

A man with short brown hair and a beard, wearing a dark sweater over a light-colored collared shirt, is speaking at a blue podium. The podium features the United Nations logo and the European Union flag. The background is a blurred indoor setting with blue panels.

# ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT 2019-2023

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# WELCOME!

**My work over the past four years** has been based on the three pillars of the 2019 Volt election program (Fixing the EU, creating a just society and making Europe an economic powerhouse).

I negotiated the laws or activities that I have listed in the following pages for my group or initiated them myself. All of this was only possible thanks to the hard work of my team. My greatest personal success is therefore to have brought together the best team of all time. Thanks to Rina, Kamilla, Joachim and Johannes!

Enjoy reading and if you want to keep following my work, you can find my channels here: [Website](#) (Newsletter), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#).



# 1. FIX THE EU





# FIX THE EU

## WITH JOACHIM WILCKE

### COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

# 1

#### SPOKESPERSON OF THE POLITICAL GROUP

I coordinate the political group in the European Parliament in all decisions in the Committee on Constitutional Affairs (AFCO), distribution of legislative acts, organisation of the committee and our communication campaigns.

# 2

#### VOTING RIGHTS FOR MOBILE UNION CITIZENS

It is a huge advantage of the EU that you can live and work in all EU countries! As chief negotiator for this law, I have ensured that voting is easy for every mobile EU citizen in both European and municipal elections.

# 3

#### EU ELECTORAL LAW

We have completely revised the current EU electoral law. In addition to a second vote for European parties and movements, I brought in the right to vote for 16-year-olds and the right to stand as a candidate for all Europeans as of 18 years of age. This was previously not the case in countries such as Belgium, Ireland, Romania, Greece and many others. In parallel, I started an online campaign, #ivoteurope, to inform about European democracy. The electoral law still has to be finally agreed upon by the 27 responsible ministers before being ratified by all national parliaments.

# 4

#### ABOLISHING THE VETO

Thanks to my efforts during the conference on the future of Europe, the final report now clearly calls for the abolition of the unanimity principle in the Council. Many citizens had demanded this during the conference. I am also campaigning for the abolition of the veto as part of the #noVeto campaign.

# FIX THE EU

## WITH JOACHIM WILCKE

### MY MISSION

By arriving in Parliament, I was certain to apply our pan-European and solution-driven way of working directly to my work in the European Parliament.

For our parliamentary work, this meant:

- **Hypothesis-driven** law-making
- **Team brainstorms** to strategize and prepare office positions
- Early and in-depth **preparation of our key files** so that we try to be the best prepared negotiation team in the room
- **Engaging early with Member State** representatives on all our policy fields
- Building a network of **Volt-internal experts**
- Building a network of **academic, business and CSO/NGO experts**
- Developing **law-accompanying comms and engagement campaigns** on- & offline

### BRINGING VOLT IN

To maintain our own expectations, to bring in Volt into the work as much as possible, this meant:

- **Weekly political calls** with nationally elected officials, the European Board and the communication teams to discuss communication and political positioning
- **Bi-monthly calls with all Volt Europa chapters** to exchange on political urgencies and viewpoints.
- **Weekly exchanges** with the **Board of Volt Germany** and their communication team
- Organising **meet&greet**s and **townhalls** in various Volt Chapters to outline our work in the European Parliament.

WE ARE CREATING A BETTER  
**EU** STEP BY STEP

# OUR NON-LEGISLATIVE WORK

1

## YOUNG EUROPEANS

In Parliament, I built a group of like-minded people right at the beginning of the mandate to improve Parliament from within. This worked well and led not only to the establishment of a cross-party group of like-minded people, but also to changes in the parliamentary routine with the help of the parliamentary Presidents Sassoli† and Metsola.

2

## TRIGGERING & LEADING THE PROCESS OF PARLIAMENTARY REFORM

Creating a good impact report means being transparent with your audience. Back up your claims with relevant data. Keep your sentences concise when necessary, but dive into detail when it comes to qualitative and quantitative evidence. Remember: an impact report is a combination of understanding your mission, your work, and your audience, and communicating that clearly with the rest of the world.

3

## SUPPORTING UKRAINE

It was important to me from the beginning of the war in Ukraine to support Ukraine by ensuring that we, in the Union, establish an oil and gas embargo against Russia. I travelled to Kyiv for the Ukrainian bank holidays and am now campaigning for sanctions against Russian party members and for Euler-Hermes loans, as well as arms deliveries. Moreover, I am helping in the discussions around Ukrainian accession to the EU.

