



This newsletter is sent out bi-weekly summarizing our articles at Pirate Times to make sure you don't miss anything.

You can also read the Pirate Times online at our [blog](#) or for offline reading just download the PDF version: %PDF_LINK%

=== Contents ===

A weekend in Paris, the Extraordinary Assembly of the French Pirates 2012

The Lagarde List: A Matter of Transparency or a Violation of Personal Data?

Bloggers Sued for Copyright Infringement, PP Membership Evidence of Guilt

The Pirate Movement on Facebook and Twitter ? October 2012

New Draft Reveals OpenCleanIT Was Shortened

Pirates open up CleanIT. But has it changed?

A New Internet Blacklist in Russia

#exile6e ? a Pirate Docuseries

You Can't Win Them All ? Election Results from Finland and the ACT

Austrian General Convention Made Clear Ship For Upcoming Elections

Rodrigo Jorquera: ?Participation of everyone will lead to a better government?

European Pirate Parties Protest Against INDECT

Sunday Elections Look Promising for Piraten Basel

Pirates Ready for Municipal Elections on Sunday in Finland

A weekend in Paris, the Extraordinary Assembly of the French Pirates 2012



A week after the disciplined but turbulent **annual general meeting** of the **French pirates**, which took place on 21 October, the well known French paper **Le Monde** published an accurate **picture** of the event:

"The French Pirate party (1000 members) held a rather disciplined but very emotional internal revolution at the meeting. The 'line of command' was too pyramidal according to the opinions of the members. Several regions in France, far from Paris and representing a large proportion of the French Pirates, felt they were being left out of 'the decision-making'. Although the now former board was already doing a great job working on these actual problems, it turned out to be 'not quick enough' and hence amendment 13 was passed. Or like some put it, 'shoved down the throat legally'".

What is this amendment 13 about?

It is a demand for a political structural change. Basically the Parti pirate becomes 'more social/horizontal' through using a bureaucratic model without a president. The current presidency (2 co-presidents) is replaced with a national committee composed out of a board of elected members from the regional sections. In France there are 27 administrative **regions**. But not all regions have (enough) active pirates to elect an official regional committee and so far only 9 **regions** have an active section.

The problem behind the passing of amendment 13 was that this was only possible because of a huge number of new members (an estimated 60% in one year). These new members were not

fully aware of the changes brought on the way by the sitting board. Actually what occurred is that Parti pirate got what could be called a **populistic** outcome from the voting.

Framing the problem in a simple picture: there is a goal (actual change for the better), a driver (management) and a vehicle (organisation) with a load (the members). The problem is how to get the load to the goal. The old situation was that the Pirates had just changed both their vehicle and driver, but the progress towards the goal was too slow. Whilst still working on implementing the new changes, the load decided to abandon the vehicle and change its driver at the same time. The solution became amendment 13, a proposal for an upgrade and extra fine tuning.

The irony is that the new vehicle is a model based on a similar, but older model, that was previously abandoned by the same Parti pirate!

The new organisation is based on the premise that although the change is radical, a president is not compatible with the autonomous and horizontal values of the Pirates and the internet itself. After this first organisational 'shock' things will find their balance and Parti pirate will move towards a **shared goal**, making liberty more concrete, a claim true claim on equality and a strengthened brotherhood. (based on Liberté, Egalité and Fraternité, the French Republic slogan).

Special guest from Pirate Party International

This article will finish with a mention of an invited international speaker, Lola Voronina, the co-chairman of the **Pirate Parties International**, who at the GA spoke of her delight in the creation of a French international coordination team. She hoped the French Pirate Party would help to expand the pirate movement further internationally, and especially to the French

speaking countries in Africa.

Share and care. Piratez la politique! Until next year. Au revoir!

source: [the minutes](#) of the AG (in French) and myself (Anouk) being present at the meeting.

Featured picture: Parti Pirate France ratifying the Prague declaration, CC-BY by Jerry Weyer

Image Source: General Assembly of the Parti Pirate France

Written by Anouk Neeteson published at November 10, 2012

The Lagarde List: A Matter of Transparency or a Violation of Personal Data?



Prosecutor recently ordered the arrest of Greek journalist Kostas Vaxevanis for publicising a list with the names of Greek depositors in Swiss banks.

The famous [Lagarde List](#) includes 2,059 names of Greek depositors in the HSBC bank in Switzerland. The "Lagarde List" was published recently in a special issue of the magazine [Hot Doc](#) but despite this two governments still deny its existence. The Prosecutor of Athens moved ex officio on the case and ordered the arrest of Vaxevanis, journalist and editor of the magazine, on charges of violation and processing of personal data. Vaxevanis was arrested, taken to the prosecutor and later released. After leaving the prosecutor's office, [Vaxevanis said](#):
"the name of a depositor in a bank is not personal data, but the amounts, which we did not

publish in 'Hot Doc' are. We just posted the names. Not long ago, the biggest newspaper in the country published a list of artists' names and the amounts reported in their tax statements. No ex officio prosecution was made against it?.

The Greek Pirate Party reacted immediately in the incident and **defended the journalist**:

"The protection of journalists, bloggers and whistle-blowers is a basic principle in Pirate Party of Greece. We believe the disclosure of internal public or corporate information to society, when it reveals illegal or unethical activities, embezzlement, corruption, insider trading and harm society in general, is a form of moral courage and must be encouraged and protected. We need to improve legislation for the protection of journalists and bloggers, with complete anonymity and protection of their sources".

