



Welcome to the summary of recent Pirate Times news!

Unfortunately the person previously responsible for sending out these summaries had to leave Pirate Times. With the summer vacations and low activity over all we managed to miss sending out these summaries the past three months. We are now back to regularly sending them out though.

Here comes a GIANT news summary spanning many news. I recommend the PDF so you can print it out and read it calmly [%PDF_LINK%](#)

Some of the main events is the continued development of PPEU, which will help unite European Pirate Parties, is moving along smoothly. The Youth Pirate Parties have already managed to form an international collaboration called YPE. Icelandic Pirates recently formed a youth Pirate Party and plan to join as well. Brazilian activity is increasing and they are looking to gather 500.000 signatures to officially form their party. We write about how the Happy Birthday song was stolen from us and a little later we write about Pirate Times celebrating our first birthday. One of our most well read articles we have published explains how recent law changes make Internet piracy similar to torture in Spain.

Thanks for reading and please help by spreading the news you find interesting to your friends.

Thanks,

Josef (on behalf of Pirate Times)

=== Contents ===

Internet and Social Media as Tools of Freedom

Amidst #Prism and #Tempora Scandals, German Pirates Get Their Groove Back

Prism: Who should we trust?

Interview with a Turkish Pirate about the Protests in #gezipark

Ed Snowden's bid for Asylum ? Live Updates

How a Swarm of Pirates Can Redefine Politics According to Rick Falkvinge

UK Pirates to decide PPUK's international direction

Privatisation of Security and the Loss of Liberty

GREEK PUBLIC RADIO & TV PIRATE BROADCASTS

Happy Birthday was Stolen From Us

Flattr Appreciation During May Euro 20.49

Pirates Rally to Support Whistle-blower Edward Snowden

P-review 3-9 June 2013 with Videos and Podcasts

Network Neutrality ? What it is and where is it going?

What is the European Data Protection Regulation?

Ukraine Pirate Party hit by Spam Attack

Crypto Currency: A Funding Method for PPGR

The European Manifesto Of The German Pirate Party

Quiz for May 2013 ? Win Marina Weisband's Book

According to Spanish Law, internet piracy is the same as torture

Austria Invites International Pirates to their General Assembly

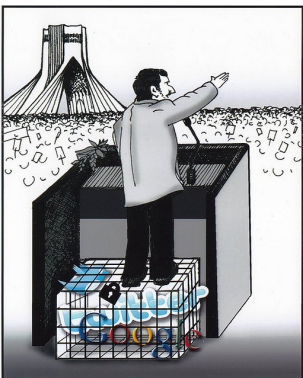
History In The Making: First Ever Pirate Unionist Elected In Athens

Introduction of the Pirate Party of South Korea

PIRATES OF DENMARK KEEPERS OF TRANSPARENCY

Swedish Pirates Want to Send Minister of Justice to Mars
Copyright Preventing Public Statue from Appearing in Media
Young Pirates of Sweden to Hire ?Election Admiral?
Digital Goods as a Public Good
What is the TPP? (The Big Brother of ACTA Explained)
Iceland?s Parliament Viewer, Keeping Track of Politicians
Icelandic Pirates Found a Youth Wing
Here Comes the European Pirate Party
Happy Birthday Pirate Times! 1 Year of Pirate News
An Open Letter From Pirate Party Brazil About Their Progress
Flattr Appreciation During July Euro 7.75
Young Pirates of Europe Has Been Founded
What is a Surveillance State and is it Good For You?
The Game of Politics : Book Review
UK Prime Minister calls for further Web Blocking
Russian Pirates Battle Piracy Laws
The Pirate Party UK Will Remain an Ordinary Member of Pirate Parties International
A Pirate?s Monologue on Change
Luxembourgish government fell apart, re-elections in October

Internet and Social Media as Tools of Freedom



On 18 June 2013 a joint conference titled "Internet and Social Media as Tools of Freedom" was organized by MEPs [Pawel Zalewski](#) (EPP) and [Amelia Andersdotter](#) (Greens/EFA). The aim of

the conference was to discuss the role of the Internet and social media in revolutions for building civil societies. The conference was held as a two hour panel debate with the help of several invited guests: [Lina Ben Mhenni](#) (Tunisian blogger), [Gürkan Özturan](#) (Turkish blogger), [Katarzyna Szymielewicz](#) (President of [Panoptykon Foundation](#)) and [Jarosław Lipszyc](#) (President of [Nowoczesna Polska Foundation](#)).

The use of technical tools to spread ideas is anything but new. The internet is just the latest, most complex and efficient way of transmitting information and providing access to conversations: it creates shared awareness. The ability of the Internet and social media to serve as spaces for discussion is crucial ? this is how civil society and political opinions are formed. This strengthens the public sphere, grants more opportunities to engage in public speech and enables citizens to undertake collective action. In addition, the coordinating role of social media cannot be overestimated. Using Twitter and Facebook protesters can organize in an easy way that does not require any formal organizations, that helps to save time, and does not involve big funds.

The conference will focus on recent events in Turkey, the revolution in Tunisia that was part of the Arab Spring and on mass protests against ACTA in Poland. All of these events have one thing in common ? their participants: unhappy with their government's actions they have decided to act and are using the internet to organize themselves.

The panel debate took place inside the European Parliament with a room full of interested listeners. Some people also followed the debate via the live-stream provided. I you want to watch it yourself, [a recording of the stream](#) is available, or you can keep reading the summary below.

Pawel Zalewski started off the conference with an opening speech that showed his understanding for both the powers and weaknesses that Internet can provide. He stressed that the Internet and social media are not what causes revolutions, but merely helpful tools. Internet is a tool for freedom. We must not give up our freedoms, even if many of the people trying to control the Internet often do it with good intentions.

The panel debate was organized in a manner where each of the invited guests got an opportunity to speak about their situations and how the Internet and social media has been used. Between the speeches, Amelia and Pawel took turns giving a few comments and introducing the next speaker. After the speeches a short time was allotted for questions (which unfortunately was limited to the attendees present, excluding the questions that came over social media).

Lina Ben Mhenni

The first invited guest was the Tunisian blogger Lina Ben Mhenni who talked about the importance of social media for mobilizing people and how crucial they were for communicating with the rest of the world. Journalists were not allowed in Tunisia to investigate so they had to rely on Skype and other tools for their news stories.

The role of internet has been exaggerated, the most important role is played on the ground. Lina has an ambivalent view on Internet. She mentioned that Ben Ali (their former president) was gone but that the entire system was still in place, creating a need for Internet as a tool of attention. She also stressed that it is not enough and that traditional media are still needed to reach people and get attention from abroad to spread news of what is currently happening in Tunisia.

The bloggers in Tunisia have freedom of speech and can express what they want but they take a big risk doing so, the line between what is ok and what crosses the line being very diffuse. Recently a rap singer was sentenced to 2 years in prison for insulting a police officer in his song that was uploaded on Internet. She mentioned that journalists and bloggers were often abused and that every week trials against them take place in Tunisia.

Lina brought up that Internet and social media have lost efficiency because they are well used for propaganda in Tunisia now. Many political parties make use of them by employing "twisters of truth" to spread propaganda that makes extremist parties become "moderate parties" and

other false informations. The persons employed to "twist the truth" not easy to fight, as non-paid freedom fighters have often lack time to face the defamation campaigns and other tricks used. Internet is not only a tool for freedom in Tunisia anymore. Lina ended her speech by saying that The revolution is still going on. We need your help, we need your attention still.

Before introducing the next speaker, Amelia took the opportunity to reflect over what Lina had said and mentioned that: "When we talk about Tunisia here in Europe, we are more talking about the role it has for informing us than it does for mobilizing inside the country".

Gürkan Özturan

The second guest to speak was the Turkish blogger Gürkan who decided to focus on the oppression, by the Turkish government, of free speech. He opened up by mentioning that Turkey was the 154th country in the world for freedom of the press. When news emerge, the Turkish journalists normally keep silent until the "official" version about the events is released from the government, which they can comment on in their articles. The Turkish government takes a very defensive approach calling unwanted events "terrorist actions" and telling the reporters that they promote terrorism if they report them. Newspapers that report things the government does not like are often asked to fire the editors responsible or at least "keep them on tighter control". The media bosses often have investments in various other sectors of the economy. This creates a reliance on government support in these sectors to maintain their profits, essentially making them very reliant on the good will of the government. Independent journalism exists but has had a hard time of sustaining itself for longer periods of time.

Besides the pressure the government puts on newspapers, they also "twist the truth" in other ways. One way is by reversing film footage, for example instead of showing protesters backing defending themselves from police it is made to look like the protesters are the aggressive ones attacking the police. Much criticism has also been directed towards local affiliates of international news services in the country, e.g. CNN Turkey, who was broadcasting penguin documentaries, whilst the protests where raging on the streets.

Gürkan said that "[p]eople need to be triggered and see SM as a last resort for social uprising

and sharing to take place". Now that many of the protests are being organized through social media the prime minister called social media for "evil and misleading". The government is aware of the influence that social media has and sends e-mails to accounts with many followers offering them big money if they sell their accounts. Gürkan ends with saying that:

Big Brother should be aware of the little siblings.

Katarzyna Szymielewicz

Next up was Katarzyna who is working to "translate" the protests into political change through policies for politicians. Pawel mentioned that Poland was not fighting directly for democracy but towards the access of culture, freedom of expression and to maintain a free internet. He asked the next two speakers what could be done to "maintain free internet in democratic societies".

Katarzyna brought up the point that they fought for "some kind of understanding for internet freedom" and mentioned that they were fortunate in Poland having politicians who listen to concerns. Just like Lina she brought up the point that internet is not fundamentally for good but can also be used against democracy. Some methods are to use fake pictures, altered messages and other manipulations in social media. Katarzyna also mentions that it is also a tool that almost always leaves traces of information behind, thus making it a great tool for surveillance. The Internet can also be a tool that sells our privacy, through the big corporations to whom we entrust sensitive or personal information.

Katarzyna asks how we can use Internet and move towards a more positive use. Laws don't always work (e.g. PRISM) and more safeguards are needed. Katarzyna also sees a big failure of a use social media that is normally referred to as "click-tivism" (digital activists clicking like but not doing anything to change the situation).

She ends her speech by bringing up that the "big challenge is translating what we do online to real politics". Translators are needed to transform these protests into a language understandable for mainstream media and politics.

Everyone should find their own part where they can help.

Jarosław Lipszyc

Jarosław started off by going back in time, describing how he got access to his first e-mail address in 1993 by illegal means (bribing a server admin to create a fake account for him). Having access to IRC and an e-mail gave him an enormous empowerment, he felt he had access to the entire world. When looking back Jarosław mentions some important changes that happened with the Internet over time. In the beginning, people fully controlled their tools (e.g. e-mail server on home computer) while they lost much of this power today (e.g. smart-phone with built in app-store controlling what you can install).

We do not control the internet. We do not control these tools. The powers we are given, only work as long as the tools we rely on work (e.g. twitter)

Internet was created as a distributed communication tool, a method towards redundancy for the government if their communication was attacked during war times. Jarosław puts emphasis on that the Internet was not created as a tool for control and surveillance. He says that it was "designed to be a tool in hands of the people" [Editors note: I believe this empowerment of people was more a side-consequence of the original use the military had for it than its original purpose].

The people have lost a lot of power and currently more of it is transferred to "the cloud". A lot of our control has been given away to big companies such as Amazon, Apple, Facebook and Twitter. These companies are looking for revenue sources, making us the products and the advertisers the clients of our data. We sold our control "for a bunch of PHP scripts because it's the easier way".

