

# **Volt's Mapping of Policies**

*Edition 8.1*

*Challenge 4 - Global Balance*

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## Challenge 4 - Global Balance

### Vision

In today's interconnected world and given the recent developments in the international policy arena, Europe needs to re-assume its responsibility to take on global and future challenges. These challenges are diverse and manifold including topics such as climate change, international fair trade, sustainable farming, food security, biodiversity, migration issues, and international development cooperation. All proposals outlined hereunder are underscored by Volt's political values of "Equal opportunities, Justice, Liberty, Human Dignity, Sustainability, and Solidarity". Inspired by our pan-European members at Volt, "Volt Global Balance" proposes progressive, bold, pragmatic, and human-centred policies, with short-, medium- and long-term changes. Ultimately, our goals are to hasten the global eradication of poverty, to be quicker in moving towards a circular economy, to ensure that international trade is done in a free, fair and sustainable manner, and to put human rights first and opportunistic and national interests second.

Our aims can be summarised in sustainable development which resembles the highest priority and challenge that humanity faces today. Volt will ensure that Europe lives up to its commitments, as acknowledged in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have set out a clear international agenda to follow, tackling the fundamental ecological, social and economic inequalities. Volt endorses the SDGs and will support legislation and initiatives that can deliver on the SDGs. Implementation of the SDGs should be pursued with the overall aim of achieving global balance. While doing so, Volt acknowledges some inherent tensions between socio-economic development and ecological sustainability.

We believe these tensions can be addressed through systemic adjustments to our economic framework and by empowering the citizen to make day-to-day sustainable choices. By achieving the SDGs, we ensure that current and future generations will be able to live within the Earth's planetary boundaries.

This is the foundation for the better world that we want you to help us build.

# I. Energy System

Since the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement,<sup>1</sup> the shift towards a more desirable, climate-responsible world has already started. However, it needs to be much faster and bolder.<sup>2</sup> Because the problem is structural, it needs to be addressed in a systematic way by taking comprehensive steps. Therefore, strong commitments and actions from all stakeholders across Europe are needed to achieve the targets set by the Paris Climate Agreement. Ultimately, Volt's vision is to live in a world in which clean energy is part of the solution. Volt envisions a world where individuals, corporations and public entities take more responsibility for the future of our planet. Economic profit and growth should not prevail over the well-being of people and the environment. Volt supports progressive policies that are taking the climate revolution to the next stage at the local, European, and global level.

## A. EU-wide Carbon Tax

- **Introduce an EU-wide Carbon Tax.**<sup>3</sup> This would result in clear incentives for climate-friendly solutions and discourage the production and consumption of carbon-intensive products.
  - Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions must be a high priority.<sup>4</sup> The existing measures, such as the recently reformed EU Carbon Trading Scheme, are not sufficient.
  - In practice, a carbon tax would favour renewable energy over fossil fuels, and thus sustainable transportation over carbon-intensive ones.
  - The tax needs to be carefully designed to make sure that no one is unduly burdened. National governments should ensure that their social welfare programmes consider the increase in cost of energy, transport, meat, heating, etc., that the carbon tax requires.
  - The tax revenue and the cost savings from the reduced subsidies shall be used directly to fund relevant climate mitigation and adaptation projects.

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<sup>1</sup> As of February 2018, the Paris Climate Agreement has been ratified by 174 of 197 parties to the Convention. It sets targets such as "keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius." See the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), eHandbook on the UN Climate Change Regime, available at <http://bigpicture.unfccc.int/#content-the-paris-agreemen>

<sup>2</sup> Ecological footprint on our continent is double its land area and the EU relies heavily on import of resources. See European Environment Agency, Resource efficiency, available at <https://www.eea.europa.eu/soer-2015/europe/resource-efficiency>

<sup>3</sup> British Columbia, Canada, has put a price on burning fuels and introduced successfully a Carbon Tax, available at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/climate-change/planning-and-action/carbon-tax>; and <http://institute.smartprosperity.ca/sites/default/files/publications/files/British%20Columbia's%20Carbon%20Tax%20Shift.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> See Allianz Environment Foundation, booklet on climate issues, available at [https://umweltstiftung.allianz.de/v\\_1479811662000/media-data2/publikationen/wissen/download/wissen\\_klima\\_2016.pdf](https://umweltstiftung.allianz.de/v_1479811662000/media-data2/publikationen/wissen/download/wissen_klima_2016.pdf)

- To avoid penalising the European industry, the carbon tax shall also be applied to imports from outside the EU.
- Advocating for a wider uptake of this policy instrument by non-European countries is crucial, it will contribute to achieve a real “global balance”.

## **B. Stop subsidies for fossil-based fuels<sup>5</sup>**

- **Stop subsidising fossil-based fuels.** Kerosene, diesel, coal and other fossil-based fuels, currently amounting to as much as €200 billion per year,<sup>6</sup> need to be phased out as efficiently and as quickly as possible.<sup>7</sup>
- **Prohibit new permits to drill for fossil fuels.** To limit warming to +2°C, 80% of all known fossil fuel reserves should be left in the ground.<sup>8</sup>

## **C. Strengthen the Energy Efficiency Directive goals and extend its scope**

- **Increase the level of ambition of the energy saving target to a binding 40%** (of final energy consumption in 2030 against a business-as-usual scenario).

The current goal of a 30% binding target to 2030 is considered not ambitious enough to deliver the full benefits of energy efficiency.<sup>9</sup> A higher goal would unlock secure investments and jobs for years to come. Furthermore, energy efficiency would reduce both emissions and energy dependence.

- **Extend energy efficiency obligations to the transport sector:**

The Energy Efficiency Obligation scheme would target transportation to discourage the use of fossil fuels, which is currently the main energy source for

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<sup>5</sup> A policy is being developed on the issue of Nuclear Energy and not part of the current version of this document.

<sup>6</sup> European Parliament, Directorate General for Internal Policies, Policy Department, Economic and Scientific Policy, Analysis on Fossil Fuel Subsidies, available at [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ReqData/etudes/IDAN/2017/595372/IPOL\\_IDA\(2017\)595372\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ReqData/etudes/IDAN/2017/595372/IPOL_IDA(2017)595372_EN.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> The IEA estimates that even a partial phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies by 2020 would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 12% of the needed reduction to hold a temperature rise to 2 degrees. See European Parliament, Directorate General for Internal Policies; Policy Department A: Economic and Scientific Policy: Fossil Fuel Subsidies, available at [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ReqData/etudes/IDAN/2017/595372/IPOL\\_IDA\(2017\)595372\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ReqData/etudes/IDAN/2017/595372/IPOL_IDA(2017)595372_EN.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> IPCC, Climate Change 2014, Mitigation of Climate Change, Contribution of Working Group III to the Fifth Assessment Report, Chapter on Energy Systems, available at [http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/wg3/ipcc\\_wg3\\_ar5\\_chapter7.pdf](http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/wg3/ipcc_wg3_ar5_chapter7.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> ECOFYS, Update to the Study “Impact assessment of EU 2030 energy efficiency targets in the context of the Energy Union & Energy Efficiency First”, available at <https://www.ecofys.com/files/files/ecofys-cs-2017-impact-assessment-eed.pdf>

this sector.<sup>10</sup> Efficiency in the transportation sector includes RES integration (biofuels and electric motors) and may ultimately promote the use of public transportation.

#### **D. Smart electricity grids**

- **Support enhanced research on the development of smart electricity grids at the European level.** This is necessary to ensure the development of a stable and clean energy system. Moving towards renewable energies means that energy systems will rely more and more on volatile electricity generation. Therefore, Volt advocates for the need to integrate electric storage systems, such as batteries, compressed air reservoirs, or power to gas systems (P2G) more efficiently in our European grids.
- **Promote enhanced and harmonised financing of relevant infrastructure** for centralised and decentralised energy solutions.
- **Introduce an EU-wide infrastructure of high Voltage “electricity-motorways”** and storage systems funded by the EU budget.<sup>11</sup>

#### **E. Responsible public and private financing**

- **Incentivise institutional investors and the financial sector to shift resources away from fossil fuels towards climate-friendly solutions.**<sup>12</sup> All public administrations, pension funds, etc. need to gradually take their funds out of fossil fuels.
- **Incentivize divestment strategies** at the national level consistently across Europe.
- **Support research, training and capacity-building programmes for investors and business professionals** to encourage corporate social responsibility together with effective and efficient financing for the climate revolution.

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<sup>10</sup> IEA, Energy Efficiency 2017, available at

[http://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/Energy\\_Efficiency\\_2017.pdf](http://www.iea.org/publications/freepublications/publication/Energy_Efficiency_2017.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> Experience gathered from research projects such as “Interflex” shall be useful in order to guide smart grid development and implementation. See Interflex, Interactions between automated energy systems and Flexibilities brought by energy market players, available at <http://interflex-h2020.com/>. Volt also welcomes other initiatives funded by the EU, such as NETfficient, to develop new smart storage technologies, and to transition to sustainable and climate friendly energy systems. See InvestEU, a Storage and supply project launched on a small North Sea island, available at [https://europa.eu/investeu/projects/energy-borkum-gets-smarter\\_en](https://europa.eu/investeu/projects/energy-borkum-gets-smarter_en); NETfficient, Home, available at <http://netfficient-project.eu/>

<sup>12</sup> Such as shifting towards a low-carbon economy, climate risk resilience, and environmental expertise on corporate boards.

Support the creation of such training schemes for responsible public and private financing.

## **F. Sustainable transportation and environmentally friendly travelling**

- **Incentivise emission-free and shared mobility, and environmentally friendly travelling.** Support all measures and initiatives encouraging consumers to choose sustainable means of transportation and reduce their carbon footprint. A coherent set of policies shall be developed considering the following issues:
  - Extend the ban on diesel cars by 2040 across Europe if toxic emissions cannot be drastically reduced by means of new technologies.
  - The transportation systems in Europe shall be modernised, both for short and long distances. This includes the promotion of innovative road charge solutions<sup>13</sup> as well as the development of coherent re-charging station networks throughout Europe, which are, now, depending on the region, quite deficient.
  - Sustainable public transport holds great potential for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases at the local level.
  - The shift from fuel and pistons to batteries and electric motors and other emission-free solutions shall be incentivized, e.g., by establishing relevant infrastructure in cities, creating bicycle-friendly zones and bike lanes, promoting sharing solutions, introducing free public parking slots for electric cars, further developing clean energy solutions independent from fossil fuels, etc.
  - Education and awareness-raising initiatives on environmentally friendly travelling shall be promoted, such as #FreeInterrail or Shift2Rail.

## **G. Low-carbon and disruptive technologies**

- **Promote low-carbon and disruptive technologies, such as sustainable chemistry concepts and bio-based solutions.** Shifting from theory and prototypes to large-scale applications is crucial.
- **Advocate for green public procurement standards** to help accelerate the adoption of low carbon technologies and set an example.

## **H. Modernise our buildings**<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Best practice example of Sweden. See Electrive, eRoadArlanda – Swedish road charges EVs while driving, available at

<https://www.electrive.com/2018/04/18/eroadarlanda-swedish-road-charges-evs-while-driving/>

<sup>14</sup> Heating, cooling, and lighting of buildings account for a large part of total energy consumption (e.g. in Germany this constitutes 24% of the energy consumption), and most of this energy comes from burning

**Promote cost-effective energy efficiency measures**,<sup>15</sup> and develop standards to support the integration of renewable energy generation into the design of new buildings (exemplified by the UN building in Copenhagen)<sup>16</sup> to shift towards carbon-neutrality in the construction sector. Volt wants to support sustainable and resource efficient building and living research and enforce the European legislation on “Clean Energy for All Europeans”<sup>17</sup> by restoring and modernising older buildings and designing new buildings to save energy and water.