4

## MODERNIZING THE PARLIAMENT

Together with a group of young, innovative Members from the pro-European political families, we built a majority to, despite a previously agreed position to abolish the possibilities to work remotely, maintain the positive changes to our parliamentary work that the pandemic had on the different possibilities to work in the EP, including remote work for Members on parental, or sick leave as well as urgent meetings, among others.

## 2. ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE





# ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE

## WITH JOHANNES JAENICKE

### Corona Recovery Fund

As the group spokesperson and negotiator, I am the first point of contact for the recovery fund - with 672.5 billion the largest EU programme ever! In the negotiations in the middle of the pandemic, I made sure that investments in gas and oil are more difficult through introducing an environmental check and defining a list of over 100 sustainable, eligible investment projects. I also coordinate the group for example in deciding on freezing funds for Poland and Hungary due to lack of rule of law & high corruption.

### RePower EU

RePower is an adaptation of the Corona Fund to **respond to energy shortages and achieve energy independence from Russia**. I have ensured that subsidies for investments in oil investment were removed from the parliamentary text. I have limited gas investments to short-term energy security measures (they have to be in operation before December 2024).

LEGISLATION	DETAILS	OUTCOME
<b>Corona Recovery Fund</b>	Largest EU programme ever (672.5€ billion)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensuring economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic</li><li>• Environmental &amp; rule of law checks</li></ul>
<b>RePower EU</b>	Plan to rapidly reduce dependence on Russian fossil fuels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Response to energy shortages and achieve energy independence from Russia</li></ul>
<b>EP Budget 2021/2022</b>	Chief negotiator for the budget of the Parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Promote sustainability via digitalisation</li></ul>

# ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE

## WITH JOHANNES JAENICKE

### Data Act

We reached a deal on the Data Act, a groundbreaking digital law on access, use and sharing of data, that I was able to shape quite fundamentally. My goal was to create a regime for data sharing that is based on contracts and puts the user of the product in the centre of decision making. We clarified the rights and abilities of data holders and third parties to use and share IoT data. This can drive real EU innovation: liquid, efficient & fair data markets for non-personal data, where owners of products, but also manufacturers and service providers can share, sell or license data sets to other companies, innovative start-ups or researchers for the purpose of training algorithms and introducing new products or services.

### EP Budget 2021 and 2022

For the 2022 budget year, I was chief negotiator for the budget of the Parliament and other EU institutions (EU Court of Justice, Court of Auditors, etc.) and therefore got involved in the trials and tribulations of all budgets. My goal was to promote sustainability via digitalisation.

### Data Governance Act

On this issue, I worked on how data markets are regulated. Thanks to my proposed amendments, data marketplaces can now no longer make their prices and conditions dependent on other, separate offers.



# 3. A FAIRER SOCIETY





# A FAIRER SOCIETY

## WITH KAMILLA SOLIEVA

### LABOUR MIGRATION

#### EU Blue Card

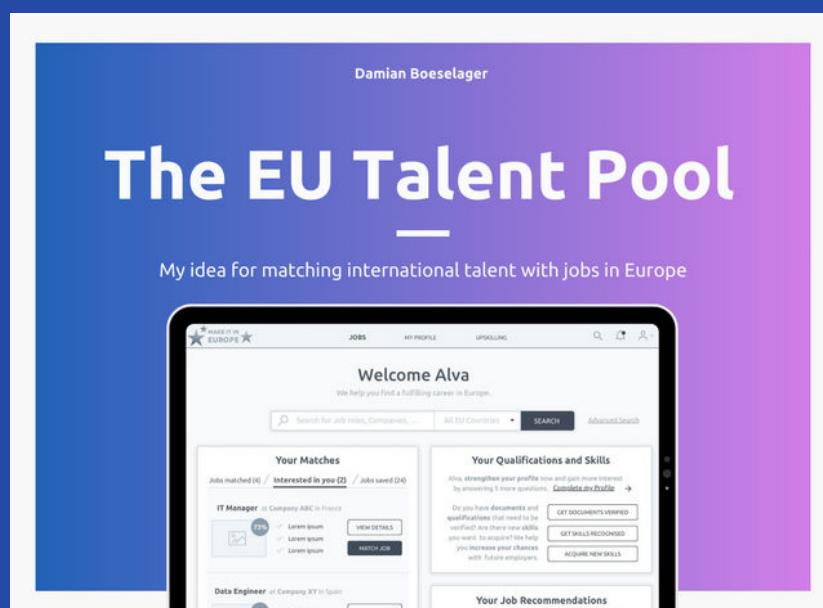
The new EU Blue Card is an **immigration visa for highly-skilled workers**. It will allow IT talent to come to Europe without a degree, requiring only work experience. In addition, the new law will **allow third-country nationals to move freely across the EU for work purposes**, after 1 year of residing in the first country of entry. Through our work, we managed to make the EU blue card accessible to more talent, by reducing the administrative burden and salary thresholds, introducing new favourable conditions for family members, and providing for the freedom to move across the EU.

