

Questions to topic I:

What does your party plan to do in the next legislative period regarding climate change's impacts on cultural heritage, and the green transition and its impacts on heritage site preservation?

- a) We will work to implement nature-culture solutions and harmonise legislation and practice in this way over all EU countries, implementing Standard EN17652:2022 and working with the UN Sustainability Goals on developing Climate Action Plans.
- b) We will start an initiative to harmonise legislation and practice in accordance with both the Valletta Treaty and the Water Framework Directive.
- c) We won't change anything within actual legislation and practice.
- d) (Possibility to write a more differentiated answer, max. 500 words)

References

- For q. 1a: Looking at the **UN Sustainability Goals on developing Climate Action Plans**, these are of course very in-line with the general views of Volt.
- For q. 1a: **Standard EN17652:2022** is a standard set by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN), which is a public standards organization recognized by the EU. Standard EN17652:2022 aims to standardize and harmonise at the European level the process of monitoring, assessment and reporting of the dangers faced by archeological sites as a result of climate change. This falls in line with Volt's views on data sharing and best practices sharing, as well as Volt's general positive views on European-level harmonisation of standards.
- For q. 1b: **EU Electoral Moonshot Programme (p. 132)**: Improve the protection and health of European waterways by updating the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and speeding up their implementation, as only 40% of surface water bodies surveyed by the European Environmental Agency (EEA) in 2018 were found to be in a good ecological state.
- For q. 1b: **The Valletta Treaty** is an international legally binding treaty of the Council of Europe. It focuses on the problem of conservation of archaeological heritage in the face of development projects. A significant part of the treaty is dedicated to advocating for more data-sharing and best practice sharing on this issue across the EU.
- **Policy Portfolio. Challenge 5 - Citizen EmpowermentII. Foster vibrant, pluralistic, and accessible public spheres to enable citizens to make informed political decisionsB. Open public data**: Strongly advocate for the public availability and openness of public data. Encourage the sharing of public data under an open license and in an open format. Specifically, insist on the open-source character of publicly funded research.

Questions to topic II:

How does your party position itself in the conflict of interests between protecting the EU's historic landscape in planning processes?

- a) We will campaign for (the ratification and) full implementation of the ELC in our national (or/and federal) planning legislation.
- b) We will extend the EIA Directive to projects currently falling outside because of type or scale. We will limit the capacity of Member States to remove Annex II projects from screening through inappropriate thresholds and introduce a requirement for an examination of the potential effects of all minor (Annex II) projects in line with the ELC.
- c) We will amend the SEA Directive to link it to relevant Council of Europe Conventions and provide NGOs with access to a review procedure.
- d) We will introduce that projects subject to EIA and close to borders must involve public and planning authority consultation without distinction between EU and non-EU States.
- e) We prefer the EIA and SEA Directives to stay as they are and do not see value in implementing the ELC in our national legislation.
- f) (Possibility to write a more differentiated answer, max. 500 words).

References

- **Policy Portfolio Energy Transition and Climate Change Policy VI. Sustainable Buildings:** Engage citizens and architects to raise awareness about the possibilities of combining contemporary design with architectural conservation.
- **Policy Portfolio Energy Transition and Climate Change Policy VII. Sustainable Agriculture & Land Use, and Natural Carbon Capture:** Agricultural and forestry practices shall be focused on emission reduction and landscape preservation¹¹ and aim at pre-industrial levels of terrestrial carbon stocks in Europe and combating desertification.
- **Policy Portfolio Energy Transition and Climate Change Policy VII. Sustainable Agriculture & Land Use, and Natural Carbon Capture:** Ensure the protection of European natural parks with increased funding and firmness against illegal practices.
- **Policy Portfolio Energy Transition and Climate Change Policy VII. Sustainable Agriculture & Land Use, and Natural Carbon Capture:** Push for conservation and restoration of wetlands. Focus on peatlands by imposing an immediate moratorium on peat exploitation until legislation is strengthened to ensure its protection and sustainable management, in addition to actively restoring already exploited peatlands to their natural state.
- **The ELC** is a treaty from the Council of Europe and is aimed to promote landscape protection, management and planning, and to organise European co-operation on landscape issues. The obligations to the Member States are the following: establishing and implementing landscape policies aimed at landscape protection, management and

planning, integrating landscape into their regional, town planning, cultural, environmental, agricultural, social and economic policies, increasing awareness of the value of landscapes, their role and changes to them, promoting training and education in landscape policy, protection, management and planning and identifying and assessing the landscapes in their territories.

- **The EIA Directive** assesses major building or development projects in the EU for their impact on the environment. This is done before the project can start. It also takes into account preservation of landscape and cultural heritage.
- **The SEA Directive** sets out a procedure that must be undertaken when assessing a plan or programme to which the procedure applies. It applies to land use, transport, energy, waste and agriculture.
- **EU Electoral Moonshot Programme (p. 130)** Align the Nature Restoration Law (NRL) with environmental science, also taking note of the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines on air pollution, residential green space, chemicals, and noise; and establish ambitious targets for all natural areas in need of restoration: Re-wet at least 30% of EU peatlands by 2030. Convert at least 10% of urban areas into green and blue spaces (open streams, rivers, ponds and lakes) by 2040, and at least 15% by 2050, and protect them legally. Extend the NRL to include the habitats of fish species that are in critical state. Set the target for at least 10% of each farm to be dedicated to nature restoration by 2030.