## II. Sustainability

### A. Circular Economy

We exploit, create value, and then waste. This is how our current economic model works, and it is absolutely unsustainable. It is unfair to those who are affected by inhumane working conditions or poisoned living areas. It is also unfair to future generations, who will not be able to use the resources that we are wasting. Let's work to change this by moving toward a circular economy. More precisely, this means that Volt wants to solve the waste problem in Europe and stop plastic-based pollution. Volt promotes a world where economies are based on longevity, renewability, and dematerialisation. Concerted action is needed across Europe to take global responsibility for our actions, and to establish the right framework of conditions so that principles of a circular economy are consistently applied by all relevant stakeholders. There are already several instruments known or in place that describe how a transition towards the circular economy can be achieved. This includes encouraging innovative circular economy business models and technologies, considering new pricing models and price caps, introducing enhanced control mechanisms and stimulating transparency initiatives to facilitate market entry for new players.

In this regard, Volt builds on the 2015 EU Circular Economy Action Plan<sup>18</sup> and welcomes current initiatives such as The New Plastics Economy.<sup>19</sup> However, we can all do more and better: politicians, scientists, industries, and also consumers. The following list of

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fossil fuels (90% in Germany). See Anwendungsbilanzen für die Endenergiesektoren in Deutschland in den Jahren 2013 bis 2016, Arbeitsgemeinschaft Energiebilanzen e.V., Berlin, November 2017.

<sup>15</sup> For example: better insulation, temperature regulating systems, thermal solar energy for warm water, and higher efficiency equipment, including green heat pumps.

<sup>16</sup> Best practice example from UNOPS in Denmark. See State of Green, UN opens Green Headquarters in Copenhagen, available at

<https://stateofgreen.com/en/news/un-opens-green-headquarters-in-copenhagen>

<sup>17</sup> European Commission, 2016, Communication on Clean Energy For All Europeans, available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52016DC0860>

<sup>18</sup> European Commission, the Circular Economy Action Plan, available at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/>

<sup>19</sup> Ellen Mac Arthur Foundation, The New Plastics Economy, available at <https://newplasticseconomy.org/>



actions reflect our priorities to kick-start the circular economy in Europe grouped by different stakeholders.

- **Help SMEs to successfully move toward the circular economy.** For example, producers and service providers developing and implementing goods and services with longer usability and useful after-lives shall benefit from harmonised tax incentives and speedier regulatory processes.
- **Facilitate the compliance of big corporations with the circular economy** by using more ambitious regulation, enhanced information technology, new incentive models, and close-the-loop systems. Funds shall be made available for rethinking the design and digitalisation of organisations and services.
- **Advance the circular economy by moving public authorities'** towards more sustainable consumption patterns: Promote Green Public Procurement<sup>20</sup> measures, e.g., by implementing new concepts for governmental car fleets and car sharing of employees in the public sector.
- **Promote consumer awareness on the circular economy and of supply chains** at various levels to enable conscientious consumerism to combat corruption, inhumane working conditions, environmental destruction, child labour, deforestation and resource scarcity. Therefore:
  - Introduce an eco-label that is strictly related to the circular economy in order to promote products issued from circular industrial processes.
  - Promote sharing economies.
- **Support largely scientific research** on circular economy solutions.

In addition, Volt advocates for a couple of policy proposals addressing the circular economy issue from a system's/ multi-stakeholder perspective:

- **Ensure fair-trade and foster efficient use and recycling of critical raw materials**, a priority area in the EU circular economy action plan, in line with the European Commission's list of critical raw materials.<sup>21</sup>
- **Advocate for the implementation of harmonised circular economy solutions across Europe**, e.g., by
  - developing one coherent European system for bottle recycling;
  - developing standardised household waste management regulations and enforcement;

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<sup>20</sup> European Commission, Green Public Procurement, available at [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/index_en.htm)

<sup>21</sup> EU Commission's Report on Critical Raw Materials and the Circular Economy, 2018, available at <http://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/27348>

- replicating best practices in sustainable waste management, e.g., the success story of Greece's first-ever integrated waste management centre<sup>22</sup>; especially with an eye on regions particularly affected by waste issues and pollution;
  - incentivising take-back systems (systems where producers take a product back from consumers after the end of its lifetime for proper disposal, reuse or recycling) with an emphasis on extended producer responsibility;<sup>23</sup>
  - Redesigning regulations on secondary raw material usage and recycling to achieve a coherent system where sustainability principles are applied consistently.
- **Take concerted action to move away from a plastic-based society** and provide broad financial and political support to successfully implement the new EU Strategy for plastics in the circular economy.<sup>24</sup> Volt will:
- Support enhanced research looking at the entire product life cycle starting from new materials to waste recovery and design and advocate for policy instruments catalysing quick adoption of more sustainable materials and technologies across industries;
  - Raise consumer awareness and build capacity among stakeholders;
  - Promote innovative waste management approaches (e.g., solutions to collect plastic waste from lakes, rivers, oceans and beaches<sup>25</sup>);
  - Support best practices and current EU policy proposals to create a less plastics-dependent future such as:
    - Banning the sale of single-use plastic cutlery, trays and cups across all EU Member States and considering additional bans of certain products if appropriate.
    - Banning disposable packaging in public buildings.

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<sup>22</sup> "An integrated waste management system for West Macedonia" is an EU-funded project which created 140 permanent jobs and can manage 120,000 tonnes of waste a year. See investEU, West Macedonia waste management, available at [https://europa.eu/investeu/projects/west-macedonia-waste-management\\_en](https://europa.eu/investeu/projects/west-macedonia-waste-management_en).

<sup>23</sup> According to EU DG Environment 2014, Development of Guidance on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Extended producer responsibility is an environmental policy approach in which a producer's responsibility for a product is extended to the post-consumer stage of a product's life cycle. See European Commission, Development of Guidance on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), available at [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/pdf/target\\_review/Guidance%20on%20EPR%20-%20Final%20Report.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/pdf/target_review/Guidance%20on%20EPR%20-%20Final%20Report.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> European Commission 2018, A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy, available at <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/plastics-strategy.pdf>; According to the European Commission, Europe is discarding more than 2 billion tons per year. If we continued at this rate, there will be more plastic in the oceans than fish by 2050, says the Ellen MacArthur Foundation in The New Plastics Economy: Rethinking the future of plastics, available at <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/publications/the-new-plastics-economy-rethinking-the-future-of-plastics>

<sup>25</sup> Just to give one non-representative example for such solutions: The Waste Free Oceans Initiative collaborates with fishermen and brand owners to collect and upcycle ocean plastic into new products, information available at <https://www.wastefreeoceans.org/>

- Obliging the use of reusable items at large public and private events.<sup>26</sup>
- Examine additional policies and regulatory actions, including a tax for plastics and packaging.

## **B. Farming and cultivation**

The current agriculture sector in Europe is characterised by either high efficiency or sustainability. Agriculture of the future must address issues such as food security for a rising population, climate change, low biodiversity, high nitrate levels in groundwater, and a foreseeable phosphorus deficiency. Volt intends to put forward effective ideas and implement more sustainable farming across Europe. Food security needs to be ensured across Europe and beyond, and a comprehensive strategy on efficient and sustainable production and distribution of food is therefore needed.

### **1. Agriculture**

- **Develop a new system for the support of farms that are strongly committed to sustainability and product quality** instead of keeping the current unfair and unbalanced subsidy system in European agricultural sectors across Europe. Certain subsidies may be part of the solution, but other reforms and incentives are urgently needed. Agriculture subsidies that focus only on production and favor large producers must be discontinued.
- **Establish pre-emptive rights of farmers to farmland to minimize agricultural land trade.**
- **Support the ongoing testing and evaluation of agricultural land** to ensure farming is sustainable and does not deplete the land or devastate its surrounding areas and waterways.<sup>27</sup>
- **Advance the closing of the nutrient cycle.** Effective resource management includes a closed nutrient cycle and minimal use of mineral fertilizers. This leads to a reduction of agricultural greenhouse gas emissions (like nitrogen oxides). Therefore, Volt will propose the following measures:

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<sup>26</sup> These best practices have been implemented in Navarra, Hamburg and Vienna. They all refer to the new EU Strategy for plastics in the circular economy. See European Commission, A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy, available at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1516265440535&uri=SWD:2018:16:FIN>

<sup>27</sup> Bai, Z. 2018, Effects of agricultural management practices on soil quality: A review of long-term experiments for Europe and China, available at <http://www.isqaper-project.eu/>

- Promote the recovery of phosphorus from the sewage sludge.<sup>28</sup>
  - Use individual plant-oriented fertilizer application techniques, catch crops, and green manure to minimize nitrogen input into the soil and leaching.<sup>29</sup>
  - Store liquid manure surpluses in form of fertilizer pellets.
  - Support pesticide-free hydroponic production with closed water and nutrient cycles.<sup>30</sup>
  - Introduce peat alternatives for horticultural substrates, like coconut fibers and compost. The extraction of peat leads to the release of climate-damaging carbon dioxide. Additionally, the increased use of compost substrates closes the nutrient cycle.<sup>31</sup>
- **Create species-appropriate livestock farming measures to address current problems:**
- Promote livestock farming with species-appropriate herd sizes, adequate space, and the integration of playthings.
  - Stop preventive use of antibiotics in livestock farming.
  - In case of disease-related use of antibiotics, it has to be ensured that only non-reserve human antibiotics are used.
  - Establish alternatives to imported soy as protein sources for animal nutrition. Explorable possibilities include the cultivation of soybeans in Europe and the use of alternatives such as duckweed

## 2. Research and use of new techniques

- **Support research programmes to identify and prioritise exploration of possibilities to realize a sustainable and effective agriculture with new techniques.** Examples include:
- Politically promote the implementation of Sustainable Land Management practices including the use of precision agriculture and GPS technology, which can ensure effective cultivation by creating fields at the same elevation along the slope.<sup>32</sup> Hedges and flower strips can thus be integrated into agricultural land without disrupting cultivation. This creates coherent biotopes that bring a veritable increase of biodiversity.

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<sup>28</sup> Egle, L. 2016, Phosphorus recovery from municipal wastewater: An integrated comparative technological, economic assessment of P recovery technologies, available at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969716314656>

<sup>29</sup> Kirchmann, H. 2002, Possibilities for reducing nitrate leaching from agricultural land, available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12374048>

<sup>30</sup> Sardare, M.D. 2013, A review of plant without soil - hydroponics, available at <https://ijret.org/volumes/2013v02/i03/IJRET20130203013.pdf>

<sup>31</sup> Schmilewski G., The role of peat in assuring the quality of growing media, available at [http://pixelrauschen.de/wbmp/media/map03/map\\_03\\_02.pdf](http://pixelrauschen.de/wbmp/media/map03/map_03_02.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> Moravalli et al., Global achievements in sustainable land management, available at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2095633915300447>

- Incentivise the use of individual plant-oriented sensors to calculate fertilizer demand, which will lead to optimal growth conditions and minimize leaching.
  - Examine the chances and risks of innovative procedures like cisgene gene editing or artificial meat and explore how these techniques can support sustainable agrarian reform.
- **Promote alternatives to the use of pesticides by integrating the knowledge of organic crop protection into conventional cultivation.** A possible alternative for herbicides is the mechanical destruction of weeds by robots.
  - **Support the establishment of food production systems that omit food waste.**
    - Set up bans for food waste from the distribution sector (supermarkets and wholesale food suppliers) as has been implemented in France.<sup>33</sup>
    - Apply consistent, Europe-wide legislation and support best practice programmes making use of existing initiatives, such as those in Italy<sup>34</sup> or those developed by the City of Lisbon,<sup>35</sup> where food waste plans involving several stakeholders have been implemented successfully to tackle the problem. Coordinate effectively with local and international NGOs that tackle food waste.

