

Statutes of Volt Switzerland

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Section I - General Provisions

Article 1 - Name and Visual Identity

(1.1) The association is named “Volt Switzerland”, “Volt Schweiz”, “Volt Suisse”, “Volt Svizzera” and “Volt Svizra”. The abbreviated form is “Volt” or “Volt CH”.

(1.2) The visual identity of Volt Switzerland as an Associated Member Association (AMA) of Volt Europa is defined by Volt Europa¹.

(1.3) Subnational chapters of Volt Switzerland carry the name Volt with the addition of the respective name of the canton / region or municipality.

Article 2 - Legal Reference

Volt Switzerland is an association in the sense of the second paragraph in the Civil Code of the Swiss Confederation².

Article 3 - Seat and Duration

(3.1) Volt Switzerland’s seat is located in Zürich, Switzerland.

(3.2) The seat can be changed with a simple majority decision of the National Assembly of Volt Switzerland.

(3.3) The duration of Volt Switzerland is unlimited.

(3.4) The dissolution or fusion with another association of Volt Switzerland is decided by a qualified majority decision of 75% of the individual members of Volt Switzerland present and voting in the National Assembly.

¹ https://www.volteuropa.org/visual_identity

² SR 210 – Swiss Civil Code of 10 December 1907 (Status as of 1 January 2022) - (Article 60 - 80)

Article 4 - Languages

(4.1) The working language of Volt Switzerland shall primarily be English, as it is also for Volt Europa. However, to enable full participation of all members and in order to take account of the diversity in Switzerland, French, German and Italian shall also be recognised working languages within Volt Switzerland. Rhaeto-Romanic can but does not have to be a working language within the canton of Grisons, but only for internal matters and not for concerns of Volt Switzerland. It is up to the statutes of a potential Volt Grisons chapter to decide on this matter.

(4.2) If initiatives and proposals are directed to Volt Switzerland, all four official languages (Article 4.1) are accepted. Any chapter of Volt Switzerland may decide on their own which and how many of the four working languages they wish to adopt

(4.3) In the event of discrepancies or doubt arising from a difference between this Statute in English and this Statute in another language, the English text shall prevail.

Section II - Purpose, Principles and Goals

Article 5 - Purpose

Volt Switzerland's purpose and mission is to establish a pragmatic, progressive and pan-European voice in Swiss politics and society. This includes working towards a stronger relationship between the Swiss Confederation and the European Union. To achieve this, the aim is to participate in elections across the Swiss political system, including its national and subnational parliaments, as well as other general bodies of representation. Furthermore, active participation in citizen initiatives and referenda at municipal level, cantonal, federal and European level are expected.

The Association observes the values on which the European Union is founded, as expressed in article 2 of the Treaty on European Union, namely respect for human dignity, freedom,

democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities.

The Association has a non-profit purpose to coordinate all the activities of Volt Switzerland with the aim of reaching:

- a united Europe that values its citizens and residents, who are able to fulfill their unique potential and continuously strive to achieve the highest standards of human, social, environmental, and technical development;
- a society where individuals have the right to choose how they want to lead their life including choosing one's religion, gender, sexual orientation, education, profession and personal aspirations and goals and where individuals shall have a voice and shall be able to influence public decision-making;
- a state that is the guarantor for the rights of every individual, the enabler for the young and for vulnerable individuals to partake fully in society, and the guarantor of the system of solidarity by which it ensures a minimum decent standard of living for everyone, while intervening as little and as fast as possible and as much and as long as needed;
- a free and open market economy, within the rules of a functioning legal system and with equal chances for everyone to participate and thrive, that creates the greatest possible wealth for everyone, enhanced by a state creating space for innovation and enabling research and counterweighting systematic imbalances such an economy creates. In such economy agglomeration of additional wealth should be possible for the hard working and all professions should be valued, especially education, care and research, which will benefit our societies the most;
- a strengthened European identity, complementary to the national and local ones, to foster a sense of solidarity, cooperation, and belonging in the European people, enabling a common future of sustainable peace, shared prosperity and international relevance.