One way of getting our machines back is through the help of free software. The question about free infrastructure is much harder since we never had control over this. Legal and technical reasons will stop the people controlling the cables from disappearing and will ensure our continued dependence on them for this.

We do not only need to defend our rights, we need to start and build the tools.

Discussion

After each guest had talked, the room was opened up to questions and more general remarks from the panel [editors note: unfortunately I was not fully present so only caught parts of this final discussion]. Pawel started off by saying that it was "completely against human rights to control who shares information, experiences and emotions". He continued by saying: Internet should belong to us, we shouldn't only be a subject to companies, the public area should belong to us. Therefore it should be framed in the way that for example culture is not only a matter of trade. We should think over, again, the internet zone.

A question from the audience followed asking what role the EU could play in helping countries reach more democracy. Lina said that EU needs to support the people more instead of the regimes (something that is very hard to do in a political environment). Gürkan mentioned that ever since Turkey applied for EU membership people have learnt more about civil liberties and it is much thanks to EU that Turkey is experiencing this revolution. Pawel follows up this by saying that a broader opening into EU for countries could stimulate progress in a similar way as in Turkey.

Amelia continues by answering a question about internet in the role of the "commercial sector". She says there is a discrepancy between "what we do here and the commercial sector". Amelia also says that we need to think more about values we want in society instead of the "sales pitches" from various commercial interests that come in.

Internet is not like roads anymore, more like water. It's critical infrastructure in our society that we rely on for every action. e.g. going for coffee, we need to make an appointment and we need to pay - Jaroslaw

Jaroslaw continues and says that internet is "too important to just leave to the commercial sector". He says that we need to protect ourselves from lobbying and Katarzyna agrees by mentioning that citizens don't have money for lobbyists, only their represented electorates that they have put trust in.

Politicians can never ignore lobbyists. We politicians are lobbyists as well. - Katarzyna

Jaroslaw concluded by mentioning some things that we can do in future to improve the situation.

We should teach kids how to cipher e-mails. We don't need better tools right now, just more knowledge about encryption to ensure our privacy. The importance of network neutrality has to be enforced.

Images: featured pic = CC-BY [Noure Azadi](#) // television = CC-BY [Mark Gstohl](#) // rebel = CC-BY [Surian Soosay](#)

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Written by Josef Ohlsson Collentine published at July 3, 2013

Amidst #Prism and #Tempora Scandals, German Pirates Get Their Groove Back



A rough year for Germany's Pirate Party

After a year of internal discord and coordinated work to broaden their political platform, the [German Pirates](#) are now focusing on campaigning for the federal election this coming 22 September 2013. Critical media reports have voiced dismay over the lack of internal organization, as well as the very public "shitstorms" on twitter and through other media. Both of these factors have resulted from last year's hype, during which the Pirate Party Germany polled as high as 12% nation-wide, to PPDE's collapse, leaving the polls stagnant between [2-4%](#).

So what does this mean for the German Pirate's election campaign? The rise in membership

and public perception began in 2009, when the issue of internet censorship was brought up in Germany over a debate on child pornography, and culminated during the world wide protests against ACTA. Because of this many Pirates and sympathizers felt that the Party needs to head back to their core issues: privacy, open data, a strong stance against surveillance and the resulting infringement on civil rights. A survey that was conducted in February among party members, shortly after the resounding failure to clear the 5% hurdle and to get into state parliament of the Pirates in Lower Saxony, revealed something interesting in this regard. While most Pirates know full well that the ongoing Euro-crisis and the problems of the aging social welfare state will be some of the most discussed problems of the political debate leading up to the election, the majority of Pirates still wants to run a campaign based on the party's core issues of civil and digital rights.

The problem with core-issues

What sounds like a logical step, given the Pirate's rise in popularity around these topics, is in fact not easy to pull off in Germany. Three main factors hinder a successful campaign, that would rely solely on digital issues and their civil rights implications.

Firstly, the majority of German voters are over 50 years old, while most of the younger voters between the ages of 18 to 25, refrain from voting at all. And while older Germans use the internet frequently, it is hard to communicate the urgency of issues, such as Net-neutrality and Big Data. Most of these older voters use their online communication more as a one-on-one tool, for example sending emails instead of letters. The level of social networking and organization that younger people have cultivated online internationally, is often-times seen as a problem (?internet addiction? etc.) rather than a way of life, that is endangered by restrictive measures by companies, or surveillance by governments.

Secondly, when digital rights and issues are discussed, it very rarely happens in the general public sphere but rather online, or amongst Internet-activists. This leaves the discussion in a bubble of twitter, facebook groups, blogs and conventions which are completely set apart from mainstream media who caters towards an older demographical group. This makes it hard for the Pirate Party to set the public debate and to highlight those issues, the areas where they are

more competent and skilled than the other political parties.

Thirdly, while the Pirate Party initially was the logical political home for internet activists, many of them have voiced strong criticism of the Pirates for abandoning their core platform, in favor of broadening their political scope and appeal to the public at large. This criticism is not entirely unfounded, however, it has to be said that since the world-wide protest movements against ACTA, internet activism lacked a cause fundamental enough to rally activists across borders and party lines.



Hopes for a comeback

This diffusion of interests and public debate surrounding internet issues, has abruptly come to an end with the recent revelations of whistle-blower Edward Snowden. The Pirates used to be more or less indulged and patronized for their fear of Orwellian government surveillance. This changed with the news about the US-surveillance program **PRISM** and its even further reaching British counterpart **TEMPORA**, which have both have justified the Pirates' harping on the issue of privacy in the digital age. While many Pirates were nonetheless shocked, that their worst fears are, in fact, justified, all of them draw new energy from the news. The German Pirate Party will not make anyone forget that the other political parties in Germany, were either wilfully compliant and silent on the extent of internet surveillance, or just completely unaware.

So Pirates take to the streets once more, organizing demonstrations not just amongst themselves, but also across party lines. Online they participated in creating and ratified an international manifesto, that details the global Pirate Parties' demands to increase online data protection and an end to the persecution of Edward Snowden (www.antiPRISM.eu) An online Petition, filed by **Anke Domscheit-Berg**, who is a candidate in the upcoming election, had already collected over 40,000 signatures in less than one week. In it, the member of the German

Pirate Party demanded, that Angela Merkel address #PRISM during US President Obama's visit to Berlin last week.

The issue of surveillance might just be the platform the Pirate Party needed to revive it's core strengths their youthfulness compared to the other parties, their familiarity with new media and issues surrounding the digital age, and their technical know-how when it comes to making government more easily accessible and transparent to its population through Open Data and Open Access.

The struggle for mobilization

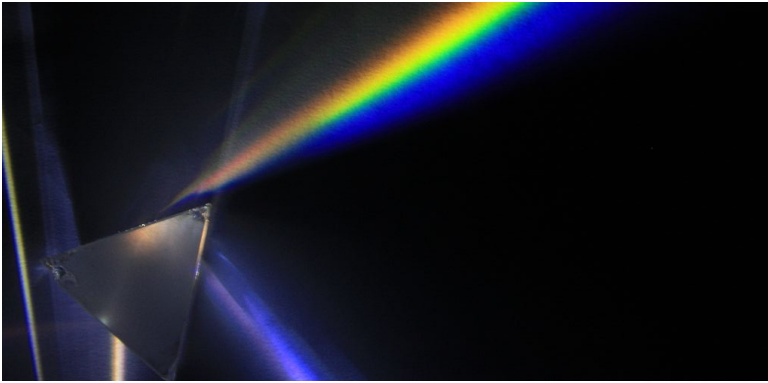
However, the problems outlined earlier remain. If the German Pirates can maintain, or even ignite, the population's interest, their chances of mobilizing enough voters to get them into parliament are good. However, in a country, where many people respond to PRISM with "Why should I care, if I have nothing to hide" and the fear of terrorist attacks has been used to justify the restriction of civil liberties, this is not without difficulty. On the other hand, Germany's particular history of state surveillance by the Stasi in East Germany, makes the issue more accessible to voters there, than in the UK.

What will make or break this election for the German Pirate Party hinges on whether they are capable of obtaining the public support of political activists, while still remaining at the forefront of the protests media coverage. Many activists have grown tired of supporting a political party that seemed intent on just dealing with its internal issues. The recent revelations on just how far reaching government surveillance is, could be significant enough to mend those bridges for the sake of an issue that is, ultimately, far more important than the upcoming election.

Image Source: humanoid23 <http://www.flickr.com/photos/29909773@N08/>

Written by Felicitas Steinhoff published at June 26, 2013

Prism: Who should we trust?



Prism: Who should we trust?

As odd as it may seem, I agree with the various statements that have been made over the last few days that the UK has some incredibly robust and sensible rules when it comes to intelligence gathering. Of course I would like to see some tightening up, especially in terms of who has access and who should be permitted to authorise surveillance - and that this has to be adhered to. I think that comes out in the fact that there haven't been the kinds of huge leaks by disenfranchised individuals within the UK services.

But we don't do enough to protect whistleblowers and we certainly could do more.

Whistleblowers

Whistleblowers have done more to protect the societies in which they live than most people realise, often at great cost to themselves and those around them. Those that were identified are often not recognised as having done the right thing even years after their revelations. At home and abroad, they have been ridiculed, ostracised, persecuted, prosecuted even exiled.

In the UK, the biggest political story of 2009, [the MPs' expenses scandal](#), came to light when a still unknown whistle-blower leaked four years worth of data on MP's expense claims. That leak included every receipt, every claim and even correspondence between MPs' and fees office staff, and of course the whistle-blower was criticised - there were questions as to whether the law had been broken by the whistle-blower and the police were notified. Yet the leak had been made and it had an almost immediate effect.

Not only did we see the resignation of six ministers, sackings, de-selections and early retirement announcements, but several members or former members of Parliament and the Lords were

prosecuted and found guilty.

Possibly more importantly, the scandal created pressure for political reform, both related to expenses and to other parts of MPs' public lives. All in all, it is a leak that continues to have an impact on our political discourse.

Whistleblowing in the NHS (UK's free at-the-point-of-need National Health Service) has unearthed a number of scandals too, again at great personal cost to the whistle-blowers. The [Scandal involving Mid Staffordshire Hospitals](#) is the most recent and came to light when Elizabeth Clare, a nurse at the hospital, raised concerns. Troublingly her concerns were ignored and the issues not addressed, and the worst possible outcome for a whistle-blower ... "I put my neck on the line and as a result staff morale was still at an absolute low, and patient care hadn't improved at all." NHS whistleblowing is vital, we need to know when there are problems in the delivery of healthcare. Yet there have been allegations and evidence of the use of gagging orders to prevent just that.

It takes a lot for people to stand up and break ranks, especially when in doing so they might break the law, or at least break the letter of promises they have made to protect secrets. When [Katharine Gun received an e-mail](#) from an official at the the US National Security Agency requesting aid in a secret and illegal operation to bug offices in the United Nations, she too felt she had no option but to leak the email. The targets for this illicit bugging where the six nations whose support was needed for UN approval of the 2003 invasion of Iraq at the time when the US was pushing hard to be allowed to go to war.

These stories, from expenses, the NHS and arguments for war , as well as the many others, well known or not have been vital to our public debate. They have changed public discourse and forced governments and companies to take action. Their value in terms of abuses exposed and, indeed, lives saved either directly or by the response is incalculable.

Legacy

Yet of course for the government, or those who are the target of whistle-blowers, there will be consequences. It is one legacy of whistleblowing that the UK's relationship with the US has become such a problem. That relationship has done significant harm to the international

reputation of the UK. Evidence that the UK may have made use of information gathered through torture, was complicit in rendition or, as now, possibly made use of intelligence data, either commissioned or offered that is gathered in ways that the UK would not want, all first came to light through whistleblowers.