### C. EU Common Food Policy

We are what we eat. To express our full potential as responsible citizens towards our society and our environment, it is essential to care about our food: how it is produced, traded, consumed, and wasted. Because food is our source of energy, it can generate happiness<sup>36</sup>, ensure wellness and reduce environmental harms.<sup>37</sup> Thus, "zero hunger" is a key element of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.<sup>38</sup> However, the current frameworks of food policies in the EU are contributing to the unreasonable waste of resources and ecological problems, as 1/3 of purchased food is lost in supply

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<sup>33</sup> The Guardian, French law forbids food waste by supermarkets, available at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/04/french-law-forbids-food-waste-by-supermarkets>

<sup>34</sup> The Guardian, Italy tackles food waste with law encouraging firms to donate food, available at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/aug/03/italy-food-waste-law-donate-food>

<sup>35</sup> The Portugal News, Food waste combat saves 2 million meals, available at <http://theportugalnews.com/news/food-waste-combat-saves-2-million-meals/38597>

<sup>36</sup> American Public Health Association, Evolution of Well-Being and Happiness After Increases in Consumption of Fruit and Vegetables, available at <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/full/10.2105/AJPH.2016.303260>

<sup>37</sup> Journal of Cleaner Production, Environmental impacts of food consumption in Europe, available at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959652616307570>

<sup>38</sup> United Nations, Sustainable Development Goals, Goal 2: Zero Hunger, available at <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/>

chain every year.<sup>3940</sup> Moreover civilization diseases like obesity, diabetes, and dyslipidemia are causally related to unhealthy patterns of nutritional habits. In a global perspective, resilience, affordability, and sustainability of food systems are today at stake, notably due to extreme weather conditions, depletion of available resources like water and fertile soils, changing food habits and a growing population.<sup>41</sup> In this challenging context, Volt imagines a European Union which takes today, the responsibility for tomorrow. We intend to encourage consumers, producers, and retailers to take an active role as catalysts for solutions by making more sustainable and fair choices. In this regard, Volt wants to implement an EU Common Food Policy that will empower our society to act, and pairs governments with citizens, academia and businesses alike, for a thriving society in a flourishing environment.

### **1. A FOOD Directorate for a strong EU food policy framework**

In synergy with Member States, Volt wants to design an EU food policy framework able to tackle food systems in a systematic way, coupling biophysical and social issues. As of today, each Directorate General of the European Commission pursues its own targets in a siloed approach with distinct policy frameworks. This prevents fruitful cooperation between sectors and omits the development of several interlinked policies. Therefore Volt will work to:

- **Create a FOOD Directorate** in Directorates General (AGRI or SANTE). Just as existing directorates, the FOOD directorate must have the scope to: a) stimulate and coordinate food policy actions across the Union, b) advance the Member States' efforts in food related actions, c) monitor policy achievements, d) launch and coordinate awareness and promotion campaigns, d) stimulate research & innovation. The Directorate will not reinvent the wheel, but it will serve to develop a twofold approach: "From the fork to the plate as well as from the plate to the fork".
- **Help farmers to live a decent life<sup>42</sup> off a sustainable working environment<sup>43</sup> by**

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<sup>39</sup> Sustainability, Cutting Food Waste through Cooperation along the Food Supply Chain, available at <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/7/2/1429>

<sup>40</sup> Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), Save Food: Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction, available at <http://www.fao.org/save-food/resources/keyfindings/en/>

<sup>41</sup> A recent study showed that the daily calories intake (3000 per day) and intake from animal proteins have increased per capita in the world. FAO, The State of Food and Agriculture (2016), available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6030e.pdf>

<sup>42</sup> In 2016, around 30% of French farmers had an income below €350/month, less than one third of the minimum wage. Le Monde, Farmers wages vary greatly across Europe, available at [https://www.lemonde.fr/idees/article/2017/10/30/30-des-agriculteurs-gagnent-moins-de-350-euros-par-mois-scandale-ou-pas\\_5207780\\_3232.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/idees/article/2017/10/30/30-des-agriculteurs-gagnent-moins-de-350-euros-par-mois-scandale-ou-pas_5207780_3232.html)  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/aug/03/italy-food-waste-law-donate-food>  
<https://www.thelocal.dk/20180828/government-thinktank-to-tackle-food-waste-in-denmark>

<sup>43</sup> For more details see Sustainable Farming.

- Improving access to land for beginning farmers, prioritising selling and leasing to organic entrepreneurs with marketing concepts and to farms implying an inclusion of educational or social purposes;
  - Breaking land taxes for landowners who provide (peri-)urban lands for organic food production in order to create “green belts” around cities;<sup>44</sup>
  - Developing an EU directive on fair and sustainable access to farmland, a succession planning, and a transparent European land register;<sup>45</sup>
  - Increasing opportunities for local stakeholders and regional food networks to better process, transport, distribute or sell agricultural products to urban areas;
  - Improving farmers’ position in the value chain by supporting the proposed blacklist of unfair trading practices (UTPs);<sup>46</sup>
  - Developing the potential of urban farms to attain self-sufficiency via community empowerment;<sup>47</sup>
  - Halting biodiversity loss resulting from destruction of biotopes, over-fertilisation and intensive use of harmful pesticides;<sup>48</sup>
  - Enhance rural attractiveness for innovative and smart entrepreneurship, by providing fast and secure connection like broadband and other IT infrastructure.<sup>49</sup>
- **Grant healthy food access to everyone.** In 2016, 43 millions - 8,3% of the EU population - were unable to afford a meal with meat, fish or a vegetarian equivalent every second day. Looking closer, 21.3 % of the subpopulation of people across the EU-28 who were at risk of poverty reported being unable to afford such a meal every second day.<sup>50</sup> To address this, Volt will:

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<sup>44</sup>International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food), ‘Towards a Common Food Policy for the EU’, available at [http://www.ipes-food.org/\\_img/upload/files/Towards-a-Common-Food-Policy-for-the-EU.pdf](http://www.ipes-food.org/_img/upload/files/Towards-a-Common-Food-Policy-for-the-EU.pdf)

<sup>45</sup> ibid.

<sup>46</sup> European Parliament, Fairer food supply chain: Agriculture MEPs clamp down on unfair trading, available at <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20181001IPR14722/fairer-food-supply-chain-agriculture-meps-clamp-down-on-unfair-trading>

<sup>47</sup> The Guardian, Incredible Edible Yorkshire towns food growing scheme takes root worldwide, available at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/may/09/incredible-edible-yorkshire-towns-food-growing-scheme-takes-root-worldwide>

<sup>48</sup> Friends of the Earth Europe, A New Food and Agriculture Policy for the European Union, available at [https://www.foeeurope.org/sites/default/files/cap\\_pp\\_full\\_final1.pdf](https://www.foeeurope.org/sites/default/files/cap_pp_full_final1.pdf)

<sup>49</sup> Scottish Government, Superfast broadband rollout to benefit rural areas, Scotland, UK, available at <https://news.gov.scot/news/superfast-broadband-rollout-to-benefit-rural-areas>

<sup>50</sup> Eurostat, 2016, Living conditions in Europe - material deprivation and economic strain, available at [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Living\\_conditions\\_in\\_Europe\\_-\\_material\\_deprivation\\_and\\_economic\\_strain#Material\\_deprivation](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Living_conditions_in_Europe_-_material_deprivation_and_economic_strain#Material_deprivation)



- Set up bans for food waste from the distribution sector (supermarkets and wholesale food suppliers) as has been implemented in France<sup>51</sup>, in Denmark<sup>52</sup>, the Netherlands<sup>53</sup> or Italy;<sup>54</sup>
  - Apply consistent, Europe-wide legislation against food waste.<sup>55</sup> Coordinate effectively with local and international NGOs that tackle food waste;
  - Incentivize food donation via community fridges, encouraging neighbourhood collection and redistribution initiatives;<sup>56</sup>
  - Reduce food deserts by favorising access to fresh and seasonal products, with mobile fresh product markets;<sup>57</sup>
  - Grant access to fresh and seasonal products at an affordable price for those in need, introducing Solidarity Purchase Groups, further promoting local development and social integration;<sup>58</sup>
  - Facilitate citizens' engagements in social food initiatives with food donation days;<sup>59</sup>
  - Launch awareness campaigns on how to eat healthy at a reduced cost.
- **Reduce the environmental impact of the food system, by**
- Working towards sustainable supply chains, by strengthening existing EU clauses such as the 2008 EU Regulation on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing;<sup>60</sup>
  - Incentivising local purchase and short supply chains by means of public procurement in school canteens, hospitals, elderly homes, and other public served facilities;

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<sup>51</sup> The Guardian, French law forbids food waste by supermarkets, available at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/04/french-law-forbids-food-waste-by-supermarkets>

<sup>52</sup> Independent, Denmark opens first food waste supermarket selling surplus products, available at <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/denmark-food-waste-supermarket-we-food-copenhagen-surplus-produce-a6890621.html>

<sup>53</sup> ESM, The Netherlands launches programme to cut food waste in half, available at <https://www.esmmagazine.com/netherlands-food-waste-programme/57601>

<sup>54</sup> BBC, Italy adopts new law to slash food waste, available at <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36965671>

<sup>55</sup> The Guardian, Italy tackles food waste with law encouraging firms to donate food, available at <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/aug/03/italy-food-waste-law-donate-food>

<sup>56</sup> Best practice: Keru Non-Profit Open Community Fridge, Helsinki, Finland, available at <http://kerukaappi.fi/>

<sup>57</sup> Best practice: Fresh Moves Mobile Market of the Urban Growers Collective, Chicago, USA available at <https://urbangrowerscollective.org/fresh-moves-mobile-market/>

<sup>58</sup> Sustainable food, culture and integration in Solidarity Purchase Groups Movement: the case study of Barikamà in Rome, D. Bernaschi, The Cambridge Conference on Global Food Security, 23-24 juin 2016

<sup>59</sup> Best practice: Streets Kitchen, Solidarity Not Charity, UK, available at <https://www.streetskitchen.org/>

<sup>60</sup> European Council, Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1408984470270&uri=CELEX:02008R1005-20110309>