For the last two years, during a period of crisis, the "Lagarde List" has been in the hands of two successive finance ministers who mentioned nothing about it. The behaviour of the ministers caused a massive public outcry as the list includes friends, acquaintances and relatives of several politicians. It is also striking that the list includes only three politicians but several housewives, students, retired civil servants (some of them former employees of the Ministry of Finance), doctors, lawyers, architects, owners of companies that have gone bankrupt and big showbiz names.

Vaxevanis' case is perhaps not in the magnitude of Julian Assange and WikiLeaks, but the issues raised by the publication of the list are similar. Two ministers of finance pretended for two years that they had no knowledge of the list before a journalist posted it to a magazine. Does it then become a matter of transparency or a violation of personal data? This case matters even more when Greece is in the middle of a crisis and people are outraged about the corruption and tax evasion among the political and economic elite.

The Greek Pirates also declared the "Lagarde List" to be one of many lists which have not been utilised by a state that has long collapsed and is run by a political system based on interplay and corruption. Other states, such as Germany and France, used lists they obtained properly. The Pirate Party of Greece **supports the journalist** and his revelations and has the intention to

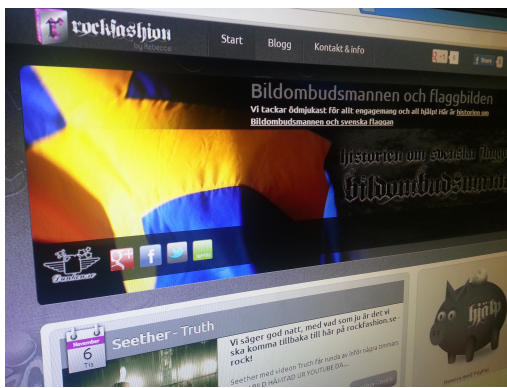
support freedom of speech, as well as journalism, in every possible way.

The trial of Vaxevanis took place on November 1st, and **Vaxevanis was acquitted**.

Featured image is CC BY-NC-ND **J. Griffin Stewart**.

Written by Stathis Leivaditis published at November 9, 2012

Bloggers Sued for Copyright Infringement, PP Membership Evidence of Guilt



Bildombudsmannen is well known in Swedish Pirate circles for contacting websites concerning copyright infringement, and threatening to sue them if they don't pay a cease and desist letter. Recently they targeted a blog editor, but this time with a tactic not previously known - using the editor's membership in the Swedish Pirate Party as evidence of guilt.

Bildombudsmannen has previously been criticised for portraying itself as a governmentally sanctioned institution or agency. It's name translates to "**Ombudsman** of Images", playing off on the term "ombudsman" as used by several state agencies including Diskrimineringsombudsmannen, "Ombudsman of Discrimination", responsible for making sure discrimination laws are being followed. Likewise, many have reported that they assumed Bildombudsmannen was a state agency responsible for copyright law. In reality, it is a one-man company run by jurist Staffan Teste, who is hired by copyright owners to persecute websites, blogs and other pages which - willingly or not - infringe on others' copyrights by

republishing images, text or video.

Non-Commercial Mistake Warrants ? 1 100 Payment

One website recently targeted by Teste and his company is Rockfashion, a non-commercial blog covering rock and tattoo fashion and music. After writing a post in which they used a photo of the Swedish flag, which they had found on Google, they were sent a cease and desist letter, requesting almost ? 1 100. Without so much as a warning ahead of time, Bildombudsmannen charged them for using the image without permission and without acknowledging the copyright owner, even though the use was non-commercial and even though they had - mistakenly - **thought that the image was free to use:**

At that moment we sadly assumed that the image was okay to use. It appeared on multiple government websites, in newspapers, on blogs, et cetera. No source was given, so we assumed (wrong in doing so) that the image came from some gallery of free images.

Rockfashion, as many before them, first assumed that Bildombudsmannen was a government agency, and only after doing some research found it to be a privately owned company. They then contacted Teste, arguing that they had acted unknowingly, and that Rockfashion was a non-commercial website. Teste continued arguing his case, and so the Rockfashion editors chose to refuse to pay the requested money.

Pirate Party Membership is Evidence of Guilt

Soon thereafter, Teste sued the Rockfashion editors in court over the matter. While unable to afford hiring a lawyer, Rockfashion took the help of a photography and copyright law enthusiast, K-G Stolt, who helped them make their case. They argued in court for the website's non-commercial status, as well as the relatively few hits - just over 100 unique visitors in over a year online.

In response, Teste put forth additional factors as evidence of guilt, one of which is the fact that one editor, Joachim Persson, openly supports and is a member of the Swedish Pirate Party.

According to Persson, however, while he sympathises with the party's view on privacy, he is

against its views on copyright issues, something he has clarified previously in public blog posts which Teste had chosen to ignore.

Whether or not Persson is for or against copyright is less relevant, however, as this should not influence a trial, nor be used in an attempt to influence a trial. Young Pirates Sweden's president Gustav Nipe [commented on the case](#), and put out the question - "Are there more people out there receiving invoices with reference to their Pirate Party membership, and who are therefore breaking copyright law?"

? 300 000 Requested for a Single Picture

With or without the membership argument, Teste is indeed active - it seems that this one picture has generated 300 separate letters, a total of over ? 300 000. Among the targets are many non-commercial bloggers, commercial news sites, [and the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs](#).

In the Rockfashion trial, the court agreed that the sum was unreasonable for a non-commercial website, and advised the parties to make a settlement out of court, which landed on approximately ? 450. While this was obviously much more doable than the originally sought ? 1 100, the Rockfashion editors still had to hold a fundraiser on their website to pay it off. As their story quickly went viral, they reached their goal in less than a day.