We should salute that; people have a right to know when their governments or allies act in ways that are not ethical. We cannot allow conspiracies of silence to exist, even when the intention is, on the surface at least, intended to protect our way of life. After all, our way of life is harmed irreparably when we compromise on our principles or allow others to do so on our behalf. Our reputation won't be preserved by preventing whistleblowing, whether that comes in the form of gagging orders, as with the NHS, or by legal threats like those that have been on the increase in the US under the leadership of President Obama. It will be preserved by being open and accountable, especially when talking about activities whose details and specifics are necessarily secret.

PRISM

When it comes to the most recent revelations there really is no excuse for a lack of openness. In the UK we have had a wide ranging discussion on surveillance, civil liberties and monitoring. That discussion has covered everything from ID cards to the Snoopers' Charter ([Communications Data Bill](#)) and we decided that we don't like it, that it doesn't sit well with our principles.

We have been tainted by our previous associations and now is the right time to make it clear that the UK will not be involved in anything untoward. It is not good enough simply to say that there is independent oversight but fail to be concrete about where and when it applies. It would be good enough for a Minister to make it clear that we do not use mass surveillance or receive information from systems that do and that oversight applies to all information whether requested or dropped into our laps.

You might be mistaken for coming to the conclusion that that William Hague has already said that, but I am concerned by the qualifiers. I am not entirely sure if the assurances that we have seen apply fully to how we could be receiving intelligence data, but there is an answer to that.

The simplest way to allay most of the fears would be to make clear that when the UK obtains or is offered information by US agencies that it the same scrutiny is applies as if a UK agency had been intending to collect the information itself.

The other obvious concern to UK national interests, if the PRISM reporting is accurate, is that the is US an ally, but a competitor nonetheless and may have access to the data owned by British citizens without the kind of oversight that is supposed to be accorded to US citizens. Maybe it is time for the US and UK, on the basis of our "special relationship" and intelligence sharing agreements to apply the same restrictions on our respective citizens. Then of course the criticisms or suggestion that the UK can use the US to bypass UK law, or the UK to bypass US law would no longer be an issue.

In short, we cannot outsource ethics, or accountability.

Trust

It is true that I trust the UK government far more than I trust the US Government. There are many reasons for that; past performance is one, but it's also that I have a say in what the UK government does and can hold it to account to a certain extent... but even that trust has been eroded in recent years. To rebuild that trust, the Government can and should make its position on the issues of snooping crystal clear, and whilst doing so should look to reinforce protections for whistleblowers. After all, we owe it to those who risk so much yet often receive little more than accusations and anger in return.

Featured Picture: [CC-BY-SA, D-Kuru/Wikimedia Commons](#)

This article is a guest editorial by Andy Halsall, the Campaigns Officer for PPUK.

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Biography:

I have spent most of the last 20 odd years enthusing about technology and wondering at both the pace of change and the possibilities that have arisen from it. At the same time I have become more and more aware that in terms of legislative effort and even understanding, the various governments we have seen since the dawn of the 'information age' have been somewhat lacking.

As a result, I see the Pirate Party as an ideal vehicle for positive change in those areas where others have failed and where even now there is too little emphasis. I feel that in areas such as patents and copyright law urgent change is needed, in areas such as net-neutrality there are serious risks to the freedoms we currently enjoy and have made such good use of, but I also think the Pirate Party can be a positive force in many areas of public life - we deserve change for the better.

I've worked with the party on a number of elections now, seeing improvements at each turn, both in results and in the way we have approached them and drove PPUK's policy process in 2012, leading to the party broadening its political aims and helping to shape the principles that will allow us to be a credible force in British politics. As to my background, I am a former soldier and now father of 4. I grew up largely outside of the UK (Germany and Hong Kong mainly) and am probably somewhat odd in that I didn't go to university (largely because I didn't think I could afford it?), again something that I find probably shapes my world view.

Written by Guest Author published at June 25, 2013

Interview with a Turkish Pirate about the Protests in #gezipark



The recent protests in Turkey started on 28 May 2013. The protests were sparked by the brutal eviction of a sit-in at Istanbul's Taksim Gezi Park protesting at plans for the park's demolition and replacement with a shopping mall. The Pirate Party of Turkey (*Korsan Partisi Hareketi*) was involved from the first days and we asked *Evket Uyan* a few questions about the situation there - he got together with Ugurcan Orcun, Serhat Koc, Erkan Saka and Yasin Aydin and these are their answers;

Pirate Times: We are getting conflicting news over the television and in newspapers. Do you have access to western media like CNN and BBC? Are their reports accurate?

PPTR: We have access to western media, and there's no new censorship on internet except earlier ones. Western media reports are generally accurate, but they are eager to compare the movement with Arab Spring, which isn't very accurate.

I guess, the structure of this movement is closer to Occupy or Indignados movements...

Pirate Times: Are the Turkish news media controlled by the government or are there independent news organisations in Turkey?

PPTR:

- 1- Some media belong to government, like national television channels
- 2- Some media are owned by the people who are in or close to the government

3- Some media support government, because they either seek popularity and audience or fear the government (and change what they support when the governments change)

4- The remaining few rest are not controlled by the government and almost independent.

But since yesterday, mainstream news channels began to broadcast news about the Movement. Still mostly pro-government. Before there was a total mainstream media blackout...

Pirate Times: How dangerous is it for the Turkish Pirates and the other protesters?

PPTR: Turkish Pirates are not unified under Pirate banner except for Istanbul. There's no threat for Pirates, for being a pirate?.

Pirate Times: Are there any pro-government demonstrations?

PPTR: There are no pro-government demonstrations, except pro-government mobs attacking protesters in certain cities.

Today, pro-government daily, Yeni Afak and Milli Gazete began to target people supporting the movement on Twitter.

Pirate Times: How big is the Pirate Party in Turkey and are there Pirates in other cities that are involved in the protests?

PPTR: Pirate Party is not well-organized in Turkey and might have only at most 5 or 10 active Pirates in Ankara and a few others in other cities than Istanbul.

Pirate Times: Have any Pirate Party members been injured or arrested?

PPTR: None that we know of.

Pirate Times: What can other Pirates and Pirate Parties do to support the Pirate Party of Turkey and the other demonstrators?

PPTR: We're doing good right now and thanks for your good wishes. But in case of any heavy censorship, we might need support.

Pirate Times: Are you concerned that other forces like the army might use the situation to take control of the country?

PPTR: It's less likely because freshly de-politized army and the protests are getting more peaceful as days pass.

Pro-Government thugs may be involved in continuous protests. The PM seems to be provoking that.

Pirate Times: What do you see happening after the protests? If Erdogan resigns and if he does not?

PPTR: Most of the protesters just want Erdogan to end his oligarchic attitude and resign. Then there might be a general elections which AKP might win again, but with a different establishment (Personal wild guess). Erdogan seems to be too powerful. If we could only retreat his arrogant and aggressive style a bit, that will be a victory for the moment.

Pirate Times: Please list any blogs, twitter, facebook, youtube and other social media sites that will give an accurate picture of what is happening.

PPTR:

<http://occupygezipics.tumblr.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/OccupyGezi>

<http://delilimvar.tumblr.com/>

<http://emirkulu.blogspot.com/>

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?evket describes himself as an Activist and speaks Turkish, English and Swedish and has a [blog](#).

Editor's note: German Pirates launched a support website called <http://www.gezimasks.org> to improve the situation of Turkey's citizens and providing them with respirator masks and additional medical aid. The website is translated in 3 different languages: german, english and

turkish.

Featured image: [Meghan Rutherford](#) CC BY

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This Article has been edited to include names missing from the list of contributors and add their photos. 25 June 2013

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Image Source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/luckyfly/> Meghan Rutherford CC BY

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at June 24, 2013

Ed Snowden's bid for Asylum "Live Updates



The mainstream media is buzzing with reports that Edward Snowden has left Hong Kong for an undisclosed destination. We know he is heading to Moscow and then probably on to Iceland via Norway. The Pirate Times is in contact with Pirates in Norway and Iceland and will keep you informed as much as we can.

This page will be updated with more news as it comes in. all times are in CEST Central European Summer Time

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02 July 2013 07:45 [CNN Reports](#) that Edward Snowden has applied for asylum in 19 further countries and the Pirate Party of North Rhine Westfalia has asked for him to be [awarded Germany's highest medal](#).

01 July 2013 18:55 [The New York Times reports](#) that Edward Snowden has applied for asylum in Russia.

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Thursday 27 June 20:13 16:25 Ecuador has issued a safe pass to Edward Snowden that will allow him to travel to that country for the purpose of seeking asylum. This is according to [Univision](#) (in Spanish) and the pass can be seen [here \(English and Spanish\)](#).

17:36 [RT live](#) Russian President Putin says that Edward Snowden is still in the transit lounge and a free man.

11:30 Russian Foreign Minister states that Edward Snowden has not crossed into Russian Territory according to [RT live](#). So that could mean he either never left the transit area at the airport or never arrived at the airport at all.

Tuesday 25 June 20:15 No confirmed reports as to Edward Snowden's whereabouts but Pirates have been putting up [smoke screens](#). Some online threads have been encouraging Pirates and other supporters to go to their local international airport with flags and banners welcoming Edward Snowden.

22:20 [The Nordic Page Norway edition](#) says that PPNO claimed Snowden passed through Norway last night as planned (see below). Was Ecuador a double bluff or still his ultimate goal?

Wikileaks reports he is still safe and that is what counts.

19:30 [RT live](#) reports that Ecuador has granted travel documents to Edward Snowden

14:45 Ecuadorian Ambassador in Vietnam states confirms that Edward Snowden has requested asylum and mentions that the USA often refused to extradite criminals including bankers.

13:10 24 June 2013 A plane bound for Cuba with a booking for Snowden and another person has left Moscow but with Ed Snowden apparently not on board according to [Russian Television English Service](#)

22:30 it would seem that the booking to Iceland was a ruse but we can only be sure once he has arrived in the land of choice.

18:55 CNN reports Ecuador says it has received an asylum request from Edward Snowden

Now reversing the order of the updates - latest now at the top

14:20 [PPNO](#) reports that a plane carrying Edward Snowden is expected to land in Gardermoen airport Oslo, Norway at 19:25 . Pirates will be at the airport to express their support as will the Norwegian national press. The plane will depart the airport at 21:55 .

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15:50: Journalists are tweeting that Snowden was met by a Venezuelan diplomat at Moscow airport. This would mean that rumours that he is headed to Cuba and then Venezuela are

correct. The fact that many differing stories are being circulated is understandable. We will not know the full truth until he is in safety.

15:55 Others are reporting the diplomats meeting Ed Snowden are from Ecuador, among them Anonymous @Youranonnews- which makes it more believable. Misinformation abounds.

17:15 here is the [text of a long tweet](#) sent by Birgitta Jónsdóttir a Captain of the Icelandic Pirate Party

Is it an option for Edward Snowden to seek shelter in Iceland?

Is it an option for Edward Snowden to seek shelter in Iceland?

When it was brought to my attention that Snowden was looking to Iceland for political asylum, I offered to help figure out the legal options for such a request.

These are my findings: Snowden should not come to Iceland unless he will request and be granted citizenship by the Icelandic Parliament. Citizenship is the only legal protection that will shelter him from any demands of extradition to the USA. The ideal situation would be for Snowden to be granted a Icelandic passport as was the case with Bobby Fischer.