- Engaging in further research on city waste disposal systems to make reuse of nutrients for agriculture possible;<sup>61</sup>
  - Decreasing meat consumption with initiatives like the fruit and vegetable Commission initiatives;<sup>62</sup>
  - Tax carbon footprint generated in production, packaging and transportation, as well as water and chemical usage;
  - Mitigate and control methane emissions in industrial meat and dairy farming;<sup>63</sup>
  - Harmonise the legislation on sale and production of insect-derived food, particularly of insect-based flour/powder as a sustainable source of proteins;
  - Harmonise the legislation on ‘clean meat’, also known as lab-grown, in vitro or cultured meat, and conduct further research on related satellite cells, costs of production and sale, fat incorporation and consumers acceptance.<sup>64</sup>
- **Raise awareness: reconnect consumers with their plate, by**
- Harmonising food label requirements all over the EU to the highest standard practice, ensuring transparency and fostering trust towards citizens. Volt intends to prevent the use of the so-called traffic-light food labelling systems that do not take into account the ‘good fats’ (e.g. Omega-3 fatty acid), the amount of food vs. quality consumed, and the consequences of artificial food and colorants. Besides, Volt would like to conduct further research on specific food labels such as NutriScore<sup>65</sup> and the SENS algorithm<sup>66</sup>, which give consumers an overall appreciation of a product and help to make informed choices.<sup>67</sup> Nevertheless, a single label can not display the quality of nutrition and should therefore be supplemented with the following ideas:

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<sup>61</sup> Harvest to harvest: Recovering nutrients with New Sanitation systems for reuse in Urban Agriculture, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, available at

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0921344916302488>

<sup>62</sup> European Commission, Millions of European school children benefit from healthy food thanks to EU programme, available at [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-1823\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-1823_en.htm)

<sup>63</sup> Dietary manipulation: a sustainable way to mitigate methane emissions from ruminants, available at <https://janimscitechnol.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s40781-018-0175-7>

<sup>64</sup> Clean meat, The American Oil Chemists’ Society, available at <https://www.aocs.org/stay-informed/inform-magazine/featured-articles/clean-meat-february-2018>

<sup>65</sup> Test-Achats Belgium, NutriScore, available at <https://www.test-achats.be/sante/alimentation-et-nutrition/alimentation-saine/dossier/nutri-score>

<sup>66</sup> European Journal of Clinical Nutrition, The SENS algorithm—a new nutrient profiling system for food labelling in Europe, available at <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41430-017-0017-6>

<sup>67</sup> Appetite, Do nutrition labels influence healthier food choices? Analysis of label viewing behaviour and subsequent food purchases in a labelling intervention trial, available at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0195666317309923>

- Introducing mandatory EU vegan, vegetarian and environmental labels for food products<sup>68</sup> and imposing on food industry actors the responsibility of disclosure of unsustainable practices<sup>69</sup>, thereby increasing the ability for informed consumer choice to be a driver of sustainability;
  - Setting up EU public information and communication campaigns, following Article 7 of the EU Regulation 1169/2011, enabling consumers to make informed food choices;<sup>70</sup>
  - Educating children about food and its benefits, with initiatives such as a weekly or monthly breakfast-at-school paid by the municipality.<sup>71</sup>
- **Advocate for healthier food choices, by**
- Promoting balanced and diversified - including vegetarian - diets with more fruits and vegetables in schools, hospitals, and public facilities. Vegan options should be considered when suitable for the public concerned, with a special attention required for children and people presenting cardiovascular risks;<sup>72</sup>
  - Preventing food related health issues by raising food awareness on eating habits in collaboration with the World Health Organisation;<sup>73</sup>
  - Introducing a sugar tax on soft drinks and sweets.<sup>74</sup>
- **Promote food research and innovation,**
- Work towards the EU Food 2030 agenda, in collaboration with experts and all stakeholders at all levels and ensure a holistic approach to tackle most EU food pressing issues in line with the SDGs incl. 2. Zero Hunger; 12. Responsible Production and Consumption etc.;
  - Ensure advances in food technology and food science are applicable to real life issues.

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<sup>68</sup> Food Policy, Environmental impact food labels combining carbon, nitrogen, and water footprints, available at <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S030691921630015X>

<sup>69</sup> Sustainweb, What is sustainable food?, available at [https://www.sustainweb.org/sustainablefood/what\\_is\\_sustainable\\_food/](https://www.sustainweb.org/sustainablefood/what_is_sustainable_food/)

<sup>70</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on the provision of food information to consumers, available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32011R1169>

<sup>71</sup> Best practice: Strasbourg, France. FranceTV Info, Les petits-déjeuners gratuits à l'école se développent, available at [https://www.francetvinfo.fr/sante/enfant-ado/les-petits-dejeuners-gratuits-a-l-ecole-se-developpent\\_2936911.html](https://www.francetvinfo.fr/sante/enfant-ado/les-petits-dejeuners-gratuits-a-l-ecole-se-developpent_2936911.html)

<sup>72</sup> The Journal of Pediatrics, Caring for Infants and Children Following Alternative Dietary Patterns, available at [https://www.jpeds.com/article/S0022-3476\(17\)30600-5/fulltext#s0015](https://www.jpeds.com/article/S0022-3476(17)30600-5/fulltext#s0015)

<sup>73</sup> Healthy Diet, World Health Organisation, available at <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/healthy-diet>

<sup>74</sup> Best practices from France, Norway and the UK. BBC, Sugar tax on soft drinks raise £154m, available at <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-46279224>

## 2. A participating and enabling EU food policy

Food policies needs not yet addressed by market or state are increasingly being addressed by local communities exercising a down-top approach. Volt supports those movements that spur entrepreneurship and innovation both in terms of actions and in terms of governance. Citizens can also be organised in food councils within cities to support, advise, and propose food initiatives.<sup>75</sup> Nevertheless, in some cases there are low levels of engagement by city governments as well as a limited connection with key actors in food systems operating at higher governance scales<sup>76</sup>, generating possible conflicting acts that can hamper policy implementation.

Volt wants to create an enabling environment for these initiatives to spread and for scaling up virtuous local initiatives. Obstacles today can be found in the application of EU rules that do not distinguish between citizen led initiatives, start-ups, small enterprises and medium or large companies.<sup>77</sup> Rules should be rethought and adapted. To facilitate this, Volt will:

- **Develop the EU Food Lab**, enabling a collective dynamic collaboration between citizens' representatives, academia, industry, and policy makers. Among others, it will aim at fostering innovative entrepreneurship spirit in food sector and ensuring the integration of industrial concerns in research and innovation.<sup>78</sup>
- **Empower EU citizens and involve citizens in food policy making.** Volt aims at encouraging the creation of national and local specific food labs, such as the one developed in Copenhagen<sup>79</sup>, that coordinate bottom-up policy developments scaling up citizens interests, needs, and initiatives, ensuring innovation can thrive and spread in a way that leaves nobody behind.
- **Create an EU FOOD HUB**, using the example of the Rotterdam Food Cluster<sup>80</sup>, in which EU citizens and enterprises with a Food 4 Work approach could meet, exchange, showcase their ideas, find support for business development, and connect with investors. Together, they will be able to define new ways of addressing food issues like food poverty, sustainability, and food production

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<sup>75</sup> The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact: the potential of food and the key role of cities in localizing SDGs, Junco, available at <http://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org>

<sup>76</sup> The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact: the potential of food and the key role of cities in localizing SDGs, Junco, available at <http://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org>

<sup>77</sup> European Commission, Food, farming, fisheries, EU actions against food waste, available at [https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food\\_waste/eu\\_actions/food-donation\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/food_waste/eu_actions/food-donation_en)

<sup>78</sup> Food Lab, European Food Innovation Incubator, available at <https://foodlab-eu.com/history>

<sup>79</sup> Best practice: The Local Food Lab, Copenhagen, Denmark, available at <https://space10.io/labs/local-food/>

<sup>80</sup> Best practice: The Rotterdam Food Cluster, The NL, available at <https://www.rotterdamfoodcluster.com/about-us/?lang=en>

impact, food access, green food supply and distribution, as well as food waste reduction.

## **D. Animal Welfare**

Animals are sentient beings.<sup>81</sup> Volt is conscious that humans share this planet with other forms of life, that should co-exist together within an interdependent ecosystem. Volt aligns itself with the Five Freedoms principle adopted by well-renowned organisations for animal health.<sup>82</sup> Animal welfare under human control should be expressed through freedom from hunger or thirst; freedom from discomfort; freedom from pain, injury or disease; freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour and, finally, freedom from fear and distress. Volt strongly condemns any kind of animal abuse, which shall not be tolerated and must be sanctioned. This is why Volt will:

- **Ensure that any acquisition of domestic and pet animals can be traced back.**
  - Volt strongly encourages the creation of online platforms that put into contact responsible ethical breeders, controlled by an ethical charter, with future owners and professionals.<sup>83</sup> Volt also wishes to the forefront shelters as a regulated channel to adopt pets.
  - Previously automatically granted licences that record animal identification will be withdrawn if pets are found abused (e.g., beaten, abandoned or malnourished).<sup>84</sup>
  - Volt supports the introduction of a compulsory microchip for pets when suitable.<sup>85</sup>
  
- **Make it illegal to routinely feed animals antibiotics, steroids, or other medication,** unless strictly necessary for health reasons, as prescribed by recognised vets. Volt supports the procedure 2014/0257 (COD) on veterinary medicinal products that led to a regulation limiting the use of antibiotics in prophylaxis and metaphylaxis. We believe that more strict standards are needed

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<sup>81</sup> The Cambridge Declaration On Consciousness, available at <http://fcmconference.org/img/CambridgeDeclarationOnConsciousness.pdf>

<sup>82</sup> World Organisation for Animal Health, Health Standards, Section 7: Animal Welfare, available at [http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health\\_standards/tahc/current/chapitre\\_aw\\_introduction.pdf](http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health_standards/tahc/current/chapitre_aw_introduction.pdf) ; Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Home, available at <https://www.rspca.org.uk/>

<sup>83</sup> Platform Tipaw in Belgium, available at <https://tipaw.com/fr/>

<sup>84</sup> Code wallon du Bien-être animal (Wallonia, Belgium), available at <http://bienetreanimal.wallonie.be/news/adoption-definitive-du-code-du-bien-etre-animal-1>

<sup>85</sup> BBC, Dog Microchipping becomes mandatory across the UK, available at <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-35972480>

in the long run to limit the risk of the development of bacteria resistant to antibiotics.<sup>86</sup>

- **Condemn any form of animal slaughter that does not include stunning and unconsciousness, and advocate for strict forms of controls.** Despite the Council Regulation (EC) N° 1099/2009 aimed at protecting the animal at the time of killing,<sup>87</sup> animal mistreatment cases are still reported on a regular basis across Europe.<sup>88</sup> Volt relies on best practices developed by the World Organisation for Animal Health, and further advocates for prohibiting any distraction methods as well as restraining methods which work through electro-immobilisation or immobilisation by injury.<sup>89</sup>
- **Regulate hunting as a sport practice.** Use of wild populations as resources shall be monitored and controlled according to the health of the population and its associated ecosystem(s). Moreover, strict actions against poaching should be taken. In this regard, Volt supports the Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein.<sup>90</sup>
- **Enforce the EU Directive 2010/16/EU to protect animals used for scientific or educational purposes.** In this regard, Volt strongly supports the Three R's principle: reduction in numbers of animals, refinement of experimental methods and replacement of animals with non-animal techniques.<sup>91</sup>
- **Uphold the European Convention for the Protection of Animals kept for Farming Purposes and the five freedoms in relation to animals that are relied upon for economic purposes<sup>92</sup>** Volt believes it is necessary to ensure that scientific, cultural and societal beliefs are sufficiently integrated in policies regarding animal husbandry, commercial fisheries and other related practices. In

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<sup>86</sup> European Council, Veterinary medicines: new EU rules to enhance availability and fight against antimicrobial resistance, available at <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2018/06/13/veterinary-medicines-new-eu-rules-to-enhance-availability-and-fight-against-antimicrobial-resistance/#>

