



Welcome to the fourteenth edition of the Pirate Times Newsletter.

To start with we wrote a report on the declaration on parliamentary openness. We continue with great news from Iceland, their Pirate Party is polling at 7.8% with just two weeks left until the elections.

Furthermore we bring you a article form our regular series on the pirate movement and call for actions to help to form a european pirate party.

We also have excellent news from the pirate party of Croatia, they could get enough votes to elect another pirate MEP.

We're ending with one of our quizzes and hope you enjoy the news and we're always happy for feedback, ideas or tips at contact@piratetimes.net

The Pirates Times Team

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

=== Contents ===

Politics For the People ? the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness

Pirate Party Iceland Polling at 7.8% with 17 Days Left Until Elections

The Pirate Movement on Facebook and Twitter ? March 2013

Pirate Times Review 01 ? 07 April 2013

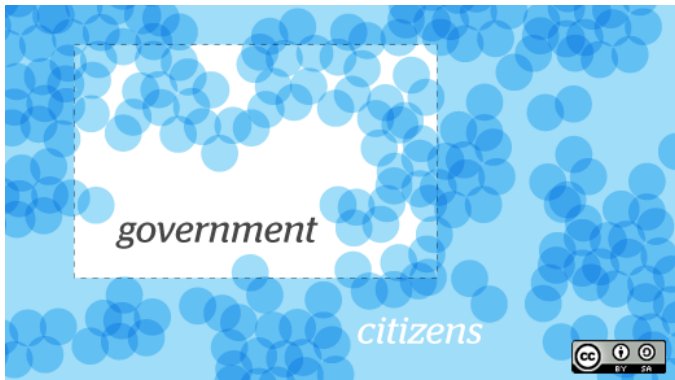
Call for Action to Help European Pirate Party Form

Croatian Pirates at the Gates of European Parliament

Pirate Times Quiz March 2013

Pirate Times Review 25 ? 31 March 2013

Politics For the People – the Declaration on Parliamentary Openness



With the help of the information age, Democracy is being "re-imagined" and there are several organizations outside of parliaments trying to open up this information for the people. Andrew Mandelbaum, of the [National Democratic Institute](#), [describes](#) a Parliamentary Monitoring Organization (PMO) as "organizations that are involved in monitoring and evaluating parliaments, helping to engage citizens in the legislative process, and support the democratic strengthening of parliaments". More than [190 PMO's](#) exist around the world but up until lately the collaboration and exchange of ideas between them has been very limited.

The creation of a normative framework, known as the [Declaration on Parliamentary Openness](#), brought together PMO's from more than 38 countries in discussing how it should be formed. The declaration was officially launched on the International Day of Democracy in 2012 (September 15). Today the declaration has more than 120 PMO supporters in 73 countries. It is available in [14 languages](#) and hopefully a few more soon with [your help](#).

[The declaration](#) has four parts:

creating a culture in society where openness and citizen engagement are respected and

encouraged

- making more information available
- using different channels for broadcasting parliamentary information
- open data standards

The existence of these four parts helps a parliament identify where they are weak and put their focus on adjusting that part. A normative framework is a start to creating suggestions forming and promoting advocacy around the world (some of the examples can be seen in the time-line below). It has also been proven to increase the collaboration between different PMO's across the world.

With the help of the declaration it has been easier to discuss and introduce new standards into the parliamentary debates when showing that many of the issues proposed have been suggested and approved in other countries. Melissa, from 'Fundar' in Mexico, has found she gets **more response** from the parliament when she encourages them, "Let's try to do like Brazil!", instead of their previous strategy of trying to shame them by rankings.

A time-line of events related to the declaration of parliamentary openness:

Featured image: CC-BY-SA - opensource.com

Written by Josef Ohlsson Collentine published at April 12, 2013

Pirate Party Iceland Polling at 7.8% with 17 Days Left Until Elections



With only 17 days left until their elections the Pirate Party of Iceland has reached 7.8% in their **latest polling by MMR**. The polling was done on 906 subjects aged 18-67 years during 5-8th of April. Having the voters of +67 years excluded from this polling means that the result needs to be adjusted slightly down-wards but we still see a big increase from the last prediction of 3.9% from the 21st of February.