Seeking political asylum is a process that can take long time, and there are no guarantees granted against extradition while the process is ongoing. However since Snowden faces possible death sentence his case is stronger, for it is illegal to extradite a person who faces death sentence from Iceland. It is important to note that Iceland has a terrible track record when it comes to granting political asylum to people seeking shelter, as it is hardly ever granted and thus a too dangerous path to be recommended for Snowden.

The new Interior minister, Hanna Birna Kristjánsdóttir, has been very stern in her statements

announcing that Snowden will not get any sort of special treatment for the Minister fears that if he will be granted asylum, Iceland might have to show humanitarianism in action by transforming its poor treatment towards asylum seekers who seek shelter in Iceland.

I was hoping that the new Prime Minister, Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson, would take the same leadership in this case as a former PM did in the case of Bobby Fischer, for it was a political decision to grant the Chess Master Icelandic citizenship and Icelandic passport while Fischer was in prison in Japan waiting to be extradited to the USA for playing chess in the wrong country. It is still not too late to show such leadership.

It is important to note that there has not been any formal requests for asylum from Snowden to the Icelandic government and thus impossible for them to respond with affirmative answer until such a request has been received.

I've heard as I am writing this that there are other countries that have offered to shelter this brave whistleblower. Snowden has done service to all of humanity by bringing to the public domain information that truly belongs there. It is ironic that Snowden is to be charged for spying by blowing the whistle on the fact that NSA is spying on everyone with much deeper probing into our personal lives than even Stasi could do. I am sorry that Iceland might not be an option. It would have made me exceptionally proud if it was.

The war on whistleblowers needs to stop. I see Manning, Brown, Hammond and so many others as political prisoners of the information revolution. If extradited to the USA, on the charges of espionage, Snowden's fate might be death sentence. By not sheltering him those who reject to help him might have blood on their hands.

With Rebellious Joy

Birgitta Jonsdottir

Poetician & a member of the Icelandic Parliament for the Pirate Party,

Chairperson of the International Modern Media Institution (IMMI)

<http://birgitta.is>

<http://immi.is>

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Featured image: CC BY [See-ming Lee ??? SML](#)

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Image Source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/seeminglee/>

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Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at June 23, 2013

How a Swarm of Pirates Can Redefine Politics According to Rick Falkvinge



Having made a ??great impact in the fields of politics and human resource management, [Rick Falkvinge](#), founder of the first Pirate Party in the world and political evangelist, led the Pirate

Party of Sweden from nowhere in 2006 to the election of two MEPs in 2009.

In his coming book "Swarmwise: The tactical manual to changing the world ", published serially on his website before its release in July (when it will become available to download from The Pirate Bay), Rick describes his experience of managing a swarm of people with the least possible bureaucracy and how they managed to attract, like bees, more than 225,000 voters to secure two Pirates in the European Parliament, Amelia Andersdotter and Christian Engstrom.

Seven years after the founding of the first Pirate Party, such swarms have been formed in many countries and are preparing to continue not only the magnificent success of the Swedish Pirate Party but to conquer seats in their parliaments, regions and municipalities, as they gradually emerge in many countries such as Iceland, Germany, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Croatia and Greece.

?When I look at the evolution trajectory, I observe that we are following in the precise footsteps of every successful major political movement before us, such as Liberals, Labour, Greens? he answers when asked about the Pirate movement, giving a broader description of its electoral influence worldwide.

One of the world's most influential people, one of the top 20 Internet Freedom Fighters and one of the Top 100 Global Thinkers, Rick Falkvinge talks to Pirate Times about a politicised (in the activist sense) 'net generation bringing its values into politics:

"It's just that they're not identifying as politicians - they're identifying as activists in opposition to the politicians. What we're doing is making the leap and bringing our values, the values of the net generation, into politics. In such a way, we are redefining what politicians and politics can be.?"

Pirate Times: Which was the defining moment that made you convinced it really deserves to establish the first Pirate Party?

Rick Falkvinge: I had been thinking about it over the fall of 2005, following yet another harshening of the copyright monopoly in the summer of 2005 in Sweden, as well as the software patent monopoly debate in the European Parliament that same summer. The definite trigger was when the Data Retention Directive was adopted by the European Parliament on December 14, 2005. You can see how the domain piratpartiet.se was registered on December 16, in preparations for my setting up the prototype website over the holidays.

These three events carried directly over to the first three pillars of PPSE - Culture, Knowledge, and Privacy.

Pirate Times: How did you feel on January 1st of 2006? Which is the picture that you recall most in your mind from that day?

Rick Falkvinge: January 1 actually wasn't very eventful. I spent the day setting up an ugly website that I was going to launch as a very early beta in the evening - I expected little initial interest and that I would have time over the coming months to grow the initiative gradually and under control as interest slowly scaled up. I was wrong, very wrong about that part. I had been correct in picking the interesting topic, but I underestimated the enormous built-up demand.

As I took the website online at 20:30 CET and went into a DC++ hub - Ancient Spirit - and wrote two lines,

"Hey look, the Pirate Party has its website up now after new year's.

<http://www.piratpartiet.se/>"

...I didn't really expect much to happen on the first day, or even the first week. I saw a dozen or so people come visit the server when I wrote those lines, then silence, then a gradually growing trickle of more people which presumably were people who had been sent the link by the first dozen visitors. After that, it just snowballed. The real attention started on January 2, and by the end of that day, there were about 300 activists wanting to be a part of this initiative. I had never expected it to grow that fast.

Pirate Times: Seven years later, how do you feel? Did you expect Pirate Parties would have been evolved that way? Are you satisfied with their progress so far?

Rick Falkvinge: "Satisfied" would imply that I was ... I don't know, giving orders? That I had the right to place expectations? I don't really see it that way. I'm extremely happy with the progress of the movement as a whole, but it's all of us that make the difference together. I had expected it to be necessary for the Swedish party to have a major breakthrough to show proof-of-concept to activists in other countries - the breakthrough we had in the European elections in 2009, when we put two Members of European Parliament in office. Rather, other activists seemed to have realized the potential in politicizing the net liberty issues immediately, and waited for nothing and no one in copying the initiative. Therefore, we now have a number of pirate parties that are running for office with decent chances of success.

When I look at the evolution trajectory, I observe that we are following in the precise footsteps of every successful major political movement before us (liberals, labor, greens, spaced about 40 years apart). While this can be a bit frustrating - nothing is ever new - it's also comforting, as it becomes a predictor of similar success on continued hard work.

Pirate Times: What do you think about the future? Do you think next year's euro elections will be a focal point for the development of Pirate Parties?

Rick Falkvinge: It will certainly be a bit of a test, not the least of our ability to cooperate across

borders. While I believe we have a strong head start over previous political movements, we still have very little experience in doing so on an operational basis. However, I think it will be mostly for our own experience - I don't see oldmedia putting us to the test on cross-border cooperation; they tend to have a very national, narrow focus.

Depending on the election outcome, I see a definite opportunity for growth of the movement. I would expect a rather strong showing.

Pirate Times: Recently you claimed on your page that the strength of the Pirates in the European parliament will be tripled. What are the critical factors Pirate Parties should and shouldn't focus in? In which areas should they give a particular interesting?

Rick Falkvinge: True - I see three to four MEPs from Germany, one from Sweden and one from Finland as a credible outcome at this point in time. (The Swedish PP has two MEPs today, but rounding errors in the election result of 2009 worked enormously in our favor - Sweden has 20 MEPs, or 5% per MEP, and we got two MEPs with 7%.)

As for which areas we should be focusing on, I think we are all in agreement on the general direction we want society to progress toward - but every country has a different starting point and a different discourse. As they say, politics is always local. Things do flare up and when they do, we obviously need to use the opportunity, like the NSA story that's still going rounds and rounds in oldmedia and hits our core policy like a tungsten rod from orbit.

Pirate Times: What's your prognosis on the German elections in September? Are we going to be celebrating Pirates MPs in German Parliament? Do you think that the opening of the pirate agenda to all issues, from PPDE, does good or harm to the party?

Rick Falkvinge: At this stage it's a flip of a coin. As an external observer, I think it's very easy to play the sports critic and say that the PPDE was a victim of its own success when it peaked as

high as 13% in the polls. Whether enough repairs have been done to the internal culture to deliver in September remains to be seen, but I remain hopeful that our great colleagues will be able to take advantage of events that happen between now and September 22 to highlight the need for transparency, privacy, and sharing.

I am convinced that we will all need to broaden our platforms at some stage of maturity, pretty much like the Greens have a common core but adopt their overall vision to local conditions. But - and this is important - the soul-searching part where you settle as a movement on your core identity can't be skipped, and in my experience, that part of maturing takes a couple of years.

Pirate Times: What is your opinion about PPEU and PPI? Do you think that PPEU should be just for EU member countries or for all Europe?

Rick Falkvinge: At this point, I think it's putting the cart before the horse. PPI's value comes from the networking that international meetings enable, and not from having statutes and formal proceedings. There were such meetings far before the formal organization was founded, and while obviously a provocative opinion to some people, I question the value of a resourceless formal umbrella organization at this point in time. The same obviously goes for a formal PPEU.

Those who have worked with me know how I keep insisting that every activist organization must have the absolute minimum bureaucracy needed to work toward the end goal. Paperwork, statutes and formal rules need to be actively kept back, for bureaucracy is not only self-expanding, it is also activist-repelling. I write a lot more about this in my coming book *Swarmwise*.

Pirate Times: Do you think that a party must have positions, principles, on the economy and on other political issues as well or let its citizens decide about it?

Rick Falkvinge: I'm absolutely convinced this is necessary, but I'm equally convinced that you

can't go there until you know who you are and what the pirate movement is about at its core. If nothing else, we learned that in Sweden in the 2010 parliamentary elections. Responding "we choose to not take a stance on that issue" in nine out of ten fields was simply not good enough to earn people's vote in the general elections like it had been in the European elections.

When I was walking the streets of Stockholm ahead of the election in 2010, I would walk up to people and talk to them:

- Hi, I'm from the Pirate Party. Have you heard of us?
- Hi, yes, yes, of course I have.
- Perhaps you'd like to see us in Parliament?
- Are you kidding me? You're SO needed to make a difference there.
- Oh, thank you! So you're going to vote for us, then?
- What? Oh no, I can't possibly do that.
- But... why? You just said you want us to be in Parliament?
- Yes, of course, but I can't vote for a party that doesn't have a full platform, can't you see that?

When you've heard that same message from 90-95% of the several hundred people you speak to in the streets, you realize that there's a real obstacle to work on right here.

Pirate Times: What would you suggest to a Pirate to answer when he is attacked by others that Pirate Parties has no positions?

Rick Falkvinge: Well, there are two perspectives to this. The first, more for ourselves, is that all political movements that have become successful over the generations started out as single-value movements - not single-*issue*, but single-*VALUE* - and gradually deepened that value into an ideology that were able to answer questions on all, or at least most, issues in society. But it took them several years to mature to that point, and I don't think that process can be rushed. I did an attempt at understanding our ideology with my [Pirate Wheel](#) and the ideology continues to be developed and refined. At this point, I'm leaning toward our core being one of self-empowerment of the identity, of how "identity" has become a key word as the world digitizes in a way it never has before.

The second perspective is what you actually say on the street, which would be something like "would you rather have a party with a narrow focus intent on delivering it, so you know exactly what you get, or one that promises the world and then drops 95% of it on the floor after the election?". It sometimes works, sometimes not. Another one, depending on context, is "would you rather have freedom of speech or a 0.1% lower inflation? These issues are not playing in the same division."

Pirate Times: How could a generation that states its hate for politicians and politics be politicized and activated?

