

June 20, 2024
Brussels

Dear Volters,

What a fantastic election result! Jumping right into the faction negotiations meant we did not really take the time to digest and celebrate, how crazy it is that we are now not 1 - but 5 MEPs! Thank you for contributing to the result! Without the work of all of our members and volunteers in all the Chapters, we would not be having the privilege of sitting here.

Since day one after the elections we started the negotiations with the Greens and the Renew groups to ensure we live up to the expectations that our voters (and Volters) put into us.

We checked again how the groups behaved in the past, we looked at their programmes and values, we asked for the committees that would allow the 5 of us to deliver on campaign promises, and we tried to do the impossible: to foresee as much as possible the dynamics and topical battles of the next 5 years.

Our goal is to build our own Volt group as soon as possible. Joining either the Greens or the Renew group inevitably leads to a divergence on how we at Volt approach things. It is therefore very important that throughout the next five years we clearly distinguish our Volt position through legislation and communication.

And here, after 1 ½ very intense weeks, we unanimously recommend to you to have Volt remain with / join the Greens/EFA group. This recommendation, though it represents the continuation of Damian's work from the last term, has not been an easy one (as you will see below). All five of us have been weighing the pros and cons of joining either group with our hearts and minds, but felt that now, we will be able to deliver more for you, our voters and Europeans with the Greens/EFA group.

As for the more detailed assessment of the different pros and cons:

01 Political values & positioning of Volt:

First, we checked in which group we could work best on our campaign promises. Both groups support our claim to reform the EU and build a stronger Europe. On the more just society issue, it is more complex: rule of law is strongly supported by both, but our policies on social minimum standards and migration are more aligned with the Greens. On our third campaign promise, the innovation-friendly and climate-neutral economy, we are quite different to both groups: we would never question the transition targets, however, when it comes to how to get there, our measures differ from both the Greens and the Liberals. As a social, liberal, and green party we could fit in both.

What really made the difference for us is that the Green group is more credible when it comes to the fight against right-wing populists. The Renew group stands strong on the rule of law towards the member states, but still accepts ANO (clearly a populist party) and the VVD (a party that had the choice to enable a Social Democratic government, but decided instead to enable a Wilders-far-right-government) in their ranks. There are no serious repercussions towards the VVD within the group.

We are the only Pan-European movement. Our aim has been to integrate the different perspectives of all Volt chapters into this process. We have been in touch with Volt members from across the continent as much as possible and the effect on the political positioning of Volt in all EU member states has been taken into account. The conclusion of that effort is that both options could work, but that joining the Greens is better for Volt at the moment.

From a purely mathematical perspective, the Renew group would have also counted us separately towards the German and the Dutch part of their members. This goes against our understanding of being one European delegation of Volters.

02 Legislative impact & changing the world:

Both groups more or less offered us the committees we wanted to get - which is super important to be able to do our work.

The point that spoke most for the Renew group is the fact that they are bigger and part of the more formalized majority of Parliament, allowing their members to be heard per default in each negotiation. Within Renew, we could have pushed for the majority of this house to be more progressive. It is to this point not clear whether the Greens will be invited to be part of this more formalized majority or not. Given the current movements within the different groups, that could still be the case. However, throughout the last five years we have always managed to convince other groups with our arguments and hope to continue to influence laws with good preparation and by building bridges. Here the European Parliament is different to national parliaments - and we hope it stays this way.

Joining the Greens also strengthens their position in the European Parliament, which overall can and hopefully will change the world for the better, given the current very conservative majorities in the house. And within the Greens, we would almost be 10% of the group, making it more possible for us to play a role in where the group is heading.

03 Collaboration:

The Greens have been very fair to us over the last 5 years. They have given the space for a single MEP to succeed, and have a great group of committee advisors and other group staff. That shows an incredible amount of fairness - which turned into mutual trust. The overall level of information shared within the group is very high, exhibiting a collaborative work environment also between the MEPs. While these softer factors are not the main and only elements of our decision, it is important to consider - also because it affects the effectiveness of our work.

Thank you so much for everyone who contributed to this decision. Thank you to all the national chapters and individuals who gave us their perspectives. We took the different perspectives the national chapters provided us with very seriously in our considerations. Thank you to the European Board and GS for their patience in our last minute requests. We took this recommendation seriously and would be very grateful if you trust and follow us in this assessment.

It's now up to you to make up your mind. Looking forward to the explanatory calls and the result of the vote!

Regards

Nela, Anna, Kai, Reinier & Damian