Questions to topic III:

What does your Party plan to do regarding the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of looting and trafficking of archaeological materials?

- a) We recognise archaeology as a common good and will take action to discourage private ownership of archaeological objects within the EU; for example, through the development of up-to-date standards on heritage protection. Harmonisation of EU legislation can be advanced by amendment of the Council Regulation on the "Export of Cultural Goods" and through the development of up-to-date standards on heritage protection.
- b) We will encourage EU member states to deliver on commitments on metal detecting they have made under the Valletta Treaty. Financial resources should be allocated to the relevant authorities for the implementation, monitoring, and enforcement of a metal-detecting license and registration system.
- c) We support unregulated metal detecting of archaeological materials for private ownership and trade within the current legislation of each EU Member State. We will support research and outreach on heritage crime.
- d) (Possibility to write a more differentiated answer, max. 500 words)

References

- **Valletta Treaty Article 4:** Each Party undertakes to implement measures for the physical protection of the archaeological heritage, making provision, as circumstances demand:
 1. for the acquisition or protection by other appropriate means by the authorities of areas intended to constitute archaeological reserves;
 2. for the conservation and maintenance of the archaeological heritage, preferably in situ;
 3. for appropriate storage places for archaeological remains which have been removed from their original location.

Questions to topic IV:

Please indicate which of the following statements is supported by your party's policies:

- a) We support a first academic degree (under the Bologna-System) of archaeology in countries that do not yet have one and aim towards standardisation of archaeology university degrees and/or other professional qualifications towards a single set of qualifications required to practice across the EU.
- b) We support the introduction of a general legal definition of the role of 'archaeologist' applicable across all EU member states.
- c) We support the standardisation of archaeological heritage management processes, especially excavations, to ensure fair transnational competition in the provision of excavation services. We aim to introduce licensing systems to break down barriers to the free movement of highly qualified archaeological staff and services.
- d) We support national autonomy in matters of cultural heritage and oppose standardisation of laws, policies, and practices across Europe.
- e) (Possibility to write a more differentiated answer, max. 500 words))

For good archaeological preservation, local/regional knowledge is indispensable. It is essential for good research based on local research questions. Breaking down barriers as proposed in a, or even c, for archaeologists should be wished for, as long as there is a substantive scientific quality assurance regarding this local/regional knowledge.

References

- **Electoral Campaign Programme (p.5):** Ensure standardised qualifications and skills recognition across the EU,
- **EU Electoral Moonshot Programme (p.76)** Create an EU Talent pooling and matching platform for labour migrants that addresses skills shortages and mismatches within the EU labour market and that facilitates recognition of foreign qualifications and skills on the EU level.

- **EU Electoral Moonshot Programme (p.76)** Ensure that recognition of non-EU qualifications and skills is eased for the benefit of mutual recognition on the EU level, which will open up new opportunities for students, researchers and other professionals.
- **EU Electoral Moonshot Programme (p.78)** Launch an EU Skills Recognition Framework to facilitate the unbureaucratic recognition of foreign qualifications and competencies across the EU, providing common standards, guidelines, and tools for assessing and validating skills acquired outside the EU.
- **EU Electoral Moonshot Programme (p.78)** Mobility: flexible single EU-wide mobility scheme for highly skilled migrants who wish to move to a job in another EU country, to retain highly skilled workers in the EU.

Questions to topic V:

What does your party plan to do in the next legislative period regarding user rights of images of objects, historical records and sites that are owned by public collections, archives, and museums?

- a) A free licensing of images of objects, historical records, and plans in public or collections, such as CC BY, should be granted as a principle and for free for academic open-access publishing. We will start an initiative to harmonise legislation and practice in this way overall EU countries.
- b) A free licensing of images of objects, historical records, and plans in public or collections, such as CC BY, has to be granted on request for academic open-access publishing. It is possible to demand reasonable fees for demonstrably connected costs. We will start an initiative to harmonise legislation and practice in this way overall in EU countries.
- c) The current practice is legally and ethically correct and constructive: whoever wants to make or use such pictures, must request permission from the institutions and inform them of reason and purpose. The institutions decide for themselves and at their own responsibility about their property and this therefore extends to the granting or denying of such permissions. This also prevents improper use of such images. We won't change anything within actual legislation and practice.
- d) (Possibility to write a more differentiated answer, max. 500 words)

References

- **Policy Portfolio...Challenge 5 - Citizen EmpowermentII. Foster vibrant, pluralistic, and accessible public spheres to enable citizens to make informed political decisionsB. Open public data:** Make sure that all EU member states and their local authorities comply with the Open Data Charter.⁴ Data should be (1) open by default (i.e., all data gathered by public institutions is published automatically, unless governments can justify keeping it undisclosed)
- **Policy Portfolio...Challenge 5 - Citizen EmpowermentII. Foster vibrant, pluralistic, and accessible public spheres to enable citizens to**

make informed political decisions**B. Open public data:** Strongly advocate for the public availability and openness of public data. Advocate for understanding open data as a public good, meaning it is non-excludable (everyone has access to it) and non-rivalrous (usage by one person does not reduce its availability to others). Encourage the sharing of public data under an open license and in an open format. Specifically, insist on the open-source character of publicly funded research.