<sup>87</sup> The Council of the European Union, Council regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 of 24 September 2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing, available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32009R1099>

<sup>88</sup> Francebleu, Acte de cruauté envers les animaux: l'abattoir de Mauléon suspendu, available at <https://www.francebleu.fr/infos/faits-divers-justice/pays-basque-l-association-l214-denonce-des-cas-de-cruaute-animale-l-abattoir-de-mauleon-1459250146>

<sup>89</sup> World Organisation for Animal Health, Terrestrial Animal Health Code - Chapter 7.5: Slaughter of Animals, available at [http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre\\_aw\\_slaughter.htm](http://www.oie.int/index.php?id=169&L=0&htmfile=chapitre_aw_slaughter.htm)

<sup>90</sup> European Commission, Amendment of the Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein, available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN-FR-IT/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32017R0128&from=IT>

<sup>91</sup> World Organisation for Animal Health, Animal Health, Section 7: Animal Welfare, available at [http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health\\_standards/tahc/current/chapitre\\_aw\\_introduction.pdf](http://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health_standards/tahc/current/chapitre_aw_introduction.pdf)

<sup>92</sup> European Commission, Animal Welfare, available at [https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare_en).

order to ensure this happens we rely on best practices as identified by expert organisations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization.<sup>93</sup>

➤ **Oppose the purchase, detention, and usage of wild animals<sup>94</sup> for captive display and entertainment purposes. Volt will work to:**

- Ban the purchase of cetaceans for aquarium, dolphinarium or aquatic park shows purposes. In total, 249 dolphins, orcas and belugas have been imported in 16 EU countries between 1979 and 2008<sup>95</sup>. Volt condemns such a practice since it goes against the animal needs, therefore increasing the mortality rate and leads to depression and self-damaging practices.<sup>96</sup>
- Prohibit wild animals in circuses, to ensure biodiversity conservation, disease prevention and public health and safety. Unlike the EC Zoo Directive (1999/22 EC),<sup>97</sup> no clear regulation demands are put on circuses. Only 3 EU member states so far have imposed a full ban on wild animal circuses.<sup>98</sup> Volt strongly pushes them all to take such a stance.

➤ **Ensure the end of Bullfighting in the EU.**

- Prohibit any financial support given by public actors (European<sup>99</sup>, state, regional or local) or any fiscal benefit towards bullfights and similar traditions, as those shows pure animal torture. Volt also encourages awareness campaigns against those practices in Spain, Portugal, and southern France.<sup>100</sup>

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<sup>93</sup> FAO, Capacity Building to Implement Good Animal Welfare Practices, available at <http://www.fao.org/docrep/pdf/012/i0483e/i0483e00.pdf>.

<sup>94</sup> Duhaime's Law Dictionary, Wild Animal Definition, available at <http://www.duhaime.org/LegalDictionary/W/WildAnimal.aspx>

<sup>95</sup> Whale and Dolphin Conservation *et al.*, A review of the keeping of whales and dolphins in captivity in the European Union and EC Directive 1999/22, relating to the keeping of wild animals in zoos, available at <https://us.whales.org/sites/default/files/eu-dolphinaria-report-2015.pdf>

<sup>96</sup> Dr. Naomi A. Rose, The Impact of Captivity on the Welfare of the Cetaceans, available at <http://www.animalwelfareintergroup.eu/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/EU-Intergroup-presentation-2014.pdf>

<sup>97</sup> The Council of the European Union, Council Directive 1999/22/EC of 29 March 1999 relating to the keeping of wild animals in zoos, available at [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L\\_.1999.094.01.0024.01.ENG](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.1999.094.01.0024.01.ENG)

<sup>98</sup> Liz Tyson Afocae, The Legal Status of Wild Animals in European Circuses, available at <http://animalwelfareintergroup.eu/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Intergroup-Presentation-October-2015.pdf>

<sup>99</sup> European Parliament sends double message on EU support to bullfighting in new agriculture policy, available at: <https://www.brusselstimes.com/news/eu-affairs/137857/european-parliament-sends-double-message-on-eu-support-to-bullfighting-in-new-agriculture-policy>

<sup>100</sup> Adobo Magazine, BETC and the Federation of Leagues against Corridas send back bullfighting to the dinosaurs' age, available at <https://adobomagazine.com/campaign-spotlight/betc-and-federation-leagues-against-corridas-send-back-bullfighting-dinosaurs-age>

- Harmonise all these aspects with the next Common Agricultural Policy. So that aid to these sectors is gradually phased out and is directed to other areas to create more jobs.
  - Prevent any attempt of Bullfighting becoming a cultural and immaterial heritage of Humanity, by UNESCO<sup>101</sup>.
  - Fully restrict children and adolescents in events (public and private) related to bullfighting<sup>102</sup>.
  - Work at a national level to consecrate animals as sentient beings in the civil codes and adapt the legal codes so they don't exclude bulls used in bullfighting<sup>103</sup>.
  - Reject diplomatic attempts to export the practice to other countries.
  - Ensure that public institutions have accessible and transparent mechanisms so any economic support to the bullfighting sector is effectively tracked.
  - Establish the abolition of the practice in Europe, and in the world, as a collective goal.
- **Support the conservation of wild species in light of current research and species statuses**, such as the European Bird Species Actions Plan.<sup>104</sup> Volt supports updating the EU Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992,<sup>105</sup> and will push for the establishment of urban corridors for pollinators and, where applicable, other species, to preserve and/or increase populations of key species (e.g. bees).
  - **Strongly regulate the transport of live animals in the EU and ban long term exports of livestock animals to outside the EU.** Details see “Regulations of Live Animal Transportation” in Volt’s Policy Portfolio.

## **E. Pollution prevention and biodiversity**

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<sup>101</sup> Bullfighting will not be a UNESCO World Heritage Site, available at:

<https://www.smartgreenpost.com/2020/12/03/bullfighting-will-not-be-a-unesco-world-heritage-site>

<sup>102</sup> UN Committee on the Rights of the Child says children need to be protected from ‘harmful effects’, available at:

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/amp.theguardian.com/world/2018/feb/08/un-panel-urges-spain-consider-banning-children-bullfights>

<sup>103</sup> Animal welfare laws boosted by new legal status for animals, available at:

<https://algarvedailynews.com/news/10673-animal-welfare-laws-boosted-by-new-legal-status-for-animals>

<sup>104</sup> European Commission, European Bird Species Action Plan, available at

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action\\_plans/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/wildbirds/action_plans/index_en.htm)

<sup>105</sup> European Council, Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, available at <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A31992L0043>



Pollution-related causes led to one in every six premature deaths worldwide in 2015, according to a study published by the Lancet Commission.<sup>106</sup> Indeed, urban development needs to include a strong focus on cleaner air and reducing pollutants which, according to the WHO, contributes to elevated rates of heart disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancer.<sup>107</sup> The climate impact of urban environments urgently demands further action to avoid greater degradation of our environment and our health.<sup>108</sup>

Pollution is also one of the major risks for further losing biodiversity. Biodiversity not only refers to the number of species within an ecosystem, but also to the genetic diversity within a species' gene pool and the number of and interaction between different communities of species within a larger ecosystem. Each level is affected by human activity, and in many cases, this interaction results in a reduction in biodiversity. This raises severe concerns among biologists, environmental scientists, and other communities of researchers. A comprehensive approach to global balance must take into account both measures on pollution prevention and nature conservation.

## 1. Pollution prevention

- **Promote the reuse, refurbishment and recycling of existing materials** to avoid waste and overproduction, providing a real alternative to limit the introduction of contaminants into the natural environment.
- **Promote investment in research and incentivising changes in legislation to hasten the adoption of new practices** that avoid pollution. This could include building roads made of more sustainable materials compared to current building blocks, road pricing for cities as seen in Oslo and London and the promotion of electrified communal transport.
- **Examine the idea of a pollution tax** by supporting research on this topic.

## 2. Biodiversity

- **Commit to the United Nations Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020**, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and promote its overall vision of living in harmony with nature.<sup>109</sup>
- **Promote biodiversity for agricultural land use** by:

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<sup>106</sup> The Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health, available at <https://www.thelancet.com/commissions/pollution-and-health>

<sup>107</sup> WHO, Ambient air pollution: health impacts, available at <http://www.who.int/airpollution/ambient/health-impacts/en/>

<sup>108</sup> Breathelife, A Global Campaign for clean life, available at <http://breathelife2030.org>

<sup>109</sup> Convention on Biological Diversity, Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including Aichi Biodiversity Targets, available at <https://www.cbd.int/sp/>



- Consistent installation of flower strips and hedges to link habitats.
  - Stop eutrophication caused by excessive fertilizer use and the associated loss of species.
- **Support the development of stronger assessment systems for urban development** in view of its impact on biodiversity.
- Support insect-friendly street lawns with high biodiversity by replanting with mixed trees, bushes, and open blooming flowers.
  - Promote initiatives that empower citizens, like urban gardening and sharing economies to reduce waste as well as support and develop enhanced education programs on biodiversity for all generations.

### III. Migration

Volt defines ‘migration’ to include all individuals and groups that voluntarily or involuntarily move from one place to another with the intentions of settling, permanently or temporarily, in a new location. This includes internal migration and migration between different countries. It is acknowledged that challenges differ depending on the different groups that are included in the broad definition of migration. However, Volt believes that the difference between groups is fluid, and that existing definitions create artificial lines that are less relevant now than at the time of their establishment.<sup>110</sup> Therefore, different policies are proposed in reference to different categories of migrants. Each category will be defined along the lines of existing definitions as established by expert international organizations, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Red Cross), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

#### A. Asylum seekers and refugees

One of the biggest crises in the world since the second World War is unfolding at Europe’s doorstep, and the continent is only taking a secondary role in helping those affected by conflicts in the Mediterranean basin and beyond. An unprecedented 70.8 million people around the world have been forced from their homes. This means that nearly 25 people are forcibly displaced every minute as a result of conflict or persecution.<sup>111</sup> Contrary to discourse stating that EU countries are carrying the burden

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<sup>110</sup> “... In order to capture the full extent of humanitarian concerns, the policy is deliberately broad. Therefore, while recognizing the specific rights of different categories under international law, it addresses the needs and vulnerabilities of, among others, labour migrants, stateless migrants, irregular migrants, as well as refugees and asylum seekers.” See International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Policy on Migration, available at <http://www.ifrc.org/Global/Governance/Policies/migration-policy-en.pdf>.

<sup>111</sup> UNHRC, Global Trends – Forced Displacement in 2018, available at <https://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2018/>

of African and Middle Eastern refugees, developing countries host 84% of the world's refugees.<sup>112</sup> The current focus in Europe is primarily on curbing migration flows - which, in 2018, accounted for 144,166 arrivals, equal to 0.03% of the population of the Union - instead of providing a safe haven and opportunities to those who are fleeing war.<sup>113</sup>

Volt aims to dramatically reform the way the European system deals with asylum seekers and refugees, to make it more effective, humane, and fair. Additionally, Volt wants to set up an international system to prevent and address refugee crises, and to address the issue of statelessness coherently: these are global issues that should be dealt with at the international level.

## 1. Reform the EU Refugee system

- **Set up a Unified EU Refugee Policy to define a unified approach to manage refugee flows from outside the EU.** Within the EU, some countries<sup>114</sup> are overwhelmingly taking in asylum seekers and refugees.

