



**EU4TIBET**

**2024 EUROPEAN ELECTIONS:  
Questionnaire for national political parties**

## HUMAN RIGHTS & GENERAL QUESTIONS

While international attention has shifted, the human rights situation in Tibet has dramatically deteriorated in recent years. Tibet is repeatedly rated as one of the least free territories on earth by human rights indexes and Tibetans face arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearances and torture simply for exercising their fundamental rights.

### QUESTION 1

**What consequences should these widespread and systematic human rights violations committed by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in Tibet have on EU-China relations?**

Answer Volt:

We believe that the security of European citizens takes precedence over individual nations' or governments' domestic political or economic agendas. In the end, only a united European security and defence policy can ensure permanent security while operating on the most efficient, innovative, and impactful basis.

### QUESTION 2

**Does your party support the extension of sanction under the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime to Chinese individuals and entities responsible for rights violations in Tibet?**

Answer Volt:

Volt supports the establishment of a targeted sanctions regime to address human rights offenders by freezing their assets and imposing bans on offenders and their associates benefiting from human rights violations from entering the EU. This approach is inspired by the US Magnitsky Act and aims to sanction individuals, businesses, and governmental organisations involved in human rights abuses.

### QUESTION 3

**Will you encourage elected Members of the European Parliament from your party to support the adoption of European Parliament's resolutions addressing human rights violations in Tibet?**

Answer Volt:

Volt Europa, as a party committed to human rights and justice, will support the adoption of European Parliament resolutions addressing human rights violations in Tibet. Upholding universal human rights, advocating for the protection of individuals facing human rights abuses, and promoting accountability align with Volt's core values and principles.

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

First founded 1989, the European Parliament's Tibet Intergroup has played a key role in ensuring that Tibet remains a high priority on the agenda of the European Parliament, creating awareness and encouraging debate on possible ways of action to improve the situation in Tibet.

### QUESTION 4

**Will you encourage elected Members of the European Parliament from your party to support the re-establishment of the Parliament's Tibet Intergroup for the 2024-2029 legislative term, and to be active members?**

Answer Volt:

Although Volt wants to ensure human rights violations in Tibet or for Tibetans abroad remains a high priority on the agenda of the European Parliament, Volt would only want the Tibet Intergroup to be re-established if this is shown to be proportional to the cost of this.

### QUESTION 5

The Sino-Tibetan dialogue - a direct dialogue between envoys of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and representatives of the Chinese government - has been stalled since 2010.

**What measures could the European Union take to push the Chinese government to return to the negotiating table to find a durable and mutual solution to the Tibetan crisis?**

Answer Volt:

One possible measure that the European Union, with Volt's support, could take to push the Chinese government to return to the negotiating table regarding the Tibetan crisis is to use diplomatic pressure and international cooperation.

# BOARDING SCHOOLS, RELIGIOUS FREEDOM & TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

## QUESTION 6

On 14 December 2023, the European Parliament adopted a resolution condemning China's boarding school system in Tibet, which has separated nearly 1 million Tibetan children from their families and sent them to colonial-style boarding schools.

**What will your party do at the EU level to follow-up on this resolution?**

Answer Volt:

Volt wants there to be a strict level of monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the resolution and assess the progress made in addressing the situation in Tibet. This could involve tracking developments, producing reports, and highlighting any lack of compliance with the resolution.

## QUESTION 7

The Chinese government has on several occasions indicated its intention to interfere in the succession of the Tibetan spiritual leader in exile the Dalai Lama. Meanwhile, several EU Member States have officially declared that it is the prerogative of the Tibetan religious community to choose the future Dalai Lama.

**Do you think that the EU should adopt a common joint position opposing Chinese government interferences in the succession of His Holiness the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama?**

Answer Volt:

Volt Europa, with its emphasis on human rights, justice, and respect for religious freedoms, would support the EU adopting a common joint position opposing Chinese government interference in the succession of the 14th Dalai Lama. Volt's commitment to the principles of human dignity and freedom align with the idea that the Tibetan religious community should have the right to choose the future Dalai Lama free from external interference.

## QUESTION 8

Over 30 Chinese police stations have been discovered in 13 EU Member States, that are being used by the Chinese government to threaten and silence dissidents – including those of Tibetan descent. These covert and unlawful police operations conducted by the Chinese regime violate the rule of law and may also violate the territorial integrity of those Member States.

**What will your party do at the EU level to protect European citizens from transnational repression from China?**

Answer Volt:

Volt wants to combat harmful foreign interference in European society. So when there is evidence of illegal Chinese transnational repression, Volt would aim to combat this through enhanced monitoring, improved legal frameworks at the EU level and by providing legal assistance, advocacy platforms, and safe avenues for reporting threats and intimidation.

## **QUESTION 9**

For years, and in particular since the wave of protests that swept across Tibet in 2008, China has tightly restricted access to Tibet - including for EU foreign diplomats, parliamentarians and journalists - in order to prevent the truth about its oppression there from reaching the outside world.

**Will you encourage elected Members of the European Parliament from your party to request and take part in a visit of a delegation of the European Parliament to Tibet?**

Answer Volt:

Given Volt Europa's commitment to transparency, human rights, and justice, it is probable that elected Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) from Volt would consider requesting and participating in a visit of a delegation of the European Parliament to Tibet. By engaging in such a visit, MEPs can firsthand observe the situation in Tibet, assess the human rights conditions, and gather information to better understand the challenges faced by the Tibetan people. For Volt, however, whether we request this visit depends on who organises it and the approach of the visit.