This one case ended relatively well, but it still took all too much time and money, and there are many cases of bloggers who would rather just give up and pay the invoice immediately and without protest. There are literally hundreds of cases left to go, and there's no seeing a stop to the business model any time soon.

[Featured image by Anton Nordenfur, in the public domain.](#)

Written by Anton Nordenfur published at November 6, 2012

The Pirate Movement on Facebook and Twitter “ October 2012



During the past 1.5 months the pirate movement has grown with 38 833 followers on Facebook and 5 847 followers on Twitter. This brings the total amount of people following a pirate party on Facebook or twitter to 587 852 people.

This month I moved the recurring analysis to the beginning of the month instead of having it in the middle. It makes more sense measuring the numbers from month to month instead of half the previous month + half this month. I analyzed the followers in [August](#) and [September](#) and plan to keep looking at them once per month. Suggestions on what to measure for next month are always appreciated.

Facebook

From the changes we can see that Sweden changed the most with their giant increase of 30 605 followers. On October 1st, one of the most important torrent trackers was shut down as part of a major raid in Sweden. This prompted the owners of the torrent tracker to re-direct their website URL first to the Swedish Pirate Party's Facebook page and later to their member sign-up page causing a major rise in followers as well as a doubling of pirate members in Sweden. We have [reported more about the details](#) of this raid earlier in the Pirate Times.

From this significant increase, we can see that Sweden and Germany are now separated by only a few followers in the race for most popular Facebook page for a Pirate Party. This

closeness follows a recent drop, in Germany of, -492 fans possibly caused by some internal troubles and the recent **resignation of two of their board members**. Other significant increases, that we can connect to specific events, can be seen in the Czech Republic after their **recent elections** (+1 106), Spain (Catalunya) after the declaration of new upcoming elections for Nov 25th (+533), Slovenia who just had their first General Assembly (+460) and in Belgium where they also had **recent regional and municipal elections** (+411).

This month I have also looked at the **population statistics** on Facebook to compare this with followers/citizens present on Facebook. From this we can see that Sweden has 0.0162 fans/citizens present on Facebook. Followed by the Czech Republic (0.00855) and Slovenia (0.00810). Germany is now only in seventh place. Another interesting stat to look at is the Facebook penetration (how many citizens of a country are present on Facebook) here we can see that Russia has only 5.13% of their population on Facebook (vk.com being the more popular social media platform) but still takes a high spot on the total number of followers.

Twitter

The Swedish follower growth did not spill over into Twitter and we see a much more moderate growth here (+364). A bit surprisingly we see that Germany has grown with 824 new followers despite their drop on Facebook due to recent internal struggles. Spain (Catalunya) sees a significant growth (+454) based on their upcoming election in three weeks. We also have the newly started Pirate Party of Norway coming in on place 41 with their 259 followers who will hopefully grow rapidly in the near future.

Last month I calculated the followers per capita in each country but the population row had accidentally been misplaced which caused many errors in the statistics. All of these errors have hopefully been corrected with the revised numbers below for this month. The population

statistics were taken from a [list on wikipedia](#) which differs with a few years between different countries depending on when the last statistics were available. Luxemburg are first, counting followers per capita, (0.00359) mostly due to their low population. On second place we find Germany (0.00139) followed by Spain (Catalunya) (0.000716).

FAQ

*Why only Facebook and Twitter? Why not Google+, vk.com or others? - Mostly because it's hard to know what other social networks to include. Only doing Facebook and Twitter takes a lot of time, even though there are scripts to update followers. The same reasoning goes for federated services such as status.net as well since it's hard to gather useful statistics for them.

*Can I have access to the .csv file you used for these stats? - Right now only if you have a very good reason and a specific purpose for them. I am working on updating contact information for different Pirate Parties. The plan is to make everything accessible in a good format with continuous updates. Giving out the information freely at this stage would only result in several versions of the document being in circulation where some are badly updated and faulty.

*Why is country X not included? - Probably because I didn't know about it or considered their activity as dead. Send me a message or comment on this post and it will be included for next month

*Isn't the follower/population very biased? - As all statistics numbers are biased in some way. Just measuring number of followers are biased to bigger countries. The follower/population obviously gives the initial country (Sweden) a bonus as well as countries sharing the same language. This is still an important alternative measurement since it shows relative impact of the social media account.

*Why did you not include local party X who is bigger than some countries here? - This is supposed to measure international impact. The reason Catalunya and Galicia are measured separately is that they are quasi-autonomous regions, independent from Spain.

Featured picture: CC-BY Pirate Times adapted from [Sean MacEntee](#) CC-BY

edit: From the time of collecting statistics and proof-reading until this was posted PPSE has passed PPDE in number of Facebook fans.

Written by Josef Ohlsson Collentine published at November 5, 2012

New Draft Reveals OpenCleanIT Was Shortened



This is an update to [yesterday's article](#), which analysed the draft CleanIT document published and opened for comment by the OpenCleanIT platform.

Another draft of the CleanIT document has been [published](#) (version 0.77 dated October 30, whereas the previously discussed document was version 0.762, dated October 24). It seems as if the version published on the [OpenCleanIT](#) platform was severely shortened. A quick overview of the new document reveals that some ideas which were left out in the discussed draft are in fact still in there.

