

Volt Luxembourg candidates announced at Schengen March for Open Borders

Today Volt Luxembourg announced our four candidates for the European elections at the Schengen March for Open Borders – an event co-hosted by Volt Luxembourg, Volt France and Volt Germany where passionate progressives got together to show their support of a united Europe that works for all its citizens.

Volt Luxembourg's candidates are:

1. Fiona Godfrey
2. Daniel Silva
3. Marthe Hoffmann
4. Rolf Tarrach

Please find candidate presentations on the following pages.

Why is Volt Luxembourg running on a list of only four candidates?

"As a young and pragmatic movement, we decided to bring forward four highly qualified candidates. Together they make a really strong list with a diversity reflective of Luxembourg," says Volt Luxembourg President George Penn.

Additional information

Volt Luxembourg's candidates are presented on the following pages.

Hi-res photos of the candidates and the Volt logo can be downloaded [here](#).

Our programme for the European elections can be found [here](#).

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Fiona Godfrey, 53

Occupation: Secretary-General of a pan-European public health NGO

Nationality: Luxembourgish and British

Brief motivation:

“My very first political memory is connected to the EU. I was watching BBC news. The “EEC” was mentioned and I asked my mother what the “EEC” was. She told me it was a peace project to stop war breaking out in Europe again and something that would make it possible for me to go and live, study and work abroad when I was older. This 9 year old was sold – the EEC was the project for me.

I am a perfect marriage of the EU and its member states. I come from a working class family in a poor northern English city. The UK gave me a good state education at school and university level. The EU – through free movement - gave me my German/Chilean husband and family, a fascinating career in EU public health and social mobility. I am living proof of the fact that the EU project can work when member states and the EU share competences and come together to develop policies that benefit not just the economy but individuals.

Unfortunately, due to austerity, Brexit and the rise of populism future success stories like me are threatened. The EU as a peace project doesn't have the same resonance as it did for me as a 9 year old. And 25 year olds on endless internships, zero hour work contracts or no job contract at all don't see or benefit from the opportunities that were available to me.

As the Chair of British Immigrants Living in Luxembourg and the Co-Chair of British in Europe I have spent three years campaigning against Brexit and for EU citizenship rights. I have learned the hard way that we need to reformulate a positive story of what the EU is and what it can be. But I also realise that politicians at the highest levels of the EU don't understand what makes individuals tick, what makes them want to embrace the EU project and what we need to do if the EU is to survive. I think I can help do this and I want to do it, hand in hand with Volt, which is a new and much needed fresh voice in EU politics. I am therefore delighted to be standing as a candidate for Volt in the European Parliament elections.” – Fiona Godfrey



Daniel Silva, 35

Occupation: IT Trainer

Nationality: Luxembourgish and Portuguese

Brief motivation:

"I have always considered myself to be "European". Youth exchanges enabled me to have my first travel opportunities at a young age, and actually I met my wife through a European initiative while she was pursuing an EVS in Luxembourg. Europe has given me wonderful moments, and I feel it's time to give back.

In my opinion, politics is about wanting to get involved, to thrive to change the status quo, to offer an alternative solution and not just criticise from the comfort of inaction.

Thanks to Volt I have found a thrilling, vibrant and diverse community from all corners of the continent. Just after signing up online, our president George got in touch. Very soon after, I had a Volt branded email.

While working in Volt Luxembourg I connect with various members across Europe, get active on different fronts, read and discuss policies with established members of the movement and much more. There are no boundaries, I feel empowered, electrified and I believe that it is this positive energy we all carry within our movement that will give us the opportunity to achieve great victories.

Every country has a role to play in Europe's future, but we believe that it is as a unified voice that we can help shape today's and tomorrow's future. I look forward to representing you and thanks for your time." – Daniel Silva



Marthe Hoffmann, 23

Occupation: Lawyer specialised in EU competition law

Nationality: Luxembourgish

Brief motivation:

“Growing up in Luxembourg, in the cradle of the EU, I believe that I have benefited from the European venture in a very idiosyncratic way which pushes me to stand up for it now as it is teetering on the edge of a precipice.

My family is from the picturesque village Machtum in the Mosel Region, where I also spent my childhood. My mother tongue is therefore Luxembourgish but I had the chance to complete my education at the European School of Luxembourg in a French-speaking class, which means that I grew up trilingual, among school friends from almost every country in the EU.

This experience forged my truly European identity and drew me to complete a trilingual Law School Program in France, Germany and the United Kingdom.

However, I am largely unsatisfied with the current framework mainly because it is undemocratic. I am convinced the European Union needs a structural reform which should in the first place aim at creating a European demos. Volt, a dynamic community of Europeans, represents the opportunity for me to actively try to shape the future of the EU in this respect.” – Marthe Hoffmann



Rolf Tarrach, 71

Occupation: President of the European University Association

Nationality: Luxembourgish and Spanish

Brief motivation:

“Towards a Knowledge-based progressive and democratic European federation.

After 27 years of teaching and research in quantum physics and 18 years of leading research and academic institutions in Spain, Luxembourg and Brussels, I would like to spend the next years putting my experience to good use for Europe. Volt offers the right frame for doing so.

Nous avons besoin d'une nouvelle dynamique pour l'Europe. Au Parlement Européen la pensée dominante est nationale, pas européenne. L'Europe est le second choix. Volt veut changer cela. Le Luxembourg, le pays le plus européen qui soit, est le pays idéal pour impulser, voire mener ce changement.

Volt kann es ändern, denn wir sind zuerst europäisch und dann national. Wir werden also Europa im Europäischen Parlament verteidigen, auch weil das das Beste ist was wir für Luxembourg machen können. Wir leben in der Zeit der Dämmerung des nationalen Denkens.

When you vote for a national party, you have to look at the parties of the other countries that are in the same political group, because you are empowering them too, and some of them are openly anti-European and even anti-democratic. You do not need to do this with Volt, because for us Europe comes first.” – Rolf Tarrach