The activities that the Association will carry out in order to achieve its purpose are mainly as

follows:

- represent the Volt movement in Switzerland;
- define Volt's strategic and political direction in Switzerland, especially by:
 - (i) defining, communicating, and implementing Volt's strategy, political vision, programs, and policies;
 - (ii) ensuring compliance with the political guidelines set by Volt Europa AISBL;
 - (iii) coordinating and reviewing political programs and policies of Local Chapters in the Country, the Association's strategy and political vision, program and policies; and
 - (iv) setting up and promoting Local Chapters and associations of Volt in the Country;
- ensure the Volt Switzerland's operational efficiency, especially by:
 - (i) facilitating, supporting, and coordinating the operation of all members of Volt Switzerland across all functions;
 - (ii) assisting members in promoting the Volt movement, and
 - (iii) providing training for members;

Section III - Organs and Competences

Article 6 - Structure

The Organs of Volt Switzerland are formed by

- a. the National Assembly
- b. the Board

Article 7 - The National Assembly

General Provisions of the National Assembly:

- a. The National Assembly may be an Ordinary or an Extraordinary National Assembly and is the highest decision-making organ of Volt Switzerland.
- b. The Ordinary National Assembly convenes at least once a year.
- c. All individual members of Volt Switzerland are part of the National Assembly. Every individual member can actively participate and has a voting right.
- d. The voting procedures of the National Assembly are detailed in the internal regulations of Volt Switzerland defined by the board.
- e. Extraordinary Assemblies can be convened for urgent causes by the board or can be requested by at least one sixth of the individual members of Volt Switzerland.
- f. The National Assembly is convened by the Board at least two weeks in advance with the provisional agenda. For the convocation of extraordinary Assemblies the minimum time-limit of seven days in advance applies.
- g. The Assembly decides on the appointment of an Assembly-lead, which is constituted by the Assembly and consists at least of an Assembly leader and a reporter, both individual members of the National Assembly. Their mandate runs until the next regular meeting of the National Assembly.
- h. The National Assembly adopts the provisional agenda. Changes of the agenda can be proposed by the Board or by one twelfth of the present individual members and is decided by the Assembly.
- i. The Assembly elects the members of the Board for the duration of two years.
- k. The Assembly decides on:
 - i. the Manifesto,
 - ii. the statutes,
 - iii. the dismissal of the entire Board,

- iv. the rules that derive from the statutes,
 - v. the budget,
 - vi. the membership-fee,
 - vii. the annual financial report of the treasurer and the relief of the Board,
 - viii. agreements with other political parties, groups or people,
 - ix. proposal from members, member associations and organs,
 - x. the minutes of the previous National Assemblies,
 - xi. about further assigned issues by the Swiss or the European-law or by the Statutes of Volt Switzerland and
 - xii. the dissolution or fusion of Volt Switzerland.
- I. Individual members of Volt Europa who are not members of Volt Switzerland may participate in the meeting of the National Assembly of Volt Switzerland but have no voting rights. The Board can invite guests outside of Volt Switzerland as observers without voting rights to participate in the National Assembly.

Article 8 - The Board

(8.1) The Board is constituted of up to five individual members of Volt Switzerland of which three are part of the Executive Board while the others are non-executive board members. The three executive board members are the two Co-Presidents and the Treasurer.

(8.2) The association shall be bound by the collective signatures of two Board members. The Executive Board as a whole represents Volt Switzerland in judicial and extrajudicial matters. The Board can empower single or more members of the Board to represent the Board for special matters. The Board operates on the grounds of Swiss law, the internal regulations and the statutes of Volt Switzerland.

(8.3) The Board can install special offices or agencies to fulfill its tasks (including a Court of Arbitration).

(8.4).

(8.5).

Article 9 - The Treasurer

(9.1) The management of finances of Volt Switzerland is the task of the Treasurer. The Treasurer has to continuously control the compliance of the management of the finances of Volt Switzerland with the Swiss law and the Statutes of Volt Switzerland.

(9.2) The Treasurer has an unlimited right to inspection and an extensive right to access over the affairs of the management of public finances of Volt Switzerland.

(9.3) The Treasurer has to make once a year a written report to the Ordinary National Assembly about the management of the finances of Volt Switzerland of the preceding calendar year.

Section IV - Structure of Volt

Article 10 - Volt Europa AISBL

(10.1) Volt Switzerland is an Associated Member Association (AMA) of Volt Europa AISBL.