There still is a "best practice" chapter on filtering. Like the paragraph on filters in the slightly older draft, it does however suggest that filters are in the end-users hand. The statement that

such filters should not be on an infrastructure level is in fact there. But it is mentioned only in the "explanation", not in the description of the best practice itself. Also, it is weakened in the next sentence by stating that "[n]evertheless, at a parental / end-user level individuals should not be limited in their possibilities [to filter their network access]", which might be interpreted as a loophole for infrastructural filters should enough concerned and computer-illiterate parents call for them. Given the importance of this aspect, this won't be seen as an appropriate distancing from infrastructural filters. After all, **negative civil rights** (that is, rights that protect against action from the state) are meant to be just that, a limitation of possibilities of action. They cannot be weighed up against the comfort of less parenting work through not having to install filtering software yourself.

Overall the number of "best practices" points is still about the same as in the last draft, added importance to the education/awareness approach is probably not given. Also, ideas like the "browser button" are still in there, including naive discussion points about if this can be done with open source software. Thus, the list of points for criticism is still longer than the draft on the OpenCleanIT page would suggest.

As to why the OpenCleanIT comment platform does not feature the most current draft and the text which they did publish was severely shortened one can only speculate. Most definitely it can be interpreted as the project not taking its commitment to transparency seriously.

Featured Image CC-BY-NC [Ian Britton](#)

Written by Paul Wardenga published at November 4, 2012

Pirates open up CleanIT. But has it changed?



CleanIT is a public-private partnership project by several European governments, internet industry firms, and NGOs that has been subject to strong criticism. Opponents fear CleanIT endangers civil rights and internet freedom, while keeping their work hidden from public oversight. This secrecy has now been reduced.

Last weekend, the project officially published the **latest draft of their working document**. This was achieved due to the efforts of Sven Clement, President of the Pirate Party of Luxembourg, and Pascal Gloor, Vice-President of the Pirate Party of Switzerland, who takes part in the CleanIT meetings. Pascal and the Pirate Times **have talked about the project before**. The released document will be the basis for discussion at the upcoming meeting of the group on Monday 5th of November in Vienna. The document, as of last Sunday night, is open for comments from the public. The publication of the draft no doubt increases transparency. especially since it has been published before the meeting. This is a considerable improvement achieved through public and Pirate pressure.

Of course, transparency is merely a means to an end. Publication does not automatically improve the document. However it does allow the content to be known and allows for more direct democratic input through more qualified comment and criticism by an informed public and civil society.

A reading of the current document reveals that CleanIT actually has had a few of its teeth pulled. Real name enforcement is gone. The section on filtering reads a lot less like central censorship infrastructure. The education (or "awareness") approach, which is arguably the only sustainable

solution to prevent people from falling for antidemocratic ideologies, has gained in importance as the number of total points was reduced.

Also, many of the ideas, which Cory Doctorow named the "**stupidest set of proposed internet rules**" ever, for their tendency to induce utter disbelief caused by the cluelessness that spoke from the text to every tech-savvy person, have been scrapped. For example, the part about responsibility of internet companies has been toned down. In the leak from August, the idea had been floated that it should effectively be considered economic aid to terrorism if a terrorist happened to use a company's network or online service. Now it explicitly says that there is no direct responsibility, but companies should help where they can.

Still the discussion is far from over as many central points of criticism remain.

The group explicitly tried to respond to criticism for not properly defining the terms they are using. In particular the vague definition of what constitutes terrorism has been seen as a loophole for boundless civil rights restrictions. However, the paper still contains two definitions of the term terrorism which partially contradict each other. The question if violence is necessary for something to count as terrorist activity, as it is said at one point, is interesting. One might argue, that this negates the whole point of the project. Violence over the internet is not possible - unless you count Denial-of-Service attacks and trolling, which would be very far fetched. In the end, CleanIT still fails to offer a single clear definition.

The section about filtering is still there, though it is not part of "best practices" anymore. It seems to have a clearer opt-in approach than the previously leaked draft. The paragraph now states that "Internet users should have the means to avoid being subjected to terrorist use of the Internet?". The acting party seems to be the internet user, who doesn't want to stumble upon "terrorist" content, or have the kids of the household do the same.

Users who want to censor their own internet access are not within the scope of criticism of

CleanIT opponents. However, it is still unclear whether these "means" shall be implemented at infrastructure level or within the user's home, voluntarily installed by the user him- or herself. Filtering on an infrastructural level, for whatever well-meaning reason, opens the door for abuse, **as it is currently happening in Russia**. The way it is now, the demand for an explicit exclusion of all blocking or filtering measures on an infrastructure level will remain.

In a very important aspect, the current draft of the paper still hasn't changed: It still entitles private enterprises to determine the lawfulness of content. Only if the company behind a social media platform or a hosting provider is unclear about the legality of something one of their users uploaded should an official legal opinion be called upon. While this discretion may be granted when it comes to a company's own terms of service, the same discretion with regards to actual law is highly problematic and will surely still be seen as an assault on the rule of law. The document also mentions an approach that does work via the terms of service. However, the need to do something in this respect is very questionable, as many popular internet platforms already prohibit racist or other discriminatory hate content. Those that don't prohibit anything, do so on purpose. Those companies will not have their non-compromising stance on free speech turned around by any non-legislative approach.

This last aspect is also true for flagging systems, which CleanIT proposes as a way to help users defend themselves against terrorist content. Popular platforms like Facebook, Twitter or even many obscure forums, have the option to report a post to a moderator. Again, those sites that do not moderate probably do so on principle or for lack of resources. Netizens will probably ask the question of what effect is writing down the status quo supposed to have. Still, the "obligatory red button inside the browser"-approach is gone, which eliminates another point on Cory Doctorow's popular list. However, in the discussion points for Vienna, the flagging option for Voice-Over-IP systems is still there and will still be subject to ridicule by the internet community, as it implies that people may accidentally find themselves in a phone call with a terrorist and therefore be in need of such a panic button.