Rick Falkvinge: This generation doesn't hate politics at all - to the contrary, I've found that it is more involved in how society runs (or, as the case may be, walks, crawls, or doesn't move at all) than any generation before it. It's just that they're not identifying as politicians - they're identifying as activists in opposition to the politicians. What we're doing is making the leap and bringing our values, the values of the net generation, into politics. In such a way, we are redefining what politicians and politics can be.

Pirate Times: In your experience, which is it that attracts most people to Pirate Parties and which is it that repels them?

Rick Falkvinge: Politics is a numbers game. In my experience, most people come for the file sharing, but stay for the understanding of the underlying issues of privacy and transparency once they see how that fits into the issue of sharing culture and knowledge.

Pirate Times: Will you continue to invest in Bitcoin and why?

Rick Falkvinge: Obviously. I've written a lot of blog articles on the topic, but I think it's going to do to banks what e-mail did to the postal services. It's disintermediation for the financial system. While it's still in the experimental stage, there's more and more services building the ecosystem by the week.

Pirate Times: At a political level, in which areas Pirate Parties can compete better the other parties?

Rick Falkvinge: Anything touching our core issues. If we're not running circles around them on anything net or liberty related, we're doing a very poor job.

Pirate Times: Which are the critical obstacles a swarm has to overcome?

Rick Falkvinge: This is all detailed in my book Swarmwise. The first chapters are published at falkvinge.net, and the physical book will be available in 2-3 weeks.

Pirate Times: Is it possible leaders of swarms to be trained about their responsibilities and how?

Rick Falkvinge: Absolutely, and doing so is crucial if you want to maintain a successful swarm.

Pirate Times: When is your book going to be published?

Rick Falkvinge: I have the proof for Swarmwise in hand here, and I hope one round-trip of fixes is going to be sufficient, but it may take two. We're looking at July 1-ish or July 15-ish, depending on one or two round trips. Soon, in any case. It will be available on The Pirate Bay, as direct download in a number of formats, and in paper format for those who prefer.

Pirate Times: What are the most common mistakes that new Pirate Parties do?

Rick Falkvinge: Overdoing rules, regulations, and statutes. You don't need bureaucracy. You need activism and you need to make activism fun. You should have the absolute minimum possible structure that supports activism - essentially having the org held together by duct tape just enough so that people can do activism. Bureaucracy kills activism and repels prospective activists. There's much more on this in my book Swarmwise, too.

Pirate Times: What would be your number one advice to a new pirate party in order to succeed?

Rick Falkvinge: Read my book Swarmwise. That's not one advice, arguably, but a whole book of them.

Pirate Times: As for the Prism case of wiretapping users of famous corporations' services, what do you believe Pirate Parties have to do? Abandon these platforms and head to new ones or stay in and fight for users' rights?

Rick Falkvinge: When you're trying to educate people about an idea, you don't get to choose where other people are. If people are on Facebook, that's where you have to be, too. But you also need to be very aware of the information game, not ever writing anything sensitive in, say, a "private" message on Facebook. Use PGP, Redphone, Mumble, Crypto.cat for anything

remotely sensitive. Use public communications to reach people where they are. No politician ever won by shutting themselves into an ivory tower, and that goes for us to. Get your hands dirty and your feet out to where people are.

Pirate Times: After Edward Snowden's revelations about 'Prism' do you think protection of whistleblowers should be Pirate Parties mission No 1?

Rick Falkvinge: It's important, but it falls so perfectly from our general values, that I wouldn't set it as #1. It's a particular issue that falls directly from our principles of privacy, accountability, and transparency. It's an issue that we can use in oldmedia to highlight those perspectives and principles, but I would not set it anywhere a top spot of priorities.

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

Written by Stathis Leivaditis published at June 21, 2013

UK Pirates to decide PPUK's international direction



Pirate Party UK is currently an ordinary member of Pirate Parties International (PPI) but it will be asking its membership whether it should stay a member, become an observer or leave. (If you are a member of PPUK, you can vote [here](#)).

It might sound like a strange thing to do (or possibly a very British approach...) but there are some good reasons for doing it now. Firstly, and most importantly; in 2010 at the PPI's founding conference the Pirate Party UK signed up with the PPI. When it did, the party agreed to abide

by its statutes and tied itself to its actions and statements. However PPUK was pretty new in 2010, fighting its first ever elections and, for one reason or another, we didn't hold a membership vote on the matter - it seems well past time to correct that.

The other reason is the reporting from our international coordinator. A year ago we asked him to work with the PPI; even after all that time, his reports back to the NEC indicate that there are still some serious continuing issues within PPI. Issues that could have an impact on us in the UK, and judging by the additional grey hairs and mildly haunted look, **have had an impact on him.**

So, the party has put out general information and cases for the three choices available to our members. Those are also available for non-members from our site as four pdfs, an **overview**, the **case for staying** in PPI, the case for **becoming an observer member** and the **case for leaving**

I think its important to take stock. Just over a year ago I argued, against some concerted opposition, that PPUK should try to work more closely with PPI. Secretly, of course, I was hoping to be appointed "grand high coordinator of the supreme pirate" (honest...) but, in public at least, I thought it might be good to see what we could do internationally.

At that time, arguments from within the PPI were legendary; I got a briefing on the PPI when I took on my current post and, frankly, it was a bit baffling. Given that, the idea of engaging with the PPI or asking someone to do so seemed like a serious risk. In fact, the PPI was seen by some as "fundamentally flawed and broken" and that attempting to fix it would be "less beneficial process than creating a new international body". In that environment, my asking to spend money to do so was not overly popular to say the least. However, I wanted to see PPUK give PPI a decent chance, make sure we had people at the GA and conferences and make sure those people were capable. So, we spent some money, dispatched a very valuable member and watched to see what would happen... at a safe distance, of course.

What we saw wasn't really what I had hoped for - it certainly hurt my credibility after arguing for our continued involvement. The bright spots (like the Pirate Times) were blotted out by continuing problems, especially when it came to finance. Squabbling seemed to die down a little, but there was still a lot of discord and very little concrete movement in any useful direction. There are still exchanges that are raw and abusive in tone, in a way that we would never find acceptable in today's PPUK. In short, the little we were able to do was not enough, the hard work of people within PPI wasn't enough, the outcome, I think, wasn't really good enough.

For a political party that holds a broad range of positions, some of which may be counter to other Pirate Parties in some areas (especially on issues reform within the European Union) the PPI can be problematic. Not because there are parties that hold different views and we can't have that(!) but because PPI fails to reflect that diversity. In fact, the PPI could pose a real electoral nightmare if our opponents were to give it even a brief examination. All the good work is essentially eclipsed by the silly spats and grandiose declarations that don't quite hit the mark for anyone.

So in the next few weeks I will, in the best traditions of politics, be reversing my position on the PPI. I will add that at least my reversal will be on the basis of some sound arguments and evidence (and so in line with PPUK principles!), but I will be arguing the case for PPUK leaving the PPI. I look forward to seeing others make a case to remain.

I should be clear; I won't be arguing that we join, or form another international grouping (unless of course someone offers me a title with 'Grand high' in it...), or that we create a PPI v2. I don't think that will solve the problems that the Pirate movement faces, I don't think it will help us achieve what we want to achieve.

I'd like to see us focusing on our political aims as much as possible, as that is where we can actually achieve change. Its amazing that every time I talk to a colleague in Germany, France,

Luxembourg, Canada or the US, we all seem to be working in the same direction, on similar issues... we could do with working together on them where it's doable.

We have to find better ways to work together internationally, that shouldn't be a problem for Pirate Parties! It's true that we still need to meet and have conferences, but that happens anyway and would continue to happen even if the PPI were disbanded. I would even argue that having international meets informally would mean we learn more about our respective parties, get more out of the formal bits of any meetings and possibly even meet more people than if we do everything within a stiff framework like that the PPI represents.

So whatever happens in the UK, whether we remain a part of the PPI or leave, we need to work on cooperation. There is a lot that Pirate Parties all around the world agree on and much of what we believe in is under threat right now. Whether it is PRISM, data protection in the EU, fighting for the interests of the visually impaired in WIPO or global attempts at site blocking, we must deal with these issues on an international level. Getting distracted by internal politics is not something that makes a lot of sense at this time in that kind of environment. So, with a bit of luck and a lot of effort, I hope that this process spurs members in the UK to get involved on the international side, whether through PPI or outside of it. There is a lot we have to say and a lot to offer. There is no better time than now to prove that Sharing is Caring and, possibly more importantly, that we, the Pirate Movement, can make a difference.

This article is a guest editorial by Andy Halsall, the Campaigns Officer for PPUK.

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Biography:

I have spent most of the last 20 odd years enthusing about technology and wondering at both

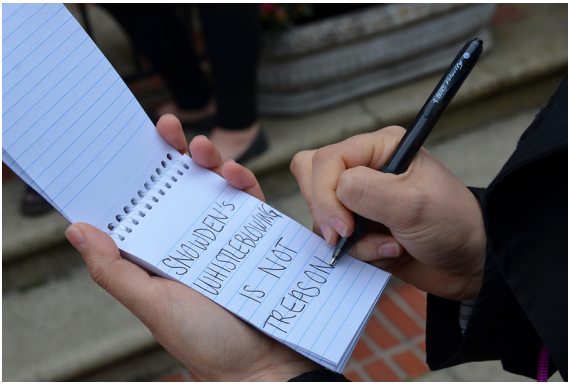
the pace of change and the possibilities that have arisen from it. At the same time I have become more and more aware that in terms of legislative effort and even understanding, the various governments we have seen since the dawn of the 'information age' have been somewhat lacking.

As a result, I see the Pirate Party as an ideal vehicle for positive change in those areas where others have failed and where even now there is too little emphasis. I feel that in areas such as patents and copyright law urgent change is needed, in areas such as net-neutrality there are serious risks to the freedoms we currently enjoy and have made such good use of, but I also think the Pirate Party can be a positive force in many areas of public life - we deserve change for the better.

I've worked with the party on a number of elections now, seeing improvements at each turn, both in results and in the way we have approached them and drove PPUK's policy process in 2012, leading to the party broadening its political aims and helping to shape the principles that will allow us to be a credible force in British politics. As to my background, I am a former soldier and now father of 4. I grew up largely outside of the UK (Germany and Hong Kong mainly) and am probably somewhat odd in that I didn't go to university (largely because I didn't think I could afford it...), again something that I find probably shapes my world view.

Written by Guest Author published at June 20, 2013

Privatisation of Security and the Loss of Liberty



In the last few days several people have given their view about the mass-spying scandal revealed by whistle-blower and former 'Booz Allen Hamilton' employee Edward Snowden. Although his true motive can be questioned, the fact is that Snowden's actions revealed the existence of a government and corporation spy apparatus operating on a global scale, only envisioned in dystopian near-future movies and literature until recently. This is something that Pirate Parties and other digital rights and freedom activists have been warning about for years. Governments and corporations now have more personal information about us freely available than ever before in history. In fact, the amount of information is so overwhelming that the NSA is currently building a massive new \$2 billion data centre in the state of Utah, capable of intercepting, processing, deciphering and analysing a large swath of the world's data flow.

But ultimately, governments and their spy agencies are accountable to the public, the Constitution, the People and their representatives. The whole principle of representative democracy rests on the foundations of individual rights and freedoms, accountability, transparency checks and balances that can limit the abuse of power. Even if it often seems like wishful thinking, those principles are what's keeping democratic governments in line.