The Dublin system<sup>115</sup> needs to be reformed and a settlement system must be defined (e.g. based on population, population density, wealth, age, and growth). The amended system should provide for penalties for those countries who do not abide by it.

- **Increase and improve legal pathways into Europe** in order to effectively manage flows of refugees and asylum seekers. This includes policies that go beyond the current Dublin Regulation and focus on relocation.<sup>116</sup>
- **Continue the practice of protecting refugees for the duration of the risk.** Additionally, offer permanent residence to refugees after a certain period if they are still at risk (five to seven years) when certain criteria are met.<sup>117</sup> There is little chance of refugees going back to their home countries after such a long period,

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<sup>112</sup> Ibid.

<sup>113</sup> IOM, Flow Monitoring, available at <https://migration.iom.int/europe?type=arrivals>

<sup>114</sup> All emergency plans to resettle refugees among EU member states have largely failed: only 34,705 asylum seekers had been relocated from Greece and Italy to other EU countries by November 2018. See EU-Commission, Member States' Support to Emergency Relocation Mechanism, available at [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/press-material/docs/state\\_of\\_play\\_-\\_relocation\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/press-material/docs/state_of_play_-_relocation_en.pdf)

<sup>115</sup> The Dublin Regulation establishes that the European country through which a refugee first enters the EU is responsible for the examination of the asylum procedure. See European Commission, The Dublin System, available at [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/background-information/docs/20160406/factsheet\\_-\\_the\\_dublin\\_system\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/background-information/docs/20160406/factsheet_-_the_dublin_system_en.pdf)

<sup>116</sup> European Commission, The European Agenda on Migration, available at [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20170927\\_factsheet\\_relocation\\_sharing\\_responsibility\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/20170927_factsheet_relocation_sharing_responsibility_en.pdf)

<sup>117</sup> For example, clean track record, language skills, and knowledge of key elements of the country.

as often there is often nothing to go back to. Immediate permanent integration is also required for certain types of refugees, such as identified unaccompanied minors.

- **Make the asylum system fair, effective, and quick:**
  - By shortening the time period until the final asylum decision is made.
  - By always providing social, legal, and psychological support with specialised services.
  - By allowing asylum seekers to enter the job market from the very first day.<sup>118</sup> Asylum seekers are often not given the opportunity to gain employment or partake in other activities. It is expensive for countries to provide them with enough money to live on. Often, insufficient resources are provided, leading asylum seekers to live in dire situations. Additionally, excluding asylum seekers from the workforce for the duration of the asylum procedure does not foster integration. Finally, it is against countries' obligations under international law, human rights law, humanitarian law, and European guidance to support asylum seekers' right to work. Indeed, "without the right to work, all other rights are meaningless."<sup>119</sup>
  
- **Ensure that asylum seekers' and refugees' rights are respected and that countries uphold obligations arising out of international treaties.**
  - Put an end to the practice of detaining asylum seekers under inhumane conditions. Practices that cause unjustified and undue detention should be stopped.<sup>120</sup>
  - Ensure that the standards for the reception of applicants for international protection are complied with by all European countries.<sup>121</sup>
  
- **Involve the private sector and educational institutions in fostering integration** by designing alternative accreditation systems for undocumented skills and qualifications, offering training courses and language classes, gathering early information to facilitate employment matching, and setting up platforms and communication channels to explain and openly discuss the rights and duties of people living in Europe.

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<sup>118</sup> Asylum seekers are often not given the opportunity to gain employment or partake in other activities. This is problematic on many levels: it is expensive for countries to financially support them ,leading asylum seekers to live in dire situations.

<sup>119</sup> Louis Henkin, U.S. delegate at the drafting of the 1951 Refugee Convention.

<sup>120</sup> UNHCR, Beyond Detention A Global Strategy to support governments to end the detention of asylum-seekers and refugees - 2014-2019, available at <http://www.unhcr.org/53aa929f6.pdf> ; Human Rights Watch, Greece: 13,000 Still Trapped on Islands, available at <https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/03/06/greece-13000-still-trapped-islands>

<sup>121</sup> Particularly articles 8(3), 8(4), 9, 10, 11 of Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, Laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection, 26 June 2013. See Official Journal, Directive 2013/33/EU, available at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32013L0033&from=EN>

- **Ensure decent housing for every asylum seeker and refugee.** Additionally, incentivise the adoption of decentralised habitations to foster integration, increasing the chance of securing jobs and of creating a new life in the host country.

Integrate social and shared housing into EU cohesion policy.<sup>122</sup> The EU Council of Ministers has given priority to combating social exclusion related to housing in its EU cohesion policy.<sup>123</sup> In 2007, the European Parliament committed itself to a 'European Declaration on Housing.'<sup>124</sup> As such, it is recommended to use available funds for social housing to improve the living situations of people including asylum seekers and refugees.<sup>125</sup>

## 2. Set up an international system to prevent and address refugee crises

- **Move towards an international administration to cooperatively address refugee crises.** The failure to do so is not only unfair, but it is also short-sighted, as it drives extra-regional asylum and prompts smuggling and trafficking.<sup>126</sup> This is why it is necessary to move internationally in the direction of "pre-determined burden (financial) sharing and responsibility (human) sharing quotas."<sup>127</sup> Refugee crisis must be addressed proactively, not reactively.<sup>128</sup>
- **Allow different protection roles for different countries,** embracing common but differentiated state responsibilities. This means that, "beyond the common duty to provide first asylum, states could assume a range of protection roles within their responsibility-sharing quota (protection for duration of risk; exceptional immediate permanent integration; residual resettlement)—though

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<sup>122</sup> For more details see [Social Equality, Alleviate poverty, Social and community housing](#)

<sup>123</sup> The Regional policy of the European Union (EU), also referred as Cohesion Policy, is a policy with the stated aim of improving the economic well-being of regions in the EU and also to avoid regional disparities. More than one third of the EU's budget is devoted to this policy. See European Commission, Cohesion policy Frequently Asked Questions, available at [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/faq/#1](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/faq/#1)

<sup>124</sup> European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, available at [https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ef\\_files/pubdocs/2008/18/en/1/ef0818en.pdf](https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ef_files/pubdocs/2008/18/en/1/ef0818en.pdf)

<sup>125</sup> One example is the Sharehaus Refugio in Berlin. Planned in collaboration with the Berlin City Mission, the Refugio provides refuge, community and skills development renewal for refugees, local Germans, and people of different cultures who have lost their homes or were forced to flee. Made up of 5 floors, the Refugio offers private rooms and shared communal spaces for 12-18 months. People are encouraged to learn German, make local friends and start working or studying as soon as possible. Residents cook and eat together daily in a creative community in which storytelling and singing, art and theater are nurtured.

<sup>126</sup> Open Democracy, A global solution to a global refugee crisis, by Professor James C. Hathaway, available at [www.opendemocracy.net/openglobalrights/james-c-hathaway/global-solution-to-global-refugee-crisis](http://www.opendemocracy.net/openglobalrights/james-c-hathaway/global-solution-to-global-refugee-crisis)

<sup>127</sup> Ibid.

<sup>128</sup> Ibid.

all states would be required to make contributions to both (financial) burden-sharing and (human) responsibility-sharing, with no trade-offs between the two.”<sup>129</sup>

- **Ensure safe passage by creating humanitarian corridors.** While combating human smuggling is necessary, it must be acknowledged that often, closing one route forces the creation of another, sometimes more dangerous. Better communication with people attempting the journey, both in their home countries and in transition countries, is necessary.
- **Advocate before the international community for famine<sup>130</sup> and climate migrants to be classified as refugees,** or to be afforded the same rights under international law. While this is a long-term process, Volt will advocate for it to become reality. These are key and necessary measures. Additionally, only four countries<sup>131</sup> are currently either at risk of or in a famine situation, and such migrants would not dramatically increase the number of refugees seeking refuge abroad. Many individuals in those countries already qualify as refugees, since they are fleeing on the grounds of persecution based on their ethnicity, national origin, descent, skin colour, religion, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion).
- **Help transform the protracted refugee camp situation to enable refugees and asylum seekers to contribute to society** and ensure that they are afforded their full rights.
- **Work at the source** and tackle the problems that create refugee crises in order to prevent them, through international cooperation and diplomacy.
  - Strengthen international cooperation and governance of migration.
  - Increase focus on prevention of conflict and the mitigation of other causes of refugee flows by political means.
  - Use joint economic, financial, and military resources to diplomatically resolve existing conflicts in areas from which a large percentage of the population was forced to flee.
  - Provide people at risk with protection and assistance in their own countries (including internally displaced persons).<sup>132</sup>

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<sup>129</sup> Ibid.

<sup>130</sup> UN and food organisations define famine as when more than 30 percent of children under age five suffer from acute malnutrition and mortality rates are two or more deaths per 10,000 people every day, among other criteria. See Al Jazeera, Famine ‘largest humanitarian crisis in history of UN,’ available at <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/03/famine-united-nations-170310234132946.html>

<sup>131</sup> Yemen, South Sudan, Somalia and northeastern Nigeria. See VOA, UN Aid Chief: 20 Million People in 4 Countries Face Starvation, Famine, available at <https://www.voanews.com/a/twenty-million-people-four-countries-face-starvation-famine-un-aid-chief-says/3760816.html>

<sup>132</sup> World Economic Forum, 5 long-term solutions to Europe’s refugee crisis, available at <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/04/5-long-term-solutions-to-europes-refugee-crisis/>

- Invest in the creation and improvement of humanitarian centres in regions close to the affected area, and support opportunities and effective application processes for resettlement.<sup>133</sup>
- Promote the rights of refugees to ensure that the obligations of Member States are upheld. This includes positive incentives for those States that respect the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers in the form of financial benefits. Diplomatic and economic sanctions shall be applied as a last-resort measure.
- Increase financial aid for refugee-hosting countries and ensure existing funding commitments are honoured.

### 3. Statelessness

- **Put an end to statelessness in Europe.** More than 10 million people are stateless in the world.<sup>134</sup> Stateless persons are often denied the enjoyment of essential rights, such as identification documents, employment, education, and health services.<sup>135</sup>
- **Push all individual European countries to ratify and implement the 1954 Convention relating to the status of Stateless Persons** - designed to ensure that stateless people enjoy a minimal set of rights - and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, that aims at reducing the number of stateless people in the world. As of April 2018, most, but not all, countries are parties to these conventions.<sup>136</sup>
- **Work to implement the objectives laid out in the UNHCR Action Plan to End Statelessness in the world by 2024.**<sup>137</sup> Volt will focus on a number of challenges specific to the EU, including:<sup>138</sup>

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<sup>133</sup> The resettlement process follows UNHCR practices. See UNHCR, Resettlement, available at <http://www.unhcr.org/resettlement.html>

<sup>134</sup> 'Stateless persons' are understood as: "A person who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law." See Article 1(1) 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, available at <http://www.unhcr.org/protection/statelessness/3bbb25729/convention-relating-status-stateless-persons.html>.