Also, some aspects clearly show that the group still is not really comfortable with the new, more open approach. The document proclaims that each partner's participation shall be published. Albeit on their own respective websites. While this technically does make member data public, it reads like an intentional attempt to obfuscate the matter and to make it harder for the public to get a complete list of participants.

In addition, the most important part of CleanIT remains intransparent: the very reason for its initiation in the first place. That is, the claim, that recruitment and radicalisation of children by terrorists over the internet actually constitutes a problem, and more so than in the offline world. It remains a simple statement. It is not backed up by criminal statistics, independent studies or other primary sources.

As of today, the comment sections on the OpenCleanIT website remain relatively empty. Now that the current text is known, critics should take to [the comment threads](#) and voice their specific concerns. There are still ample reasons to have such concerns with the current text, and not making them heard even though the opportunity exists might give the wrong idea about the size and resolve of public opposition to the project.

Featured image: CC-BY-SA [jeff_golden](#)

Image Source: Original Photo CC-BY-SA by flickr user jeff_golden

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/jeffanddayna/3318764180/>

Written by Paul Wardenga published at November 3, 2012

A New Internet Blacklist in Russia



The **Violentacrez affair** made it all too visible how much horrible and filthy content there is freely available over the internet. There is no question that we need to protect our children from exposure to that trash, but does that mean that we should accept just about any means to stop it?

What if it was only an excuse for the government to get means to control what is communicated over the internet and silence all the dissenting voices? Once the filtering infrastructure is deployed it is easy to target it to other goals. According to the Russian Pirate Party: Amurmedia, the news from Khabarovsk (the far east of Russia). This site published materials related to corruption in Government of this region, police department, investigated cases of illegal spending in the region. Police came to the office of Amurmedia under the pretext of checking the editorial computers for using unlicensed software. Publishing work was paralyzed for several hours. Some of the computers were taken by the police for examination. Such cases occur almost every day with small companies without media support.

How much would you trust such a government not to abuse the new filtering laws? How much would you trust any government in this matter? **On Amendments to Federal Law On Protecting Children from Information Harmful to Their Health and Development and Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation** is a Russian bill that entered into power on November 1st this year. There are already Internet filtering laws in Russia - this one just goes one more step in the same overall direction.

On the surface this is something nobody would oppose - who would not want our children to be better protected from all that internet filth? It is how the government can use the infrastructure

built for this internet filtering, the possibility of using this law as an excuse to shut down opposition websites that give us shivers. There is no judicial oversight on the inclusion in the blacklists and the Russian Pirate Party fears that it can be used to silence their site at some nevralgic moment and a month later when their appellation is heard by the court it will be too late.

Pirates are not the only one to oppose this bill. The Presidential Council for the Development of Civil Society Institutions and Human Rights criticized the bill for several reasons. The latest initiative in the fight against the bill is the [RuBlackList](#) website (in Russian) that will keep their own list of abuses of the official black list of sites that were improperly included on that list and, if necessary, instructions about alternative ways of accessing the blocked websites.

According to many sources Interned played an important role in the [2011 / 2012 Russian mass protests](#). Does it not seem suspicious that a few months later there is a plan for more control over the Internet communication?

Featured image: CC BY Paul Rassudov

Image Source: CC BY Paul Rassudov

Written by Zbigniew Å• ukasiak published at November 2, 2012

#exile6e â€“ a Pirate Docuseries



The European Parliament has long been criticized for a lack of transparency, both in the drafting

and decision making, as well as in the chances it leaves for citizens to understand how the parliament really works. In an attempt to increase the transparency, MEP Amelia Andersdotter from the Swedish Pirate Party has started a series of documentary webisodes, that recently started its second season.

The web series, entitled #exile6e, after the corridor in which Andersdotter work, shows the everyday activity of Andersdotter and her colleagues. Its first season was released throughout the summer of 2012, focusing on the vote and rejection of ACTA in three episodes, all around eight minutes long. The second season premiere was released in mid-October, with episode two released this Saturday. The team now plans a new episode at least once a month. The series is released through the Swedish Pirate Party YouTube channel, and all episodes are available under the Creative Commons Attribution license.

Pirate Times sat down with Tess Lindholm, who works as Andersdotter's communicator and leads the #exile6e project.

We wanted to make it easy for people to follow and understand Amelia's job as a parliamentarian. There is a lot of work behind every project and every decision, and recording the work done behind the scenes in the parliament was one way to make her work more comprehensible and accessible.

The first episode - "ACTA going down?" - now has over 1 500 views on YouTube, while the second season premiere - "Norwegian Stalkers" - has almost 800 after the first week. According to Lindholm, less than half of the viewers are Swedes. While audio is a mixture of English and Swedish, the entire series has English subtitles. The new season also features Dutch subtitles (French and Romanian are soon to come). The series has a clear international audience, with especially representative viewers in Germany and Belgium.

This is a new way of meeting a parliamentarian, and I think a lot of people like the transparency that the videos create. We are still in the process of learning so the series is getting better for every episode we make.