On the other hand, corporations are only accountable to their stakeholders. That is a legitimate principle, but completely contrary to those of representative democracy. There is a constant trend of upgrading and widening of "national security" systems, especially since the "War on Terror" was declared all over the world. Among these trends is also the outsourcing of security services to private corporations who almost exclusively depend on government contracts, one of

them is Booz Allen Hamilton. On their web page it is stated they are "a leading provider of management and technology consulting services to the US government in defence intelligence and civil markets". In other words, they are a privately owned spy agency with access to top secret government intelligence, which from what we have seen from the latest revelations includes swathes of personal information about US and other citizens across the world. They are not the only ones by far, but are currently in the focus of the public eye due to Edward Snowden being their employee.

As Pirates have been warning for years, these kind of actions ultimately lead to the erosion of democracy and a steady path of complete loss of liberty and total surveillance. They also completely negate the principle of the openness of the Internet and Network Neutrality, as well as the loss of public trust. As The [Guardian's](#) Jeff Jarvis says:

"If governments use this event as an excuse to exercise more oversight and control over the net, will that not then, in turn, reduce citizens' trust in the net and their freedom using it?

Governments present themselves as the protector of our privacy, but as the NSA story demonstrates, governments present the greatest threat to our privacy as they have the means both to monitor us and to use our information against us."

When combining the government's capability to easily intrude upon your basic rights as a citizen and the profit seeking corporate "intelligence consulting" sector, you get a deadly combination that is out of the public's reach and control. It also negates the basic principles of representative democracy; individual rights and freedoms, accountability, transparency checks and balances that limit the abuse of power. That's why there is a need to extend those constitutional rights and freedoms to the digital realm which is getting more and more intertwined with reality every day. Without the Free and Open Internet there can not be a true participatory democracy, "we Pirates will therefore defend the freedom of the internet with fierce determination at the European level as well as on a global scale." ([The European Manifesto of the German Pirate Party](#))

Featured picture: CC-BY-NC, [Steve Rhodes](#)

Written by Luka Dujmovic published at June 19, 2013

GREEK PUBLIC RADIO & TV PIRATE BROADCASTS



The sudden shut-down of **ERT**, the public radio and television in Greece and a founding member of **EBU** (European Broadcasting Union), by the Greek government with black screens appearing on TV sets on all its frequencies, caused outrage amongst journalists and caused a public outcry inside and outside the country.

ERT, the only channel in Greece licensed to operate legally, ended up broadcasting in a pirate fashion being hosted through a network of sites, including EBU, the programs being presented by former employees, journalists and technicians who occupied the central building in Mesogeion Str. The **Pirate Party of Greece** has been mobilized since the first moment of the announcement of ERT's shutdown.

Following an urgent decision by the Board of PPGR, the program of ERT is being transmitted from party's main page, with an image that became the main attraction, a mock-up of the logo of ERT that is quite descriptive of the overall situation in the country; public radio-television broadcasting in a pirated way via an internet network of supporters, such as media, associations, even the EBU and individual pages!

The parody of the ERT logo (EPT in Greek), is where the letter 'P' has been replaced by a Pirate flag, was adapted by a PPGR member with the nickname "mankasp".

The Pirate Times contacted Thanasis Gounaris, chairman of the Board of PPGR who recalled,

as EBU did in its letter to the Prime Minister of Greece, that according to the [Treaty of Amsterdam](#) the system of public broadcasting in the Member States is directly related to the democratic, social and cultural needs of each society and to the need to preserve media pluralism, and explained the extraordinary decision of the Board:

"We give political cover and protection to ERT and react to any attempt to silencing free speech. Frequencies of ERT belong to Greek citizens and not to the government nor the illegal mega-contractor owners of the private sector channels. Greek peoples' opinion has never being asked about anything, not for our entry into Euro currency, nor for the 2004 Olympics, nor the "memoranda of understanding". There an endless list of decisions made for us but without us. Representative democracy has been dead for some time, only Pirates have the solution to this current "no way out". Digital direct participatory democracy now!"

On Sunday 16 June 2013 Gounaris and George Misoulis, responsible person for the finance of PPGR, [appeared in ERT](#) and explained what Pirates think about the issue.

Greek Pirates want to ensure (among others)

- above all that there is a public, rather than the state, character in the new ERT
- fully transparent operation both financially and administratively
- meritocratic structure to the maximum extent with objective and publicly accessible evaluation of all employees and managers
- the exclusion of political parties' influence at all levels of structure and function
- democratic representation of all tendencies - political and social, pluralism and openness in the transmission of ERT
- open standards software use in all systems of new ERT at maximum extent
- converting ERT's archive to a public access library (Public domain)
- immediate abolition of this regime's of unrestrained use and unclear licensing of spectrum and other broadcast frequencies and communication and replacing it with a clear, open and

democratic framework yielding of these respective licenses.

Greek Pirates are willing to help the employees if they were asked to do so and worried what will happen to ERT's valuable archive because of its dissolution; archive must go to the public.

Also they are afraid that the government's heavy handed decision on ERT, will spread by the same anti-democratic manner to all issues and this is a blow to democracy.

It must be noted that ERT's shutdown was made without the consent of the other two parties supporting Samaras government and didn't come to a vote in the Parliament but was an administrative act, that gave management of ERT to the Ministry of Finance! The two other parties have so far disagreed with the closure of ERT and want definitely an open public television during the transition to its new form.

How unprepared was Greek government's plan was, can be seen from the fact that the replacement for ERT will be called NERIT but none of its initiators took any steps to register the domain name for the new entity. A reporter of a newspaper registered nerit.gr and transmitted from this page the signal of pirated ERT!

Government's main justification for this move, as a government spokesperson said, ERT was a "haven of waste" and cost more while having fewer viewers than private stations.

The truth is that with the connivance of the political system private television stations have operated for 25 years while not licensed, reaping big profits illegally. Truly one wonders who the real pirates are in this case!

Public television is the heart of democracy, even if it has low viewership, the State had to keep it in operation and promote culture. Nobody agrees with this sudden shutdown that reminiscent Eastern countries in other decades.

Treaty of Amsterdam defines that "Public service broadcasting, although having a clear economic relevance, is not comparable to a public service in any other economic sector. There is no other service that at the same time has access to such a wide sector of the population, provides it with so much information and content, and by doing so conveys and influences both individual and public opinion".

Many people, from the first moment of the notice of closure, were overwhelmed and gathered at the headquarters of ERT to stand by the journalists and staff.

The action became apparent when black colour gradually replaced the frequencies used by ERT on televisions, a spectacle that united all; political parties and institutions and ordinary people.

The ERT network, which consists of several regional stations, was silenced and locked down with signal and power interruption and in some cases with the assistance of the special forces of the Greek police causing an authoritarian impression.

There are many objections and disagreements from many sides about ERT's previous management that was used by the individual governments to serve selfish ends and to recruit "our children", while lack of transparency, meritocracy and promoting the positions of government and corruption were rampant within ERT.

The whole issue is directly linked to the crisis in Greece. According to the memorandum, signed by the Greek government with the Troika, 2000 civil servants should be fired during June. With the closure of ERT more than 2500 are on the way out.

On Monday, 17 June 2013, heads of the three political parties, that support government, met to defuse the issue. Samaras insists on maintaining his positions, while the clouds of early elections are gathered dangerously above the political scene.

Media adore early elections scenarios but it seems that something has happened and it is no coincidence this time, it is just before the elections in Germany in September.

NEWS FROM PIRATES IN EDUCATION

Thanassis Gounaris, is the first ever Pirate unionist elected to the Board of Representatives of Greek Teachers Federation (D.O.E.) by the ballot "Pirates in Education." In their first statement, "Pirates in Education" said that Gounaris will be a candidate for the 7-member Board of D.O.E. which will be elected by the General Assembly of the Representatives and will be held from 22 to 25 of June in Athens and expected about 400 teachers to take part in the voting. "Pirates in Education" announced that they will broadcast the G.A. live via internet for the first time in the history of the body, giving the opportunity to every Greek teacher, no matter how remote they are, to hear what happens inside the hall.

UPDATE: At the time of publication it appears that ERT is back on air due to [a court order](#).

Featured Image: CC BY-SA by mankasp

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This Article has been edited to clear up an ambiguous use of the number 2000

Written by Stathis Leivaditis published at June 18, 2013

Happy Birthday was Stolen From Us



According to Boingboing.net a film production company "Good Morning To You Productions Corp" is suing [Warner/Chappell Music](#) for charging copyright on the most sung song in the world - "Happy Birthday to You". Based on [work by Robert Brauneis](#) showing that the song has most probably been in the public domain for decades and that the fees have been improperly collected, the action is going to be one of the most interesting cases in recent history.

Typical of the tactics used by the copyright industry, Warner/Chappell demanded a fee of \$1,500 from the company with the threat of a penalty of \$150,000 for non-compliance. Up to now victims of these strong arm tactics have acquiesced and paid up rather than trying to fight the claim in court with the possibility of ruinous court costs.

It is to be hoped that this action will cause politicians and citizens alike to take another look at the way the IP industry is using out of date and over complicated laws to steal from the people what is rightfully theirs as a common good.

For any of you who have never heard it - which means you are probably a lizard person - here is the cat version (all memes shamelessly exploited).

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcErFDVJ-b4>

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Featured image: BY-NC-SA [DJOtaku](#)

Flattr Appreciation During May Euro 20.49



In May we had 41 things flattred by 15 unique users. In total we were flattred 81 times last month and received Euro 20.49 in support for our work. We are very happy about this and it seems like it's mostly a core of about 15 Flattr users that give us continued support. Thanks a lot for that! Here are some income statistics from Flattr over the past months. In February we received an extra 9.50 Euros (after fees) in a direct donation from one anonymous benefactor, many thanks!

Expenses

Domain = 18.50 Euros (two years)

Server space = 25 Euros (past few months + until end of December)

wpml wordpress plugin = 60.50 Euros

Flattr fee for withdrawing = 1 Euro

== 105 Euros in total costs

Remaining on account = 92.50 Euros

The [wpml plugin](#) is to add multiple language and translation support to our wordpress. We plan

to start translating our blog to at least French and Spanish (hopefully more later on) to reach a bigger audience. If you speak several languages and would like to help us translate then please get in touch.

Flattr is a microdonation service that allows you to give a small amount of money each month to content you would like to give support. It can be compared to a "facebook super-like" with money attached. Users act like **patrons** of work or people they want to support and "many small streams" adds up to something larger.

