in a special register.
5. At the beginning of each quarter, the Board must publish the Board's resolutions for the past quarter within 14 days.
6. The Board may, if necessary, appoint a Secretary-General to carry out its tasks and to coordinate internal party work.
7. The Board shall meet at least once every 2 months, and may invite other members to attend the meeting with a majority vote.

8. The Board shall take decisions by simple majority, and require the majority of the Board's members voting.
9. The Board shall prepare minutes of the meeting which will be communicated to all Members within 30 days.

Article 22 - The co-Presidents

1. The co-Presidents represent Volt Malta externally and are responsible for Volt Malta towards third parties.
2. The Presidents are the elected leaders of the party.
3. They may participate in discussions and negotiations on behalf of Volt Malta with third parties, but cannot make decisions on behalf of the entire party unless empowered to by a majority of Board Members through a vote during a Board meeting.
4. They may delegate all or part of their powers to other Board Members, or other Board-appointed Leads.

Article 23 - The Vice-Presidents

1. The Vice-Presidents assist the Presidents in their duties and may carry them out in the absence of Presidents.
2. They may delegate all or part of their powers to other Board-appointed Leads.
3. If there are no Co-Presidents, then the vice-Presidents become the Co-Presidents for the rest of the mandate.

Article 24 - The Treasurer

1. The Treasurer is responsible for the accounting and finances of Volt Malta. They propose the budget to the General Assembly and ensure its execution. They present a report on the allocation of resources for the past financial year to the General Assembly Meeting. They are responsible for all publications related to the finances of Volt Malta.
2. They may object to any act of disposition which might seriously jeopardise the party's finances and which does not conform with Volt's Statutes and the Internal Regulations.
3. They have the possibility of delegating all or part of their powers to other Board-appointed Leads.
4. In absence of a Treasurer the duties are inherited by the co-Presidents.
5. In the event that there are no sitting Co-Presidents or Vice-Presidents the Treasurer adopts a "caretaker" position and must organise a General Assembly within 3 months to elect a new Board.

Article 25 - Liability

1. The Board Members are not to engage in any personal obligations with regard to the commitments of the party to the extent that they are misusing their mandate. The liability of the Board Members is limited to the realisation of the assignment given to them.
2. The mandate of the Board is not remunerated, but the general assembly can decide otherwise by way of a qualified majority (66%), which shall be made public through the minutes of the General Assembly.

Internal Regulations And Additional Organs Of The Association

Article 26 - Internal Regulations

1. The General Assembly can adopt Internal Regulations which detail the provisions of these Statutes, define the practical modalities for the functioning of the Party and foresee the establishment, election or appointment and functioning of internal committees and bodies of the Party. The Internal Regulation may not conflict with these Statutes.
2. The Board can propose Internal Regulations to the General Assembly and the Internal Regulations can foresee other or additional committees and/or bodies that can propose amendments to the Internal Regulations. All amendments to the Internal Regulations must be submitted to the vote of the General Assembly.

Budgets and Accounts

Article 27 - Financial year

1. The financial year of the association starts on 1st April and ends on 31 March of each year; by deviation hereof, the first financial year runs from xx until 31 March.
2. At the end of each financial year, the accounts of the expiring year are closed by the board of directors and an inventory and balance sheet is established as well as the budget for the next year. These are submitted for approval to the annual meeting.

3. At the latest eight days prior to the annual meeting, the accounts and the budget are provided to the full members, who can at such moment request to review all documents on which these accounts and the budget are based, without transportation of such documents.

Dissolution - Liquidation - Amendments

Article 28 - Amendments to the articles of the statute

1. An amendment of the statutes can be decided by a resolution of the General Assembly with a qualified majority of two-thirds of the votes cast.
2. The changes not requiring a resolution by the General Assembly are changes to the respective versions if they alone
 - a. are the correction of linguistic errors,
 - b. are the rectification of manifestly erroneous references within documents having statutory status, or
 - c. are the adjustment of the numbering of paragraphs made necessary by the omission of existing paragraphs or the insertion of new paragraphs
 - d. and do not lead to changes in substance.
 - e. are the minimal adjustments necessary to be compliant with the law, to get the party registered
3. Any changes based on the previous point must be communicated to all members within a week of them being changed.

Article 29 - Decision of dissolution

1. The Party is not dissolved by the death or resignation of a member, in so far as the number of members as a result thereof is not less than one.
2. In case of a voluntary dissolution by the general assembly, and in the absence thereof by the court, one or more liquidators are appointed, their powers and the means of settlement of debts the realisation of assets determined.
3. A motion to dissolve a party can only be voted on if it is received by the Board at least four weeks before the beginning of the General Assembly. The possibility of an urgent motion does not exist in this case.

Article 30 - Assets in case of dissolution

1. In case of dissolution, the assets, after the settlement of the debts, shall be transferred to Volt Europa AISBL or the association, foundation or institution which pursues the same object as the hereby incorporated Party.

2. In case there are different such institutions, the General Assembly shall make a choice, or shall divide the assets between those institutions which are eligible. If no institution is known to have a similar object, the general assembly shall assign the assets to one or several associations, foundations or institutions which pursue an object that is in a certain way associated with the object of the present Party.

Final Provisions

1. These Articles and all amendments shall enter into force on the day they are adopted.

Current Board Members

Co-President - Arnas Lasys (ID : 0083124A)
Co-President - Alexia DeBono (ID : 436997M)
Vice-President - Thomas Mallia (ID 23197M)
Treasurer - Arnas Lasys (interim)

Note : The Board was elected with 5 members on 6th December 2020, since the Board included 5 members it could convene. Since then, 3 of the 5 Board Members are no longer on the Board, and the above are the current Board Members who are continuing the term which ends on 5th December 2022.