"The future is in the hands of people who understand the Internet, and the future that it will create is beautiful." - Jon Thor Olafsson

Birgitta says that the Pirates have done very good on TV debates lately. The "killing" of the crowd-sourced constitution is surely another factor that angered several people enough to switch their votes. This latest poll puts the Pirates as the fifth largest party in Iceland with a tiny 0.3 % behind the "Left Green" party. If this increase in support continues PPIS will have no problem reaching the 5% hurdle of entering the parliament on April 27th and thereby become the first Pirate Party with people elected on a national level.

Written by Josef Ohlsson Collentine published at April 10, 2013

The Pirate Movement on Facebook and Twitter – March 2013



During the month of March the Pirate movement grew by 5,746 followers on Facebook and 4,242 followers on twitter. This brings the total amount of people following a Pirate Party on Facebook or Twitter to 700,744 people.

Facebook

Sweden saw a loss in followers, most likely due to [the recent move](#) of The Pirate Bay (TPB) servers which some supporters saw as "not standing up for their values" even though the decision ultimately was taken by TPB themselves. The decline for the German Pirate Party continues from the internal struggles currently present inside the party, they have been decreasing every month from [September last year](#). The Romanian ACTA group keeps losing relevance and thereby followers as well.

On the positive side we have Tunisia increasing due to local activity and the [World Social Forum](#) (WSF) that took place there. Brazil have gotten active with their organization and are starting to disseminate and increase awareness in their country. Croatia and Iceland have clearly grabbed some attention for their upcoming elections and both increase with almost 1000 followers. The two new parties of Poland and Norway also see a continued interest and a high proportional growth. If someone has more info about the growth in Colombia and Morocco or something else to add please do so in the comments!

Twitter

Here we see a decrease in followers for Germany's twitter account for the first month. Despite heavy losses month-to-month on Facebook they have kept growing on twitter until now. France

continues to treat their twitter account good and keeps their previous good growth. Sweden, surprisingly seeing their decline on Facebook, shows a strong growth on twitter. Croatia shows a high proportional growth from their campaigning whilst Iceland's growth here is more moderate.

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.

*Why is there "Countryname 1" and "Countryname 2" for some countries? - Because of internal struggles in that country with two pirate parties both claiming to be the official one. I would rather not waste my time on determining which is legitimate and which not and therefore I add both statistics until it is cleared up.

*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 Catalonia and Galicia are measured separately is that they are quasi-autonomous regions, independent from Spain.

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Written by Josef Ohlsson Collentine published at April 9, 2013

Pirate Times Review 01 - 07 April 2013



Pirate Times Review

A regular review of some things that passed the Pirate Times by in the previous week and a preview of some events coming in the week ahead.

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The week in review 01 - 07 April 2013

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□01 April PPRU held their online Congress

□03 - 7 April Birgitta Jónsdóttir from PPIS in New York drawing public attention to the plight of

Bradley Manning

- 04 - April 404 Democracy not found Day was celebrated
- Live streaming [video broadcast](#) from the office of [Amelia Andersdotter](#) on the subject of digital freedoms strategy of EU.
- 06 April [Pirate Con](#) was held in Columbus Ohio

Some events that should be interesting for Pirates in the coming week

- 10 April Third EU Citizens' [Initiative against water privatization](#)
- 11 April Live streaming [video broadcast](#) from the office of [Amelia Andersdotter](#).
- 14 April [Croatian European Parliament Elections](#)

Featured image: by [chase_elliot](#) CC BY

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at April 7, 2013

Call for Action to Help European Pirate Party Form



The European Parliament will be voting on a crucial dossier which details the conditions under which a European Political party may be registered and receive funding. Some amendments have been tabled, but the draft report risks ending up benefiting the mostly old, monolithic and not-very-united-across-borders political parties. To help, you can send an e-mail to one (or several) of the Members of European Parliament (MEP) found at

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/afco/members.html>

Below is an example letter written by MEP Amelia Andersdotter.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please give European citizens the chance to register REAL PARTIES, carried by REAL CITIZENS instead of blocking competition from new parties, as the present legislative proposal does. As Member of the European Parliament, it will soon be in your hands to decide about the proposed Regulation for European political parties and foundations (COM (2012)499, aka "Giannakou-report").