<sup>135</sup> UNHCR, Global Action Plan 2014-24 to End Statelessness, available at <http://www.unhcr.org/protection/statelessness/54621bf49/global-action-plan-end-statelessness-2014-2024.html>

<sup>136</sup> France and Spain, for example, are the only parties to the 1954 Convention. See UNHCR, The Faces of Statelessness in Europe, available at <http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain?page=topic&docid=5aa79f9d4&skip=0&tocid=50ffbce524%20d&toid=50ffbce5268&querysi=European%20Union&searchin=fulltext&sort=date>

<sup>137</sup> UNHCR, #IBelong, available at <http://www.unhcr.org/ibelong-campaign-to-end-statelessness.html>

<sup>138</sup> European Commission, Statelessness in the EU, available at [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/european\\_migration\\_network/reports/docs/emn-informs/emn-informs-00\\_inform\\_statelessness\\_final.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/reports/docs/emn-informs/emn-informs-00_inform_statelessness_final.pdf)

- Increasing homogeneity among the procedures of European countries regarding the determination of statelessness, with respect to both administrative and judicial procedures.
  - Facilitating access to nationality for children born stateless in all European countries. In addition, separate procedures should be established for children born *en route*.
  - Ensuring access to the labour market, education, and social services, even when the residency status of a stateless person cannot be determined.
  - Establish suitable procedures for unaccompanied stateless minors that are considerate to the specific vulnerabilities of this particular group.
- **Comply and share best practices among countries**, as it was set in the December 2015 Council Conclusions to end statelessness.<sup>139</sup> **Stimulate the exchange of information between Member States**, in particular on policies regarding the prevention and reduction of statelessness and the treatment of stateless persons.<sup>140</sup>

## B. Economic Migrants

Volt supports enabling labour mobility by removing existing barriers. At the bi-, multi-, and plurilateral level, much can be gained from liberalized commitments specifically targeting those groups of economic migrants that come from developing and least-developed countries. An important consideration, which should form the basis of any policy regarding the increased mobility of economic migrants, is the needs of the labour market, both in Sending States as well as in Receiving States. Receiving States are often faced with an aging population and an over-represented supply of professionals in the service sector. These demographic factors create a demand for the type of work which can be met by economic migrants. Furthermore, economic migrants send much of their income back to their home States in the form of remittance.<sup>141</sup> Investments made possible due to remittances greatly benefit the economic development of the home State.<sup>142</sup> Promoting economic growth through remittances is mutually beneficial, as it

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<sup>139</sup> European Council, Council adopts conclusions on statelessness, available at <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2015/12/04/council-adopts-conclusions-on-statelessness/>

<sup>140</sup> European Parliament, Practices and Approaches in EU Member States to Prevent and End Statelessness, available at [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/536476/IPOL\\_STU\(2015\)536476\\_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/536476/IPOL_STU(2015)536476_EN.pdf)

<sup>141</sup> Hertel, T. W. et al, "Agriculture and Non-Agricultural Liberalization in the Millennium Round", CIES Working Paper No. 16 (March 2000), p. 16-18. Available at SSRN <http://ssrn.com/abstract=231205>. See also Walmsley, T. L. and Winters, A. L., "Relaxing the Restrictions on the Temporary Movements of Natural Persons: A Simulation Analysis", CEPR Discussion Paper No. 3719 (January 2002). Read in Mattoo, A., Carzaniga, A. (eds.), *Moving People to Deliver Services*, Oxford: Oxford University Press (2003), p. 73- 85.

<sup>142</sup> Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament, Common actions for growth and employment: the Community Lisbon programme, COM(2005) 330 final, Brussels 20.7.2005, p. 2. See also Mattoo, A., Carzaniga, A. (eds.), *Moving People to Deliver Services*, Oxford:



not only supports the development of Sending States, but it also prevents poverty-driven migration.<sup>143</sup> Volt advocates for permanent economic migration to be made possible by establishing transparent and coherent policies in all European countries. However, policies regarding permanent economic migration should include safeguards to mitigate the negative effects of permanent migration on the workforce and general development of the Sending State.<sup>144</sup>

## 1. Economic migrants as a temporary workforce

- **Target temporary economic migrants when liberalizing labour market mobility.** Policy designed to this respect should facilitate circular labour mobility.<sup>145</sup> Volt will:
  - Actively assess the impact on the labour market of the Receiving and the Sending States to ensure a balance between the needs and demands. Commitments made should accommodate the outcome of such an analysis and mitigate the negative effects of increased labour mobility.
  - Support the active involvement of relevant stakeholders, such as employers and trade unions, when designing policy on temporary economic migration, both in Sending and Receiving States.
  
- **Ensure that a level playing field is created, in which temporary economic migrants have equal access to justice.**
  - Use the expertise of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in designing policies that enable temporary migration of workers which adequately balances the interests of foreign and domestic workers.<sup>146</sup>
  - Support national and international prosecution agencies in the fight against human trafficking and in the creation of a global system to report trafficking crimes.

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Oxford University Press (2003). Also Münz, R. et al, "What are migrants contributions to employment and growth", Hamburgische WeltWirtschafts Institut, Migration Research Group (2006), p. 5.

<sup>143</sup> Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), "How Do People in Asia and the Pacific Migrate Legally for Work? An Overview of Legal Frameworks: GATS Mode 4, PTAs and Bilateral Labour Agreements", Trade and Investment Division, Staff Working Paper 03/11, p. 110.

<sup>144</sup> International Migration Papers, Migration of Highly skilled persons from developing countries, available at [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_protect/---protrav/---migrant/documents/publication/wcms\\_201706.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---migrant/documents/publication/wcms_201706.pdf); F. Docquier, H. Rapoport, Skilled Migration: the Perspective of Developing Countries, available at [http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/856971468761964198/129529322\\_20041117165105/additional/WPS3382.pdf](http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/856971468761964198/129529322_20041117165105/additional/WPS3382.pdf)

<sup>145</sup> European Commission, "Policy Coherence for Development, Accelerating progress towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals", COM(2005)134 final, Brussels, 12.4.2005, p. 15. See also European Commission, "Policy Plan on Legal Migration", SEC(2005)1680, Brussels 21.12.2005, p.4.

<sup>146</sup> IOM, World Migration Report 2015 - Migrants and Cities: New Partnerships to Manage Mobility, available at <http://publications.iom.int/books/world-migration-report-2015-migrants-and-cities-new-partnerships-manage-mobility>, IOM, Labour Market Inclusion of the Less Skilled Migrants in the European Union, available at <http://publications.iom.int/books/labour-market-inclusion-less-skilled-migrants-european-union>.



- **Develop a specific migration visa** that should be made available to temporary foreign workers.
  - Visas for temporary foreign workers should be subject to a separate regime. Temporary foreign workers should not be entitled to apply for permanent residency or social security in the Receiving State. In turn, the labour rights of temporary migrant workers should be ensured by ensuring access to medical services, necessary insurances, and legal services, as well as compliance with local labour laws of the Receiving State.<sup>147</sup>
  
- **Work to liberalize services commitments in the World Trade Organization** to better enable the temporary movement of natural persons.
  - Adapt the definition of service supplier in the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) to include workers that fall into non-service categories, such as agricultural and fishery workers.<sup>148</sup>
  - Utilize the possibility of negotiating additional commitments which support circular migration. Specifically, this means commitments that ensure voluntary return and the prevention of exploitation of temporary workers.
  - Actively work towards the further defining and utilizing of Emergency Safeguard Mechanisms, which enable the temporary protection of certain sectors of the labour market in case of an unexpected surge of temporary migrant workers which threatens to harm or harms the national labour market.<sup>149</sup>

## 2. Economic migrants as permanent workforce

- **Push forward the establishment of a separate administrative procedure for permanent economic migrants**, in addition to facilitating temporary economic migration.
  
- **Support and further develop existing efforts to ease permanent migration for highly skilled migrants**, such as the EU Blue Card visa.<sup>150</sup>

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<sup>147</sup> Council for Trade in Services, Negotiating Proposals of WTO Members, India, S/CSS/W/12, 21 November 2000. See also Services Signalling Conference, Report by the Chairman of the TNC, JOB(08)/93, 30 July 2008, paras. 1–4.

<sup>148</sup> M. Panizzon, M., “International Law of Economic Migration - A Ménage À Trois? GATS Mode 4, EPAs and Bilateral Migration Agreements”, *Journal of World Trade*, Vol. 44(6), (July 2010); Society of International Economic Law (SIEL), Second Biennial Global Conference, University of Barcelona, July 8-10, 2010, p.6. Also Hertel, T. W. et al, “Agriculture and Non-Agricultural Liberalization in the Millennium Round”, CIES Working Paper No. 16 (March 2000), p. 14-16.

<sup>149</sup> WTO Secretariat, Trade Policy Review European Union, WT/TPR/S/284, p. 31-32, para. 2.28.

<sup>150</sup> OECD, International Migration Outlook 2017, available at [https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/international-migration-outlook-2017\\_migr\\_outlook-2017-en#page45](https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/international-migration-outlook-2017_migr_outlook-2017-en#page45)

### 3. Irregular economic migration

- **Ensure that the fundamental rights of undocumented migrants across Europe are respected in case of detention and deportation.** Ensure that the principle of non-refoulement is upheld.
- **Give particular attention to the rights of minors within the category of irregular economic migrants.** The rights as contained in the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child must be respected in all circumstances.<sup>151</sup>
- **Facilitate the creation of an administrative system** within and across European countries which allows for the conditional change of status from irregular to regular economic migrant.<sup>152</sup>

### C. European Humanitarian Corridors

Volt believes that **the attitude of the European Union to offer asylum only to those who manage to reach its borders is anachronistic** in the face of the natural phenomenon of migration. In order to create a legal migration system, which allows an organic approach to the challenge posed by this phenomenon, we believe **it is essential to develop a system of European humanitarian corridors that allows to better coordinate the action of the Member States.** Too often, due to the Dublin Regulation and, in particular, the readmission practice contained therein, states adopt discarding and disadvantageous demand analysis methodologies and parameters regarding most interested member states.

To combat human trafficking, to end the death of people along one of the world's most dangerous migration routes, **we aim to create hubs, that is, free zones, under the control of international organizations, including the EU itself, which should be placed on the border, on the territory of the neighboring State, with States recognized internationally as unstable and / or involved in internal or international conflict, in order to guarantee a short and safe journey to the subjects concerned by the program.**

The nature of these hubs will be twofold:

- **a first category of hub, considered temporary, will be designed for the**

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<sup>151</sup> OHCHR, Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), available at <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx>.

<sup>152</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, A European Agenda on Migration, Pillar III, p 12, available at [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/communication\\_on\\_the\\_european\\_agenda\\_on\\_migration\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/communication_on_the_european_agenda_on_migration_en.pdf)

- temporary management of conflicts and positioned at the borders of the state participating in the conflict;**
- **a second, permanent category will be designed and positioned on the main migration routes.**

This strategic location would allow a greater interception of migratory flows, allowing to offer security, stability and legality to a large number of people.

**Asylum applications would be submitted and evaluated in these hubs.**

**Transportation to safe countries**, including non-European countries, **would occur later if protection is assured** and the necessary documents are released.

In the meantime, **the applicant must be hosted inside the hub under the control and protection of the international organization of competence.**

We also find it necessary to **entrust the management of these hubs to international organizations** and not to the government staff of the country where the hub is located. This preference for international organizations is dictated by the desire to avoid cases of exploitation and repression of freedoms that occur, for example, in Libyan camps. The important factor in hub management must be the attention paid to possible radicalization phenomena.