The idea of documenting parliamentary work may not be brand new, but the concept of a

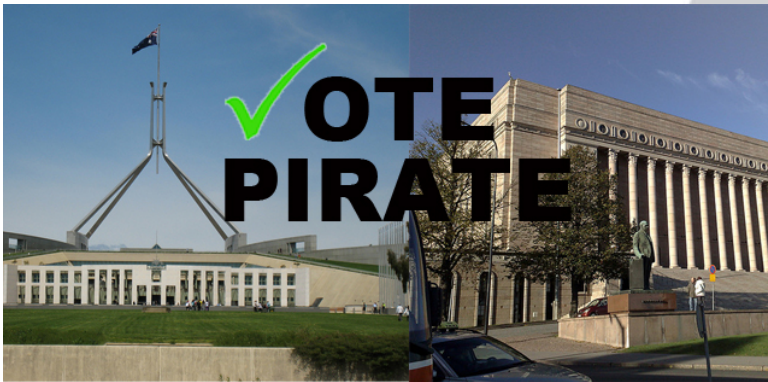
continuing, free and openly licensed web series certainly is.

Amelia Andersdotter's office is working hard to spread information about her work. You can follow her work on [a Facebook page](#), [a Twitter hashtag](#), [an Instagram account](#) and [an active blog](#), all containing many updates from Andersdotter and her assistants.

Featured image is CC BY Tess Lindholm.

Written by Anton Nordenfur published at October 30, 2012

You Canâ€™t Win Them All â€“ Election Results from Finland and the ACT



Pirates in two countries have had to face disappointing results in recent elections. While [the Swiss](#) and [the Czechs](#) are still celebrating recent electoral victories the Pirates of [Finland](#) and [the ACT region in Australia](#) must recharge their spirits from the recent low results.

Finnish Municipal Elections

On Sunday the 28th of October Finland had their municipal elections. The Finnish newspaper [Helsingin Sanomat](#) reported that the overall turnout for the election was "hugely disappointing". The election participation fell to 58.2 %, a decline of three percentage points from 2008. Even the nationalist Finn's Party, who in their prognosis was meant to do very well, ended up far from expectations. It seemed that Finland wanted to send a message of satisfaction with the current coalition and the Pirates were squeezed out along with the others. For the Finnish Pirate Party

the 0.2% they received were even more disappointing as they had done better in the 2011 parliamentary elections.

Australian Capital Territories Election

A little more than a week ago (20th of October) the Australian Capital Territories (ACT) region had their regional election. Because of the complicated counting procedures the results have just been made official. The ACT Pirates did not manage the surprise of winning a seat in their parliament either. As reported earlier, despite a last minute membership drive, PPAU were unable to reach the hurdle required to stand as a party in the regional election. The three candidates had to stand as independents and did quite well considering the circumstances. However they did not get far enough in the complicated preferential voting system that was used.

The candidates from both elections may not have gained any seats but they and their campaign staff have gathered valuable experience that will be of great value in the next round of elections. Not only for themselves but for the Pirate movement as a whole.

On a lighter note, here are three entertaining videos of the ACT candidates campaigning with the help of Lego: Glen Takkenberg, Stuart Biggs and Mark Gibbons. Maybe you could use as similar idea for a campaign in your region.

Featured image CC-BY-SA Pirate Times with content from wstryder and OzMark17

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at October 29, 2012

Austrian General Convention Made Clear Ship For Upcoming Elections



In Austria, the General Convention of Pirates, prepared the Party for the upcoming National Council elections in autumn 2013. It emphasised that both Germany and Austria could be electing their parliaments in the same season and where the success and fate of one Pirate Party could influence the results for the other through time-near publicity.

There is evidence that the ties between the German and Austrian Pirate Parties are not loose. It is not only the shared language - the Austrian party hopes to share a bit of the German success for the upcoming elections. Their neighbouring country's party has won every state election since the Pirates entered the City-and-State Parliament of Berlin, the Abgeordnetenhaus in 2011. The Germans are seen as one of the most successful Pirate Parties in the PPI alliance, despite the current weakness. To motivate members to work together and to obtain a share of this success, organisers invited outside help from Pirates experienced in conducting conventions to moderate the General Convention; namely Stefan Thöni (Switzerland), Jan Leutert and Stefan Körner (both from Germany).

The Austrian Pirates have been growing rapidly, over the past months, after celebrating a success in Innsbruck by entering the town hall. This can be seen as a win against highly bureaucratic electoral laws which are restrictive and disempowering for smaller parties and civil movements. Although Austria is not a politically hostile environment for Pirates, like Russia is, Austria's democracy has developed a very special form of political and economic corruption called Postenschacher (trading political offices), which is encouraged by even small unethical actions in and outside the parliament and other institutions and other factors like a lack of transparency. In exchange for the liberalising of electoral rights by introducing vote-by-mail and

decreasing the minimal age for voting to 16 and standing for election to 18, the National Council lengthened the current legislators' terms from four to five years. The National Council's situation worsened in 2008's early elections by the rise of right-conservative and right-liberal xenophobic parties, FPÖ and BZÖ.

In this political situation, The Pirates are bringing in a resolution of their own for immediate and absolute transparency, starting with the campaign, to convey their claim that the established politicians to do the same and for the state. They also resolved for a 5% share of council members' income for pirate's purposes. They pursuing **Open Access in education** and clarified their understanding of privacy by demanding state and companies return to obeying the Austrian law of data privacy from 2002. Great enthusiasm has been shown for Liquid Feedback, the current leading tool for Liquid Democracy, which is being used intensively by the Austrian Pirates. A common opinion, expressed in the General Convention, is to use Liquid Feedback more often for resolutions rather than just for conventions, which is already mirrored in the fact there are more resolutions from the federal Liquid Feedback instance than from the General Convention.