With the existing proposals by the Commission and the rapporteur, real European parties - like the Pirate party - would be barred from registering as a European party! On the other hand, the proposal allows any 7 politicians - if they are members of the EP, national or regional parliaments and are from different Member States - to register as a "European party". If one of them is an MEP, they would be even eligible to receive funds - an opportunity already used vigorously by right wing extremist formations and politicians!

Please help this regulation to become one that really serves European citizens by allowing a vivid and diverse political landscape to flourish - instead of just safeguarding the interest of existing groups in the EP! Don't feed the euro-sceptics with campaign ammunition!

Therefore, please SUPPORT the Amendments 89, 93 and 248 that would make it possible for parties that are legally established in at least seven Member States to register a European political party - and that would ensure that only those registered parties would receive EU funding that have won a minimum level of electoral support in recent elections!

VOTE FOR AMs 89, 93 and 248! Please also VOTE AGAINST Amendments 28 and 29 tabled by the rapporteur that would change the distribution key for the founding for the benefit of only the 3 largest groups! There is not a single valid reason to support such a redistribution, apart from abusing the majority in the EP for those groups own benefit. This is certainly also not

something European voters would honour next year!

Thanks a lot,

Any questions about the voting can be sent to [Amelia's office](#)

Campaigns are always more efficient in the politicians mother-tongue. You can help the translation task force by translating the above letter to different languages at

<https://tff.piratenpad.de/8>

Featured image: CC by [European Parliament](#)

Written by Josef Ohlsson Collentine published at April 6, 2013

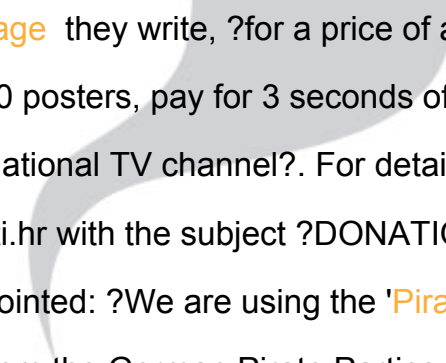
Croatian Pirates at the Gates of European Parliament



Historic Elections

Are we going to be celebrating the entry of an additional Pirate MEP in the European Parliament? The answer lies in the hands of the Croatian citizens and we will find out on 14 April 2013 when their first, historic EU election will be held in that country. Polls in Croatia have shown that 'Piratska Stranka' (PPHR) is attracting 6.4% of the voters (surpassing the limit of 5%), more than enough to elect an MEP!

Officially registered to PPI (Pirate Parties International) last April and with 150 members today doing their best, PPHR also needs help from fellow European pirates. "At the moment we are short on every possible resource: including funds, materials and people. If you could do some fundraising for us, it would help a lot. Also, if you could organize some people willing to come to Croatia, we can provide free accommodation for a few couch surfers. Bringing your materials, flags, t-shirts and so on. We think this would have a great impact on our voters? they told Pirate Times.



In their [international information page](#) they write, "for a price of a coffee in a large European city (6 - 10?) you can help us put up 20 posters, pay for 3 seconds of radio coverage in prime time or 1 second of prime time on the national TV channel?. For details regarding donations please contact Ivan Ozvatic at ivoz@pirati.hr with the subject "DONATION?". Describing their manifesto to Pirate Times Croatian Pirates pointed: "We are using the '[Pirate Codex](#)' from Pirates Without Borders and our positions come from the German Pirate Parties with some changes and tweaks to support local issues. We have two strong local centres, one is the capital Zagreb and the other is Rijeka on the coast. We would also dispatch some people on the eastern cities like Osijek.?"