(10.2) Volt Switzerland implements the rights and duties that are decided in the statutes of Volt Europa if there is no opposing law in the Swiss Confederation or in the statute of Volt Switzerland.

(10.3) Volt Switzerland cooperates with Volt Europa AISBL and other Member Associations of Volt based on the statutes of Volt Europa and the statutes of Volt Switzerland.

Section V - Individual Membership

Article 11 - Categories of involvement and requirements

(11.1) Every natural person that is not part of another political party outside of Volt Europa has the right to apply as an individual member of Volt Switzerland if this person:

- a. has the citizenship of the Swiss Confederation or / and of the Principality of Liechtenstein (independent of their principal residency) or
- b. if his or her principal residence is in the Swiss Confederation or the Principality of Liechtenstein (independent of their nationality) or
- c. is a citizen of a European country, who has a valid reason for becoming a member of Volt Switzerland (if a reason is valid or not is decided by the board, see Article 8.3).
- d. is at least 16 years of age,
- e. Adheres to the purpose, principles and goals stated in the section II of the statutes of Volt Switzerland and
- f. has filled out the membership application in a complete and truthful way.

(11.2) **Categories of individual involvement:**

- a. **Individual Membership:** Applies only to individual members of Volt Switzerland. They are allowed to vote on issues concerning Volt Switzerland.
- b. **Volunteer:** is open to everyone who wants to get involved and help out.

Article 12 - Admission

(12.1) The Membership has to be applied for. The Applicant has the duty to supply the association with truthful information for the application.

Article 13 - Duties of individual members and volunteers

(13.1) The Association is composed of an unlimited number of individual members and volunteers. They shall not be personally liable for any commitments entered into by the Statutes of Volt Switzerland.

(13.2) **Duties:** The individual Members and the volunteers must

- a. Subscribe to the principles, goals and the purpose of Volt Switzerland,
- b. Support the goals and interests of Volt Switzerland as best as possible,
- c. abide to the Statutes of Volt Switzerland and the Statutes of Volt Europa, to rules enacted on the ground of the named Statutes, and to the resolutions by organs of Volt Europa or Volt Switzerland,
- d. respectfully interact in the general political discourse and with members of Volt and e. Immediately inform the Volt Switzerland about changes of the data given through the application.

Article 14 - Rights of individual members and Volunteers

(14.1) **Individual Members** are entitled to

- a. Exercise their free, equal, direct and personal Voting rights at the National Assembly³ 2 and at other Votations and elections within Volt Switzerland,
- b. use the facilities of Volt Switzerland for purposes in favour of the association and
- c. participate at events of Volt Switzerland.
- d. be a candidate in elections for Volt Switzerland

³ The Voting right is as far personal as it is not transferable to others.

(14.2) **Volunteers** are entitled to

- a. use the facilities of Volt Switzerland for purposes in favour of the association and
- b. participate at events of Volt Switzerland.

Article 15 - Measures of order

The Board is authorised to apply the following measures of order against violations or neglects of the duties stated in article 13 of this Statute:

- a. Admonishment,
- b. Suspension of member-rights,
- c. Divestiture of a party role or / and
- d. Expulsion which would lead to termination of the membership of Volt Switzerland.

Article 16 - Termination

The individual Membership ends as a consequence of:

- a. Resignation,
- b. Expulsion by a simple majority of the board following a proved fault of the member going against the interests of Volt Switzerland,
- c. If the requirements listed in article 11.1 are no longer fulfilled,
- d. Non payment of the membership fee or
- e. Death.

After the termination of the Membership there is no right to refund of the Membership-fee.

Section VI - Final Provisions

Article 17 - Finances

The rules for the management of finances of Volt Switzerland are described in the internal regulation.

Article 18 - Legal Communications / notices

(18.1) Notices to Volt Switzerland can be directed to the Board.

(18.2) Communications to the members can be directed to the contact-addresses provided by the members themselves. Electronic communications are also legitimate if properly sent to the E-Mail address provided by the members themselves or the official Volt E-Mail address of the respective member.

Article 19 - Final Provisions

These Statutes enter into force following the adoption of the Statutes by the National Assembly of Volt Switzerland. The Statutes of Volt Switzerland are to be understood as a whole.