Read also: [Interview with Rodrigo Jorquera, Chairman for the Pirate Party Austria](#)

Pirate Party Austria <http://piratenpartei.at/> (German)

Featured Image CC-BY Edmund "eduardo" Humenberger

Written by Dominic Guhl published at October 28, 2012

Rodrigo Jorquera: "Participation of everyone will lead to a better government"



Rodrigo Jorquera, Chairman for the Pirate Party Austria, talked with us about how the Pirates go ahead to refresh austrian politics, the difficulties in rapidly growing movements and austrian plans for PPEU.

You have been re-elected for an Austrian Pirates' chairmanship. Congratulations! Which difficulties the Pirates in Austria embraced so far and which are coming?

In the past few months there have been several communication problems within the groups in the party caused by the huge growth. These have been solved gradually. After this General Convention, the pirates are pulling in the same direction to overcome challenges in future. The atmosphere in this convention has been constructive and harmonic, despite of different political approaches. We managed to return to an even keel. Now we only need to focus know-how, which our movement has doubtlessly, and channel it into a comprehensive programme.

You have determined yourself very early for absolute transparency, starting with your campaign. Do you want to give an example for the established parties?

We are an example for the established parties. The only effective means against the corrupt party system in Austria is that transparency the Pirate Party propagates. But I doubt it can be realized in the established parties. Humans with a political interest, who take transparency seriously, will come to appreciate the Pirates as an alternative and to contribute to the

movement.

Which role does the austrian form of corruption, the so-called Postenschacher, play in austrian politics and what are the Pirates' approaches against it?

If operatives are getting lifted into positions by their opinion and not by their qualifications, then it's a problem for every single citizen. Our internal processes are demonstrating already today our claims on our state tomorrow. Participation of everyone, including absolute transparency are necessities which will lead to a better government.

The FPÖ and BZÖ are regularly trying for attention with hostilities towards strangers with negative paroles. Will they save themselves into the next National Council with this agenda? Which points the Pirates will make in this matter?

I see the Pirate Party as an integrative power in Austria. We are against the will of making political profit out of resentments against minorities and social disadvantaged persons. Who doesn't have solutions, reinforces fear and fear is never a good advisor.

Which further problems will set the agenda for Austria in the upcoming campaign from the Pirates' view?

One of the most pressuring issues is the fight against corruption. A parliamentary committee for this matter has been ended undemocratically. We are convinced, that the initiation of such inquiries has to become a minorities' right like in Germany. The paralysis of the state by the bickering between the Parties for electoral purposes has to end. Progress can only be made by essential reforms, particularly in the matters of transparency and participation. Decisions like in the issue of Europe's Stability Mechanism (ESM), which are concerning everyone, have to be carried by a majority within the citizens from our point of view. Citizens must be able to participate in the democratic process.

The Federal Convention has been moderated from Pirates of Germany and Switzerland. Which thoughts and wishes conveyed your invitation to them and how close the Austrian Pirates feel connected with the other german-speaking Pirates?

Jan Leutert has been invited as an experienced conductor of conventions to realize a fluent and constructive convention. His routine and his permanently positive appearance brought many results and helped to comply with the tense time plan. Stefan Thöni and Stefan Körner are long term companions of the Pirates in Austria and stated ready to support Jan in moderating this event. We already adopted many programmatic ideas from Germany out of their Liquid Feedback initiatives, like the ticket-less transportation service, and we see many parallels in different thematic areas.

Pirates in different EU countries contribute to the foundation of a european Pirate Party. How an austrian contribution could look like?

Beside the conference of PPI in Prague in this years' May, where I attended as international delegate, I had the opportunity to meet many representants of the different Pirates organizations worldwide. By this, it came to intense talks in this direction. Through the wider line-up of the new Austrian executive board, I see the possibility to work more intensively in this matter. It's important that the movement of the Pirates is makes this next step into the direction of the European Parliament for fighting even there against corruption and for data protection. Concludently, directives like for data retention, are not contestable on the states' level, but only by the European Parliament. If you want to protect citizens for further incisions in their privacy, you have to get to the root of the problem.

Thank you for the time and our best wishes for the upcoming challenges.

The Interview has been conducted by Dominic Guhl for Pirate Times.

European Pirate Parties Protest Against INDECT



INDECT received another blow in the past weekend when joined forces of Pirate Parties and Anonymous took to the streets in several European countries.

The action, called "#OpINDECT", took place in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, Portugal, France and other countries in Europe and elsewhere. At least 32 Pirate Parties registered for the protest in Germany alone. While the day the protests were taking place (21 October 2012) was set in stone, the groups all over Europe came up with different creative approaches to inform the public about the dangers of INDECT.

The Pirate Party of Osnabrück (Lower Saxony, Germany) built a giant camera out of plastic and flower pots. One Pirate, dressed completely in black, wore the camera on his head and walked around the streets, pointing the camera at "suspicious" bystanders. Pirate Party member Katharina Nocun also found the camera **to be a great speaker's desk**. Other pirates approached groups of bystanders engaged in certain activities - for example, standing in one place for too long - and informed them that their kind of behaviour would raise suspicion and that they might become a target of police forces should INDECT become enacted.

The camera drew the attention of many, especially children. The Pirates used the positive

atmosphere to distribute flyers concerning INDECT and the Pirate Party, slowly beginning to campaign for the 2013 elections in Germany. In Berlin and Stuttgart (Germany), more than 300 participants for the protests were expected.

Other pirate parties, including the Pirate Party of Erfurt, [organized full-scale protests](#) or, like the Pirate Party of Frankfurt, [organized information booths about INDECT](#).