Period: May

Thing:

Clicks:

Revenue:



Pirate_Times on Flattr

6

\$8.31

P-review 6-12 May 2013

3

\$2.08

PPI's New Board Carries Hopes and a Big Weight

4

\$2.04

International Projects in e-Government and Digital Cooperation

2

22.04

An Evening with Marina Weisband and Direct Democracy

4

21.05

Pirate Party Charges Banks for WikiLeaks Boycott

1

21.00

PP Croatia Reaches 21% in City District, Winning Two Out of Nine Board Seats

4

20.61

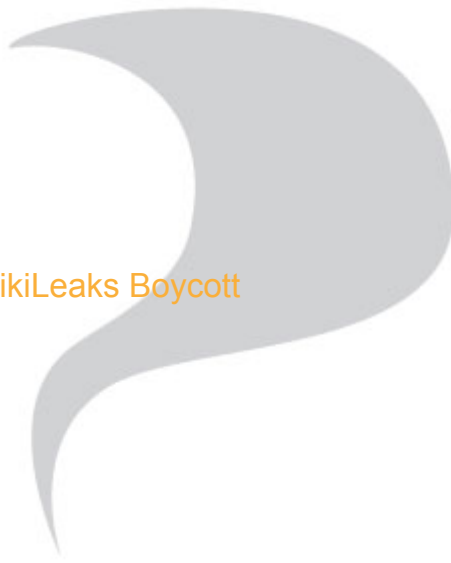
Spanish Pirate Confederation attends Democratic Organizations Congress in Salamanca

3

20.55

How Sweden Found an Effective Way of Broadening their Politics

2



0.54

The first General Assembly of the Polish Pirate Party

3

0.50

German Pirate Party General Assembly Day 1

2

0.46

The Current State of the Pirate Movement in Japan ? an Interview

2

0.46

The Pirate Times Pirate Party Policy Comparison Table

1

0.42

PIRATES OF DENMARK KEEPERS OF TRANSPARENCY

1

0.42

The Pirate Movement on Facebook and Twitter - April 2013

2

20.37

About Us

3

20.29

PPI blocked from becoming observer members of WIPO

2

20.10

Pirate Parties Worldwide

1

20.10

The Team

1

20.10

Flattr Appreciation During April Euro 14.93

2

20.08



P-REVIEW 13-19 MAY 2013 with Videos and Podcasts

2

?0.08

Local elections in Croatia

2

?0.08

German Pirate Party General Assembly Day 3

2

?0.08

German Pirate Party General Assembly Day 2

2

?0.08

German Pirate Party General Assembly Day 1

2

?0.08

P-review 29 April ? 5 May 2013

2

?0.08



IMMI - A Safe Haven for Digital Rights - An Introduction

2

?0.08

"Pirates in Education" are running for a seat in the Greek teachers federation

2

?0.08

General Assembly of the German Pirate Party May 2013

2

?0.08

Pirate Times website

1

?0.05

Young Pirates SE Want to Introduce Mass Immigration and Form Nordic Federal State

2

?0.04

Reminder: Call for hosts - PPI - General Assembly 2014

1

?0.04



France parliamentary elections: Low turnout may be good for French Pirate candidates

1

?0.04

Alex Arnold Becomes the First Elected Pirate Mayor!

1

?0.04

The Pirate World 2012

1

?0.04

Flattr Appreciation During August

1

?0.04

Iceland Report #3 ; Final Campaigning for a Better Iceland

1

?0.04

Iceland Report #4 : History Made by a Hair's Breadth

1



20.04

Iceland Report #5: A Look Back

1

20.04

Pirate Times Quiz Iceland Special

1

20.04

Introduction of the Pirate Party of South Korea

1

20.04

Flattr fee 10%

- 2.28

Total sum for 41 things flattened by 15 unique users

20.49

Pirates Rally to Support Whistle-blower Edward Snowden



After a report published in the Guardian last Wednesday (5 June 2013), people around the world found out about a secret surveillance scheme. The scandal that emerged was that US **National Security Agency** routinely collect people's data through secret surveillance, through access to major US web companies engaged in social media, search and other activities. The weekend after this was made public Edward Snowden revealed he was the source of the leak and explained why he did it. In a **video interview** Edward simply stated that he did not want to live in a world where everything he does or says is recorded. US foes, allies and even its own citizens are now the victims of an espionage network that spans the globe and from whom no one is safe.

"You are not even aware of what is possible. The extent of their capabilities is horrifying. We can plant bugs in machines. Once you go on the network, I can identify your machine. You will never be safe whatever protections you put in place."

"We do have the tools and I have maps showing where people have been scrutinised most. We collect more digital communications from America than we do from the Russians."

Now the world's citizens know for a fact what was previously only suspected, the exact thing that Pirates and other activists have been warning people about for years. The government is recording what you do, what you say and to whom you say it. The data goes back years many years which makes it easy to get to someone if there is a desire. With this revelation we can

make comparisons with the East German Stasi, who held detailed records on citizens who had been informed on by family and friends.

"Whenever we had a debate in the office on how to handle crimes, they do not defend due process ? they defend decisive action. They say it is better to kick someone out of a plane than let these people have a day in court. It is an authoritarian mindset in general."

Snowden fled to Hong Kong before revealing his role in the leak as the Chinese have more respect for free speech than the USA . He also mentioned he might try to seek asylum in Iceland.

"My predisposition is to seek asylum in a country with shared values. The nation that most encompasses this is Iceland. They stood up for people over internet freedom."

Smàri McCarthy, Birgitta Jónsdóttir and their team at the International Modern Media Initiative immediately released a [statement](#) in which they offered to "assist and advise Mr. Snowden to the greatest of our ability." They want to investigate the security implications as Iceland may not be the best location possible. Remember that Iceland re-elected the government that allowed the financial system to bankrupt the country.

Following quickly on the heels of the Icelanders the Pirate Parties of [Austria](#) and [Luxembourg](#) quickly demanded that their governments offer asylum to Edward Snowden and other Pirate Parties are getting prepared to follow suit. We are expecting to see more Pirate Parties calling on their respective governments to offer asylum to Snowden and to call on the US government to free the other whistle-blowers and hackers that it has in custody such as Bradley Manning, Jeremy Hammond and many more activists persecuted by the US government under Barack Obama.

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Featured image: composed from work by [ElectronicFrontierFoundation](#) and [Truthout.org](#) CC BY-NC-SA

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This Article has been edited to remove an unsupported claim. (AR)

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Image Source: eagle <http://www.flickr.com/photos/hughelectronic/> ElectronicFrontierFoundation by

suits <http://www.flickr.com/photos/truthout/> Truthout.org by nc sa

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at June 11, 2013

P-review 3-9 June 2013 with Videos and Podcasts



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 and a list of videos and podcasts that were published in the last week that are relevant to the World Pirate movement and are in English. See below.

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The winner of the latest Pirate Times Quiz is Dario Castañé. congratulations Dario - the book will be on its way to you.

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The week in review 3 - 9 June 2013

- ☐ Monday 3-4 June [Public Banking 2013, Funding the New Economy](#)
- ☐ Saturday 8-9 June Pirate Party of Switzerland [Summer Congress](#)

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

- ☐ Monday 10 June - An on going vigil at Fort Mead for Bradley Manning every Monday morning

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Pirate related podcasts that were published recently

- ☐ The second part of this [Guardian Politics Weekly](#) podcast shows how undemocratic institutions, like the UK House of Lords, are prone to corruption and lobbyism.
- ☐ A London School of Economics lecture entitled "[Green Philosophy](#)" Does the green agenda belong to the left or the right or outside the right-left political divide?

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Pirate related videos that were published in the last week

PPUK's Loz Kaye on the revelations that the scale Obama surveillance machine and the involvement of the Cameron regime.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=faOTQIGHBAs>

"The principle of universality allows the Web to work no matter what hardware, software, network connection or language you use and to handle information of all types and qualities... Why should you care? Because the Web is yours. It is a public resource on which you, your business, your community and your government depend. The Web is also vital to democracy, a communications channel that makes possible a continuous worldwide conversation. The Web is now more critical to free speech than any other medium." ([Scientific American](#), 5 June 2013)

Network Neutrality is a term often mentioned, but yet differently defined depending on the point of view of the person or organisation defining it. In fact, it has become one of the most widely used terms when talking about the Internet today. Different individuals and organisations claim to support it and uphold by it, but the parts they emphasise are often different. I will mention two main definitions the one based on the right of consumer choice and the other on digital rights, freedoms and control of access.

Google defines network neutrality as a principle that users should be able to control the content they view and the applications they use on the Internet. Also, broadband carriers shouldn't be allowed to use their market strength to discriminate competing content applications. (Google Public Policy Blog, 2010.)

As is seen from the definition Google supports, Network Neutrality is nothing more than the right for consumer choice in the open market. It is aimed against broadband carriers who also, following their interest, try to push their proprietary solutions onto users and prioritise their own applications and services over ones from rival tech companies like Google. Although this definition covers one aspect of network neutrality, I do not believe it to be adequate for embracing the full scope of the term.

Network neutrality is much more than a simple principle of open competition, it has an equally important political, democratic and technological part which defines it as the cornerstone of the Free Internet. The definition that I believe covers all the important aspects of Network Neutrality is one found on the "friendly web encyclopaedia? QWhatIs.com:

Net Neutrality is a principle to offer restriction free internet to end users. This principle states that internet should be neutral to end users and no restriction can be made from the part of internet providers and government. Net Neutrality is a network paradigm that argues internet service providers should be completely detached from what information is sent over the network. Service providers are trying to implement tiered internet. Neutrality protagonists argue that telecom service providers want to create an artificial scarcity, oblige content providers to buy the bandwidth or the services will turn to be uncompetitive?. (Qwhatis.com, 7 June 2013.)

It is my stand and that of the Pirate Movement that without the Free and Open Internet there is no possibility of its conceptualisation as a platform for upgrading current democratic practices. Only the Free and Open Internet can serve as a sphere of deliberative (liquid) democracy and a new community of open co-operation. The principle of Network Neutrality is one of the prerequisite foundations of such a system; without it the Internet would become a closed and walled system of "particular internets" of different countries, organisations and corporations.

Network Neutrality and Internet regulation legislation has been in the focus of the international community for the last couple of years. There is a constant threat of back-door meetings, closed conferences and corporative lobbying trying to push restrictive legislation regarding copyrights, publishing and patent rights and censorship. This is one of the main reasons the Pirate Movement was created in the first place; to protect human rights, freedom of speech and liberty on the Internet and consequently in everyday life. The situation today varies deeply, even between "western democracies", not to mention non-democratic regimes. For example, countries such as the Netherlands and Slovenia can be considered "champions" of defending Network neutrality in the current situation, while others are "harbingers" of its restriction.

In the Netherlands, a Network Neutrality law was passed in 2011 which "prohibits the blocking of internet services, usage of deep packet inspection to track customer behaviour and otherwise filtering and manipulating network traffic?".(Wikipedia, 7 June 2013.)

A similar law has been passed in the Slovenian Parliament on 20 December 2012, which "confirms the open and neutral character of the Internet and forbids the discrimination of Internet traffic on the basis of the services provided." (edri.org, 7 June 2013.)

These are just some examples, more and more legislation is discussed and passed every day all over the world directly or indirectly touching the subject of Network Neutrality. The danger is in international laws and treaties that are being discussed far from the public eye and are branded as "trade agreements" but also regulate the Internet and restrict the right of free speech and expression by the guise of protecting copyright and patent laws. It is my opinion that today, more than ever, the role of the Pirate Movement is crucial as the forefront defender of digital rights, freedoms and free speech.

"Knowledge will forever govern ignorance; and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives." James Madison

Featured image: CC BY [believekevin](#)

Image Source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/believekevin/> believekevin by

Written by Luka Dujmovic published at June 9, 2013

What is the European Data Protection Regulation?



When personal data is moved between different countries it makes it hard for citizens to have the right to protect and have some control over their personal information. The different registers, differing between countries, make it very hard for citizens, as well as companies trying to act in several countries, to keep track and control their information. Currently the European Parliament are discussing an attempt to harmonize data protection across the European Union.

With personal data being the oil of the new Internet there are big corporate interests in keeping the data protection laws weak. Having the funds and interests to weaken an attempt of a new law around data protection in Europe several lobbyists are set to work trying to make the new law more of a swiss cheese than a bank vault of privacy.

Privacy Campaign makes a good job with **their description**:

Personal data is any information relating to you, whether it relates to your private, professional, or public life. It can be anything from your name, a photo, an email address, bank details, your posts on social networking websites, your medical information, your religious beliefs, or in many cases, your IP address.

In the online environment, where vast amounts of personal data are transferred and exchanged around the globe instantaneously, it is increasingly difficult for people to maintain control of their personal information. Almost everything you do online, from the websites you visit, to the links you click on, to the searches you make and the services and platforms you interact with, allow for the collection of data.