#### Long Term Residence Status

I am the chief negotiator for the Long Term Residence Status. Negotiations with the EU interior ministers are about to start and our aim is to make this a truly European permit. In the end, an international talent who has lived in a certain EU state for a longer period of time should be able to work and live anywhere in the EU.

#### EU Talent Pool

As a result of my proposal, the EU Talent Pool was created. The platform will create a pool of international talent that expressed their interest to work in Europe and can help match them to EU companies where there is a demand. For me, this is an important step towards an effective migration system. The EU Commission has adopted the idea and is currently implementing it.



# A FAIRER SOCIETY

WITH KAMILLA SOLIEVA

## LABOUR MIGRATION

- I wrote the **parliamentary group position on labour migration**, to set the vision on how Europe should attract and retain talented and skilled people.
- I started the campaign **openemployers.eu** with entrepreneurs to pressure EU governments to be bold and adapt more open positions on labour migration, including by supporting mobility initiatives.



## ASYLUM

- The Asylum Agency extended the mandate of **European Agency for Asylum** and is an important step towards a functioning European asylum system. It is the only asylum law adopted in the EU for many years. Following my visit to the Greek islands, I have been pushing for a monitoring mechanism that would ensure that countries stick to EU rules.
- The debate on asylum is unfortunately very negative, which is why I have drawn a map of the great welcome potential we have in Europe. On the website [Europewelcomes.org](https://europewelcomes.org) you can see at a glance the thousands of cities and municipalities have declared themselves "safe havens" and are offering to or already have taken in refugees.
- I am negotiation the **European Crisis Mechanism**, with the aim to help EU countries in times of crisis (e.g. 2015 with Syrians and 2022 with Ukrainians). My priority is to have mandatory relocation mechanism which would automatically allocate asylum-seekers to countries where they have meaningful links, such as family ties and language. My second priority is to create an EU prima facie status, which would grant an automatic refugee status to people who have high chances of getting it at the end, such as Ukrainians.

# 4. UKRAINE SUPPORT





# UKRAINE SUPPORT

WITH KAMILLA & JOHANNES

## OUR SUPPORT

I visited Ukraine back in August 2022, and saw with my own eyes the absolute horror and devastation that the Russian invasion has caused in places like Kyiv, Bucha, or Irpin.

Since then I have been one of the leading supporters in the European Parliament to ensure a sustained economic support for Ukraine. My team and I have promoted the concept of war insurances from very early on, a pioneering move that was taken up by the international community in the London support conference in June 2023.

We have also called for isolation of Russia by capping oil and gas imports, and suggested an EU unity fund to promote financial solidarity in Europe to bear the cost of the war. With my advisor Kamilla, in charge of migration and asylum, we have pressured to trigger temporary protection for Ukrainian refugees.

Since the beginning, I have pushed not only for a strong European support for Ukraine's reconstruction efforts, but also for making their European integration prospects a reality.

## UKRAINE'S RECONSTRUCTION

Since July 2023, I am one of the lead negotiators in the Parliament for the €50 billion Ukraine Facility, which provides stable financing for Ukraine for the period 2024-2027. This fund is the main European pillar for the reconstruction of the country, both through public funds and private lending by international financial institutions, like the European Investment Bank or the European Bank Reconstruction and Development.

My objective for this fund is to make sure that this money is distributed in a needs-based and democratic way, with the involvement of the Ukrainian Parliament. The EU and all other actors on the ground in Ukraine need to be mobilized to fight favoritism, corruption and concentration of money on oligarchs and their business empires. I want start-ups especially to benefit from this funds.

**UKRAINE  
IS EUROPE**

# WHAT COMES NEXT?

**My work in the European Parliament is not yet done** - from now and until next year's European elections, my team and I still have so many more things to do. And despite being so proud of all of the things we have achieved so far, what keeps me excited is how many more we can still do in the future.

Together, we have shaped legislation that has a direct impact on many people's lives, making them better in a pan-European, pragmatic and progressive way.

All of this was only possible because you gave me your trust. Everyday my team and I try our best to live up to it, and will continue to do so.

Yours,

**Damian**



# THANK YOU!