As regards the **criteria for identifying the beneficiaries**, the personal and family situations of the applicants will be examined with reference to a plurality of preferential criteria:

- a) People from countries involved in international and / or internal conflict.
- b) Persons recognized as deserving by UNHCR, at least prima facie, of the recognition of the refugee status under the 1951 Geneva Convention and its 1967 Protocol;
- c) People who, although not included in the previous point, show a proven condition of vulnerability determined by their personal situation, age and health conditions;
- d) Each of the criteria indicated in the previous points, if proven in its consistency and seriousness, can motivate the person's admission to the project.

In complementary form and not a substitute for the previous criteria, the following additional factors will be taken into account for admission to the project:

- e) Persons who can benefit from support in the European Union or third countries for the declared availability of individuals, religious authorities or associations, to initially provide for their hospitality and support for a suitable initial period;

f) People who have stable family or social networks in European Union member countries and for this reason have declared that they want to establish and integrate in the member country indicated by them.

This criterion serves to facilitate the identification of integration paths and to exclude and / or limit any voluntary secondary movements.

Once arrived in Europe, or in a third country, migrants are welcomed by the promoters of the program and, in collaboration with other partners, are hosted in different houses and structures displaced throughout the country, according to the widespread reception model. Here they are offered an activity of integration into the social and cultural fabric, through language learning, schooling of minors and other initiatives. The reception part will be fulfilled pursuing a correct distribution of the migratory weight, the respect for human dignity and integration.

The currently exposed project should develop along a medium / long-term axis, given the difficulty of the addressed topic .

Implementation: The implementation of the project on humanitarian corridors will be financed, according to the operating entity, with the funds of the same, to the extent deemed necessary, paying attention, however, to the needs of refugees and other categories present in the structures in order to avoid situations of neglect and abandonment. The funds in question must also be used to meet the possible expansion needs of the structures, in the event of particularly serious circumstances, to avoid creating situations of overcrowding.

## **IV. Development Cooperation and International Fair Trade**

Sustainable development is the highest priority and challenge that humanity faces today, and Volt will ensure that Europe lives up to its commitments. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have set out a clear international agenda to follow, tackling environmental destruction, inequalities, and conflict.<sup>153</sup> The EU and its Member States must put people and planet first in their foreign policy, to achieve global balance. Volt is committed to trade that is free, fair, and sustainable, and benefits the welfare of all people along the value chain. Trade policy must facilitate development and be compatible with development cooperation, as well as prioritise principles of democracy and human rights. Development cooperation policies centred on partnership with third countries need to take a geo-political view, seeking to address conflict and instability and the root causes of migration holistically, empowering those who are most vulnerable and promoting peace, democracy, and human rights.

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<sup>153</sup> UN, Sustainable Development Goals, available at <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

## **A. Development Cooperation**

By adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the EU Member States acknowledged that a paradigm shift is necessary in international policies on development cooperation.<sup>154</sup> Nowadays, it is impossible to speak about economic growth without taking into consideration its environmental and social impacts. Volt believes that Europe should lead by example and promote sustainable development objectives, not only in its internal but also in its external policies. In particular, Europe should focus on the objectives of poverty eradication, zero hunger, quality education, and inequality reduction. All this is to be achieved while respecting the environment, peace, justice, and gender equality.

Providing 48% of all global development aid in 2017, the EU and its Member States are collectively the world's leading donor.<sup>155</sup> This entails a huge responsibility for Europe and Europeans, who are asked to respect their commitments while promoting the values of peace, democracy, and human rights. However, the coherency and consistency of the EU's external action is often undermined by the lack of coordination and vision. That is why Volt is committed to better coordinated development and cooperation policies that are driven by common interests and shared values. We support such development and cooperation policies which are fair, transparent, and respectful of countries' development priorities.

- **Propose that Member States and EU-level planning and programming shall follow the same cycles** in order to provide maximum support to developing countries and to speak with a single voice in our external relations.
  - To this end, Volt proposes to replicate the Joint Programming Exercise, which already proved successful in Cambodia and Palestine, to the rest of our development cooperation relations.<sup>156</sup>
  - The extended use of Joint programming would not always allow national- and EU-level actions to be coordinated and synchronized, but it would lead to the elaboration of a joint strategy that is fully aligned to the partner country's national development plan.
  
- **Introduce a switch to a form of development cooperation which is not only based on public money, but which also intelligently mixes different sources**

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<sup>154</sup> European Commission, The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, available at [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/policies/european-development-policy/2030-agenda-sustainable-development\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/policies/european-development-policy/2030-agenda-sustainable-development_en), Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

<sup>155</sup> European Commission, EU Aid Explorer, available at [https://euidexplorer.ec.europa.eu/content/overview\\_en](https://euidexplorer.ec.europa.eu/content/overview_en)

<sup>156</sup> European Commission, Joint programming, available at [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/policies/eu-approach-aid-effectiveness/joint-programming\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/policies/eu-approach-aid-effectiveness/joint-programming_en)

**of financing and leverage investments from the private sector.** In this context, Volt welcomes the European External Investment Plan<sup>157</sup> and promotes the use of various forms of blended finance, in coordination with international financial institutions.

- **Advocate for the economic development of Europe's partners countries** to respect sustainability concerns. Initiatives for financial inclusion shall pave the way to creating fairer societies, where the differences generated by growing inequalities are substantially reduced.
- **Support the use of new technologies and of innovative methods of consumption and production to promote inclusive and green growth.**
- **Promote and support the development of a good governance framework on the basis of sustainable and foreseeable criteria** upon which the eligibility of countries to receive European development aid should be decided.
- **Coordinate development cooperation on the EU level** as part of the common foreign policy based on the principle of sustainable development.
- **Introduce Results-Based Financing** as part of the common foreign policy on development cooperation.

Instead of financing inputs, the recipient country will take care of inputs and results. The results will be rewarded according to agreed-upon criteria and amounts.

- **Advocate for the establishment of sound fiscal systems** as part of development cooperation. This includes:
  - The generation of domestic finance in order to reduce aid dependency, e.g. by providing support for increasing tax collection, raising the public image of taxation and its benefits, as well as reviewing and improving tax policy.
  - The prevention and punishment of tax evasion by individuals and (foreign) companies.
  - The development of financial instruments, such as public and private sector bonds, to allow citizens to invest their savings at home rather than sending the money abroad.
- **Stimulate local economies** and the creation of new jobs through the promotion of production and trade chains by using sustainable technologies.

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<sup>157</sup> European Commission, External Investment Plan, available at [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/node/118008\\_es](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/node/118008_es)

## **B. International Trade**

Volt supports global free and fair trade that is grounded upon the principles of sustainable development and puts people and planet ahead of narrow profits. When negotiating trade commitments on the bilateral or multilateral level, a number of core principles should be included and respected. International trade should be rules-based, reciprocal, non-discriminatory, and actively work towards the sustainable development of all States involved. This means that free trade should be promoted but should not be unregulated. International trade should respect human rights principles and the limitations of the earth's resources.

### **1. Rules-based free, fair, and sustainable trade**

- **Advocate for multilateral trade agreements** rather than unilateral trade policies or agreements between a limited number of trading partners. Global free and fair trade is more effective and efficient if the same set of rules apply equally to all trading nations.
- **Support the WTO** and related institutions such as the IMF, World Bank, UNCTAD, OECD, and ILO to ensure rules-based free and fair trade globally. Volt will work actively to adequately reform these institutions for the purpose of ensuring that their mandates prioritise sustainable development, and that economic growth remains within the possibility of our globally limited natural resources. Due to the importance of achieving Global Balance in international trade, Volt in particular supports the OECD's "due diligence" approach as requisite for companies operating in global value chains.<sup>158</sup> This includes the maintenance and use of effective trade mechanisms, such as anti-dumping and anti-subsidy instruments.
- **Support the implementation of policies related to the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights (UNGPs)<sup>159</sup> and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises** (renewed version 2011)<sup>160</sup> that incorporate the UNGPs and lay the foundation for Responsible Business Conduct in value chains.
- **Actively hold European and other developed States to their commitment** to diminish, and eventually stop altogether, export subsidies relating to agricultural products.

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<sup>158</sup> OECD, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, available at <http://mneguidelines.oecd.org/guidelines/>

<sup>159</sup> OHCHR, Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. available at [https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR\\_EN.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR_EN.pdf).

<sup>160</sup> OECD, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, available at <http://mneguidelines.oecd.org/guidelines/>

- **Closely follow the effects of newly established separate dispute settlements mechanisms** and dismantle them if it becomes clear that such mechanisms negatively affect the people of Europe and the environment, or disproportionately favour the private investors making use of them.

Structure the newly-proposed investor courts in such a way that democratic decisions made in the public interest cannot be interfered with. The new investment court should work on the basis of transparency and equity.<sup>161</sup>

- **Introduce binding oversight and arbitration mechanisms for the review of human rights breaches and environmental harm**, with open civil society participation and complaint mechanisms.

## **2. Reciprocal free, fair, and sustainable trade**

- **Build upon the existing EU policies towards imports** from less developed countries, like 'Everything but Arms', and take away Intra-EU policies that prevent less-developed countries from effectively being able to export to the EU.
- **Support and defend the open trading character of the EU.** The gradual lowering of external tariffs should remain a priority, as well as the elimination of non-tariff barriers.
- **Improve the democratic legitimacy of the Member-driven governance system of the WTO.**
  - Support a quick conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda, if necessary through the establishment of plurilateral agreements under the umbrella of the WTO.<sup>162</sup>
  - The EU and other developed WTO Members should work towards diminishing and eventually stopping all export subsidies relating to agricultural products.
  - Market access for non-agricultural products should be ensured and promoted. Practices that work against gradual liberalisation, such as tariff escalation and the implementation of tariff peaks, should be countered.
  - Negotiations on trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights should specifically focus on ensuring a balance of interests among WTO Members regarding the patentability of biological inventions, the

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<sup>161</sup> European Parliament Think Tank, From arbitration to the investment court system (ICS): The evolution of CETA rules, available at

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS\\_IDA\(2017\)607251](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS_IDA(2017)607251)

<sup>162</sup> The Doha Development Agenda set the agenda for the Doha Round, the most recent round of trade negotiations conducted among the WTO Membership. See WTO, : Ministerial Declaration, WT/MIN(01)/DEC/1, 20 November 2001, available at

[https://www.wto.org/english/thewto\\_e/minist\\_e/min01\\_e/mindecl\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/min01_e/mindecl_e.htm).



protection of plant varieties, and the needed flexibilities for the protection of public health.

- Further liberalization of trade in services is necessary in those sectors of interest for developing or least-developed Member countries.
- The resources of the WTO Secretariat should be deployed specifically to facilitate cooperation among other international organizations to ensure that technical assistance is more efficient and effective.
- Possibilities of cross-retaliation and related conflict resolution methods should be explored to better ensure the enforcement of decisions made by the Dispute Settlement Body.
- Authoritative interpretations should be employed to enable multi-level judicial control of trade regulations so as to provide more democratic legitimacy to the Member-driven governance system of the WTO.

- **Support an EU 'Trade and Aid' agenda that stimulates Trade over Aid as soon as the level of development of the partner country allows reduction of development aid.**

The priority must lie with the development of a strong governance structure on the basis of people-oriented programmes. The integration of developing countries in the global economy should be the main objective of development aid, provided such integration benefits the citizens of the State in an equitable manner. Timely review of development cooperation structures should be institutionalized in order to ensure the equal and equitable distribution of welfare.

- **Review and accordingly adapt the special and differential provisions in the WTO-covered agreements** in order to ensure a holistic and coherent approach to development cooperation.