- **Policy Portfolio II. Foster vibrant, pluralistic, and accessible public spheres to enable citizens to make informed political decisions****A. Promote free and pluralistic cultural and media landscapes. Support strong and dynamic cultural and creative industry sectors:**The EU also supports projects promoting conservation and research in the area of Europe's cultural heritage. Volt advocates for an increase in EU funding for transnational cultural cooperation.

Findings Summarised:

Past positions and statements from Volt Europe in the policy field of archeology or in similar policy fields indicate that the following positions are consistent throughout Volt Europe's stances on these issues:

- a. Volt views cultural heritage as valuable to society, believes funds should be allocated to the conservation of this and that this should be done with increased international cooperation.^{1 2}
- b. Volt sees it as important to maintain the natural and man-made landscapes of Europe and sees it as important to take the conservation of this into account in the development of large-scale projects which have the potential to alter these landscapes.^{3 4 5}
- c. Volt believes that skill recognition across the EU should be more standardized so that workers can work across borders in Europe more easily.^{6 7 8}
- d. Volt believes that all data gathered by public institutions should be published automatically, unless governments can justify keeping it undisclosed. They insist on the open-source character of publicly funded research.⁹

Furthermore, the EAA lists several treaties, directives and other documents in their questions and asks whether Volt's views are in line with the contents of these. Two of these are the **UN Sustainability Goals on developing Climate Action Plans** and the **Water Framework Directive**.^{10 11} For the first, these sustainability goals are largely in line with Volt's views. For the Water Framework Directive, Volt even wants to expand this directive.¹²

The **EIA** and the **SEA** are EU directives which enhance the level of standardization at the EU level of the monitoring and assessment of major

¹ Policy Portfolio II. Foster vibrant, pluralistic, and accessible public spheres to enable citizens to make informed political decisionsA. Promote free and pluralistic cultural and media landscapes. Support strong and dynamic cultural and creative industry sectors

² Policy Portfolio Energy Transition and Climate Change PolicyVI. Sustainable Buildings

³ Idem

⁴ EU Electoral Moonshot Programme (p. 130)

⁵ Policy PortfolioEnergy Transition and Climate Change PolicyVII. Sustainable Agriculture & Land Use, and Natural Carbon Capture:

⁶ Electoral Campaign Programma (p.5)

⁷ EU Electoral Moonshot Programme (p.76)

⁸ EU Electoral Moonshot Programme (p.78)

⁹ Policy Portfolio Challenge 5 - Citizen EmpowermentII. Foster vibrant, pluralistic, and accessible public spheres to enable citizens to make informed political decisionsB. Open public data

¹⁰ UN Sustainability Goals on developing Climate Action Plans: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/>

¹¹ Water Framework Directive:

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/water/water-framework-directive_en

¹² EU Electoral Moonshot Programme (p. 132)

building or development projects in the EU in terms of the impact on their environment.^{13 14}

Lastly, the **Valletta Treaty** and **Standard EN17652:2022** are both mentioned several times.^{15 16} Both of these were written up by EU institutions and were agreed upon by all EU member states. Neither of these documents contain anything significantly opposed to a view held by Volt. These documents ensure standardization at the EU level of a field which Volt views as important. It seems unlikely that Volt would want to do away with the established level of international cooperation through these documents unless these documents contained statements that significantly oppose Volt's views. Since this is not the case, it is unlikely that Volt would oppose the implementation of these documents.

Conclusion

With the information listed here, it is possible to understand the Volt views on most issues listed in the questionnaire from the EAA. The only question that remains has to do with the phrasing of questions such as 1b. This starts off with "We will start an initiative to...". Although Volt's general views on the issue listed here are clear, this does not make it clear what Volt's legislative actions will be regarding these issues in the European Parliament. It is essential that the responses to these questions will not contain any promises that Volt will not fulfill.

¹³ EIA:

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/law-and-governance/environmental-assessments/environmental-impact-assessment_en

¹⁴ SEA:

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/law-and-governance/environmental-assessments/strategic-environmental-assessment_en

¹⁵ Valletta Treaty (1992): <https://rm.coe.int/168007bd25>

¹⁶ Standard EN17652:2022:

<https://cdn.standards.iteh.ai/samples/65832/8ada3ab1416744f6a53b1bd41445cfb2/SIST-EN-17652-2022.pdf>