If enacted, INDECT would potentially pose a gigantic risk to privacy of millions of Europeans; The presentation of the project shows that INDECT enable a comprehensive automated monitoring of urban areas. The system should monitor ?suspicious behaviour? automatically, without human intervention and react accordingly. What suspicious behaviour can always be redefined. Thus, the monitoring exercise with INDECT is an indirect compulsion to behavioral adaptation. In addition, with INDECT the presumption of innocence is undermined, as it is possible to intervene before a crime or offense intended. This will enable European companies, that have developed surveillance and security equipment to expand and refine them using state funds . (Source: [Stopp Indect](#))

Further information: [INDECT Daily](#) / [Full list of protests](#) / [Information about INDECT](#)

Featured Image CC-BY Sarah Bade (@paperpetkitty)

Written by Jan Meyer published at October 28, 2012

Sunday Elections Look Promising for Piraten Basel



Last year's national elections, they took 1.92%, the best result until now for the Pirates in Switzerland. The local party in the town of Basel are now confident that the votes will reach the

needed 4%.

The excitement among the Pirates in Basel is contagious, spreading quicker than the flu. The election campaign brims full of passion and optimism for the results. All the nine candidates need is their 4%, and one of the hundred Council positions will be theirs.

Piraten Basel's platform, to create and implement a free Wi-Fi network infrastructure for the modern development of democracy, impacts everyone. Basel can become a digital model city networking residents, merchants, tourists. It can expand opportunities towards fluid democracy and an open government.

Piraten Basel, with its 145 very active members, has worked hard for its platform since November 2010. Cedric Meury, the first president of Basel Pirates, told Pirate Times about their last election:

We participated last year in the election for the National Council. Five seats belong to the Canton of Basel-Stadt and we sent three Pirates into the elections battleground. We knew however that our chances were very dim, but participating in elections is mandatory and draws new activists, media attention and overall heightened activity. It was a very good learning experience and we managed the best result of all Cantonal Pirate chapters in Switzerland. For this reason, the national Pirate Party set aside a large part of its funds for the PP of Basel's race for parliament. They are expecting a good result.

Elections for the Cantonal Council are very different from the national one. Piraten Basel is confident it can make the threshold of 4%, and that it can double its supporters in order of gaining at least one seat.

First, there are a hundred seats to be distributed, compared to five. So Piraten Basel reason that people will consider giving the Pirates a chance they wouldn't to the same extent in regional or national elections.

Second, a small but committed team of Pirates has worked a lot in campaigning for the Pirates. They had many activities on the streets, resulting in great media and political discussions. Going from 2% to 4% will be difficult, but Piraten Basel stands ready to open a bottle of champagne if they manage it.

Basel is located where the Swiss, French and German borders meet. Its diverse culture centre of important museums, homes of many international artists, and Switzerland's oldest university (established in 1460) exists in harmony with a significant chemical and pharmaceutical industry. Erasmus, Paracelsus and Nietzsche and many other well known scientists, thinkers and artists have lived in Basel, or continue to call Basel their home.

Maybe, a piratical chemical reaction will occur in Basel this Sunday, as in Eichberg, nearly a month ago, when **Pirate Alex Arnold was elected as the Mayor of the town.**

More info on Piraten Basel: [website](#), [Facebook page](#).

Featured image is CC-BY Patrick Schiffer & Piraten Basel.

Written by Stathis Leivaditis published at October 27, 2012

Pirates Ready for Municipal Elections on Sunday in Finland



We are hearing a lot about Sweden recently because of their massive **influx of new members** . But what of the other Nordic countries? It looks like Finland will be making the headlines in the coming days. The **Finnish Pirates** are fielding 121 candidates in 21 different municipalities in the municipal elections that are being held on Sunday 28 October 2012.

The Party

It is the biggest party, that does not yet have a representative in the country's parliament.

Considering that the party was first founded in the spring of 2008, this is a remarkable achievement. Their goal for these elections, is to rid local politics of the corruption inherent in the 'old boy's clubs' and they have manifestos to do just that.

New Voter Support

The 3,800 Finnish Pirates see this local elections as their best opportunity to become really involved in the political arena. In recent polls the party support can be found in the 18-28 year old range where they get 4.5% and in the secondary school 'shadow' elections where they got 5.5%. The Pirates seem attractive to first time voters.

The Manifestos

Common to all manifestos are the Pirate principles and furthermore, policies that are drafted to meet the needs of Finland and the individual municipalities therein.

These include:

- Transparency of local government
- The rule of law
- Direct democracy in local government
- The right to privacy in schools and workplace
- Equality in the provision of services and cultural activities
- Open licensing for education material for schools
- Open and uncensored online access for all residents through municipal services such as libraries and schools

Individual localities have special policies to meet local needs such as transport, taxation and healthcare provision. The policies are well thought out and expansive. The usual, lame charge of 'lack of content' cannot be laid at the door of the Finnish Pirate Party.

Â

We are looking forward to see a host of new people added to the list of those who can claim, 'I voted for a Pirate?.'

Â

Â

Piraattipuolue <http://piraattipuolue.fi/> (Finnish)

Pirate Party of Finland -Wikipedia [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pirate_Party_\(Finland\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pirate_Party_(Finland))

Featured image: by [ldhren](#) CC BY-SA

edit: corrected the amount of candidates to 121.

Image Source: by [ldhren](#) CC BY-SA <http://www.flickr.com/photos/ldhren/>

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at October 26, 2012

Thank you for reading our newsletter. If you for some reason do not want anymore newsletters you can [unsubscribe](#) from our newsletter. We always appreciate feedback for improving Pirate Times.

If you have comments, ideas or tips on news we would love to hear from you! Send a mail to: contact@piratetimes.net