Pirate candidates

Elections will be held "using a unitary list. Croatia will represent a single constituency and voters can choose any candidate from any party they wish. At the top of PPHR's list is a woman, Maša Utković, who was recently elected as the president of the board of PPHR. Maša has already travelled to Brussels and met with Swedish MEP Amelia Andersdotter for support and advice during the pre-election race. Fellow candidates, in the upcoming elections, are Ivan Voras, Miroslav Ambruš-Ki, Goran Kauzlari, Ivan Ozvati, Sonja Pape, Marko Sušić, Dario Vidović, Marko Doko, Juraj Fleiss, Hrvoje Jegjud and Bojan Kopitar. You can read more about

them on their [candidate page](#).

In last year's European Union membership referendum the voter turn out in Croatia only [reached 43,51%](#). A percentage which indicates that Croatians are not that interested in Europe and there is a prediction that only 1 in 4 voters will show up to the EU Parliamentary polls. In the elections Croatia has 28 parties and 336 candidates that will [compete for the 12 seats](#).

The elections in Croatia are a big and crucial test for the pirate movement in Europe. They are a forerunner of the battle of next year's EU elections and will give an indication of the intentions of European citizens. It is well known that voting in EU elections is loose and voters find the opportunity to 'punish' major parties for their policies. If PPHR succeeds and wins a seat in the European Parliament, this will help lift a ground swell for pirate parties in Europe and worldwide.

Two Belgian Pirates are in Croatia helping the Croatian Pirate Party. You can find the daily coverage of Koen & Paul in [their blog](#).

Featured image: by PPHR CC BY-SA

Image Source: CC BY-SA PPHR

Written by Stathis Leivaditis published at April 4, 2013

Pirate Times Quiz March 2013



Here is the second Pirate Times Quiz based on the news published during March 2013 with some Pirate trivia added.

The questions are in a multiple choice format and each correct answer reveals a letter at the end of the quiz. The collected letters will build up a word or a phrase that is related to the Pirate movement. Participate by sending that word (or phrase) with your name or alias. This will place you in a draw for winning the prize. The winner of the draw will be sent a piece of treasure from the Pirate Times treasure chest. Entries must be in by 8 March 2013 CET and the winner will be announced in the following Pirate Times "P-review", published every Tuesday.

Entries should be sent to the email address andrew@piratetimes.net with the subject line 'Pirate Times Quiz'.

Rules:

- Only one entry per person
- Late entries will not be entered in the draw
- Draws will be made using [Random Picker](#)
- Copying the correct answer from someone else is allowed and even encouraged. Kopimi!
- Email addresses will not be kept past the end of the draw except to get the details of the

winner.

To the QUIZ

(The quiz cannot run on our site due to a bug. Therefore we are hosting it on Andrew's site until it can be fixed. [Click here to proceed](#))

Featured image: by [Tony Aceves](#)

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Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at April 3, 2013

Pirate Times Review 25 - 31 March 2013



Pirate Times Review

A regular review of some things that happened in the previous week and a preview of some events coming in the week ahead.

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The week in review 25 - 31 March 2013

☐ 27 March [Document Freedom Day](#)

☐ 28 March a [video broadcast](#) on the subject of e-Identification from the office of Pirate MEP

[Amelia Andersdotter](#).

□31 March [Bitcoin total value topped \\$1 billion](#)

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Some events that should be interesting for Pirates in the coming week

□03 April Birgitta Jónsdóttir from the Pirate Party of Iceland travels to New York in support of Bradley Manning

□04 April a live [video broadcast](#) by Pirate MEP [Amelia Andersdotter](#) from her homeland of Sweden.

□ 04 April Birgitta Jónsdóttir will be speaking at [Yes Lab](#)

□ 05 April [Panel event](#) in support of Bradley Manning

□06 April [Pirate Con](#)

&!--Featured image: by [chase_elliot](#) [CC BY](#)-->

Featured image: by [chase_elliot](#) [CC BY](#)

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at April 1, 2013

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We always appreciate feedback for improving Pirate Times.

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