The "right to be forgotten" is important in order to maintain privacy. Some people try claiming that "if you have nothing to hide then you have nothing to fear" but a right to privacy is more than this. Always being watched means people don't want to risk being perceived as "stupid or ridiculous" causing creativity and personal development to be severely limited. Privacy is the right to "think aloud ideas not yet fully formed". Even if you believe there is nothing to hide people always have their limits on how open they want to be with e.g. medical / financial history or giving out their phone or e-mail to random persons they don't know.

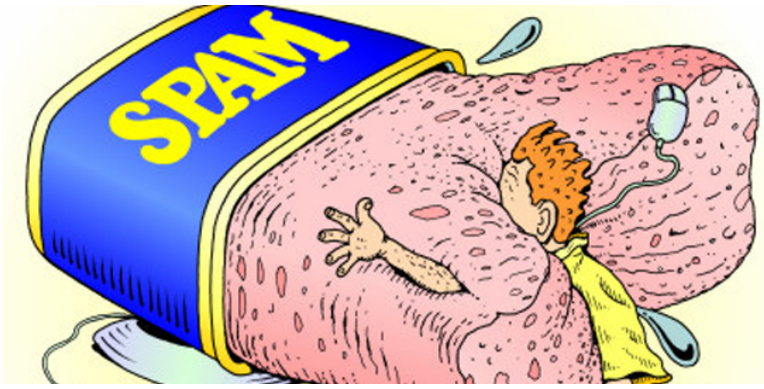
This topic is not only interesting to the lobbying of big companies living on personal information. Several people and organizations are informing about the situation but they could always need some more help. The two Pirate MEP's, [Amelia Andersdotter](#) and [Christian Engström](#), are obviously working hard on the proposed European Data Protection. The Swedish Pirate Party has also started a [campaign site](#) on the matter. The Greens / EFA are running their [own campaign site](#) and EDRi gives you [everything you need to know about the data protection regulation](#). Together with a few other digital rights groups they are also trying to get people to write their MEPs on [another site](#). Several national campaigns for Data Protection are active and they could always need a helping hand, or if [your country isn't listed](#) maybe start your own campaign?

Featured pic: From the campaign site <https://www.nakedcitizens.eu/> encouraging you to send this (or similar postcard) to your MEP.

Original picture in public domain.

Written by Josef Ohlsson Collentine published at June 7, 2013

Ukraine Pirate Party hit by Spam Attack



[Editor's note] Last month the [Ukrainian Pirate Party](#) came under attack. How they reacted and coped can show other Pirate Parties what to do in such cases.

From 1 May 2013 we faced with problems on our mail server ? some emails were being delayed. Also, all our public emails, that were published on our site, started receiving incredible amounts of spam. We discovered this in the logs, while trying to find problem causing the delay. Mostly those emails were just common ads and the spam filter successfully deleted them.

On 3 May the situation changed. Instead of common spam our emails filled with "junk" mails, which contained autogenerated text and even paragraphs from various books. There was no doubt about the cause of such activity. At that moment we have already analyzed the mail logs and discovered nearly 10 000 zombies. Someone paid for this bot-net and it was generating approximately 50 000 mails a day for each target email.

We informed our hosting provider about the attack. It continued till the 5 May and then suddenly stopped. We thought attack was finished because they couldn't harm us. But early in the morning on Monday 6 May our chairman [Sergey Yarygin](#) started receiving calls from different people who were saying that we were spamming them. Some of them forwarded this spam for us to see - it was blank email with just one link to our site. Some hours later the manager from our hosting provider called and told us, that [Spamhaus](#) was requiring us to stop spam activity.

Their bot resolved our server's IP from that link and sent an abuse notice to their datacenter, which forwarded it to our provider.

Because we had already informed them earlier about this attack and they had mail logs indicating the zombies (the same bot-net that was sending spam with the link), the manager told us that they would help us with abuses. This new attack affected users of Ukrainian free mail services and corporate emails, that were published in contact section on websites. We've received many calls from journalists, asking about details. As they told us, their public email accounts were getting 20-100 spam letters a day.

Attack continued till 13 May 2013. But what is interesting is that many of the people, who contacted us, were supporting us. Almost nobody believed we were responsible for this disaster. And we want to thank all of them.

Oleksii Ignachuk is the international coordinator for the Ukrainian Pirate Party and author of this article.

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Featured image CC BY-NC-SA by Vince Lamb

Image Source: CC BY-NC-SA <http://www.flickr.com/photos/22320444@N08/> Vince Lamb

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at June 6, 2013

Crypto Currency: A Funding Method for PPGR



Do you leave your computer on at nights or is it running only when you are using it? Whatever your answer is, you can digitally dig like a pirate and find a real treasure. Actually not only you, but your friends or a team that you are involved with or even a party can get funding by mining for the [?Litecoin?](#) digital currency.

This is not a game but a true P2P donation method applied by the Greek Pirates the last two months. The idea started by [Stratos Zolotas](#), elected member of the Arbitration Committee of [Pirate Party of Greece](#) and member of the IT team. As he said to Pirate Times so far 30 LTCs have been mined, about 100\$, from 15 members that are mining day and night and other 20 more that come and go. Zolotas was trying to think of how party members can contribute financially in this period of economic crisis and the idea came to him. It might not be a great funding for the party, but brings members together, strengthens the teamwork and creates the [?swarm?](#). Zolotas calls it "micro involvement" and finds it along the lines of pirate thinking.

PPGR released [a statement](#) (in Greek [here](#)) and sent it to their members and friends encouraging them to work like a swarm and participate in a collective mining of [?Litecoin?](#), also known as the [?little brother of Bitcoin?](#) as they have characteristically named this new currency. The biggest problem for all pirate parties concerning [funding](#) could be partly solved by collective mining and the purpose of this interview is to take a closer look on this crypto-currency project.

Pirate Times: What is Litecoins?

Stratos: I think Wikipedia's description is covering the issue quite well. "Litecoin is a peer-to-peer cryptocurrency and open source software project released under the MIT/X11 license. Inspired by and technically nearly identical to Bitcoin (BTC), Litecoin creation and transfer is based on an open source encryption protocol and is not managed by any central authority."

Pirate Times: It has to do with Bitcoin?

Stratos: Running to Wikipedia again, "Litecoin is intended by its developers to improve upon Bitcoin and offers three key differences: Firstly, the Litecoin network processes a block every 2.5 minutes, rather than Bitcoin's 10 minutes, which its developers claim allows for faster transaction confirmation. The network difficulty adjusts according to hashing power available, as the aim is for a block to be mined every 2.5 minutes. Secondly, the Litecoin network will produce 84 million litecoins which is four times as many currency units as will be issued by the Bitcoin network. Thirdly, Litecoin uses script in its proof-of-work algorithm: a sequential memory-hard function first conceived by Colin Percival. Its proponents claim that the memory intensive nature of Script reduces the advantage that GPU, FPGA and ASIC mining have over CPU mining (production of Litecoins), when compared to Bitcoin. FPGA and ASIC implementations are more expensive to create for Script than for SHA-256 as used by Bitcoin." The last difference from bitcoin was the reason that I selected Litecoin instead of Bitcoin. Bitcoin mining has become an expensive "sport" with specialized devices or powerful GPU cards that cost a lot of money. For a distributed mining effort among pirates we have to give some chances to people with common average hardware.

Pirate Times: How did you get the idea about Litecoin?

Stratos: I'm following the crypto-currency projects for some time now from a technical and theoretical point of view. The idea was not to make money from nothing (you have to use electricity anyway) but to give to members and friends an easy way for financial donations. I call this type of involvement, micro-involvement. I saw that a lot of members and friends don't go to the bank or make a money transfer easily but are willing to let their computer systems running for mining, because after the initial install it's just some clicks from the mouse. Also I thought

that something like this will be very coherent to the pirate's way of thinking.

Pirate Times: How can anyone download the application?

Stratos: There is not only "one" software application for LTC mining. We are using cpuminer because it runs on every system that has a CPU (that means all of them) on Windows, Linux and Mac. There are more specialized software applications for GPU mining or for FPGAs and ASICs. Cpuminer is the way to go for the average user who wants to donate LTCs by mining for the PP-GR. If someone is willing to do more and wants more complex instructions or help, he just have to ask us on our [forum](#). We have prepared ready to run batch files for mining with cpuminer that can be downloaded for windows users of [32 bit CPUs](#) and [64 bit CPUs](#). There is a source and other versions of cpuminer for [Linux and Mac](#) as well.

Pirate Times: What are the minimum requirements for a computer to participate in mining?

Stratos: A decent modern PC with 2 core CPU will do.

Pirate Times: How is this collective mining?

Stratos: We are using [p2pool](#) that is a decentralized peer to peer mining pool. Pools are the way for the mining to be efficient because solo mining (without pool) requires a heavy amount of power and resources from the miner. On pool mining, many miners connect to the pool and the blocks are split and distributed in smaller pieces to the miners. P2pool is the only open source decentralized pool, that means there is no registration on a single server. Miners are connected to nodes and all the nodes form the pool. We just run a p2pool node on our server for the miners that are willing to mine for PP-GR.

Pirate Times: For how long has PPGR applied this method?

Stratos: If you count the test period, it is about 2 months now.

Pirate Times: How many members participating?

Stratos: It's difficult to track this because p2pool supports anonymous mining, but I presume that 10-15 pirates are always on and about 10-20 more come and go, occasionally.

Pirate Times: How much money have you collected so far?

Stratos: About 30 LTCs have been mined until now. That means, with the current price, about 100 \$.

Pirate Times: Is it possible to make a calculation for the daily efficiency of the party from this collective mining in euro? E.g. if we have 100 or 1000 computers mining 24 hours how many euros can they generate per day?

Stratos: It is difficult to calculate this. There are a lot of parameters involved and the price of digital currencies is fluctuating on the digital markets. The point is, the more pirates mine, the better it is (swarm power).

Pirate Times: Are you aware if other parties are using this method of collective mining? Would you recommend it to other pirate parties, PPI or PPEU?

Stratos: I'm not aware of other initiatives such as ours. I think that pirate parties should take a closer look on crypto-currency projects, not just for mining but especially for the political meaning of supporting, promoting and use of digital currencies.

Pirate Times: As a member of the IT team, do you think in technical level that PPGR can host a ??? or a ???U conference?

Stratos: Yes we can. The only problem is the cost (or availability) of equipment for such an event. That means, if we can find the necessary equipment, we can do it for sure.

Pirate Times: What is your background in pirate politics?

Stratos: I'm an elected member of the CoA of PP-GR and a founding member of the party. Before that i [ran] as a candidate with an independent group on local elections in my town and i

was involved with politics from my school years. I'm a member of several open source projects and also a professional system engineer, specialized on open source software. I run a small information technology solutions company with two friends on our small island (Syros) where we try to use as much open source software as we can for the provided services to our clients.

Pirate Times: What's your review so far by the operation of Liquid Feedback? From your experience, what are the plus and the minus of the tool?

Stratos: I think that LQFB is the most complete tool that we have until now. It has some rough edges although. I think that all the "minus" comments are regarding delegation and because of the difficulty to adapt to a new way of participating, discussing, deciding and voting. I am a supporter of the "delegation concept" because i think that "experts" have to receive the support and trust from the other members. Delegation has its disadvantages regarding abuse, but this is not a delegation error, but a human error. The main characteristic of public and transparent delegation is the key of LQFB (and other systems as well). If we abuse delegation it's our fault, not the system's. I think that LQFB developers are doing a fine job until now to provide pirates with a nice piece of software.

Featured image: CC BY [Pirate Party Greece](#)

Written by Stathis Leivaditis published at June 5, 2013

The European Manifesto Of The German Pirate Party



The so called "Six Pack" of Reforms for Europe includes a lot of points, accepted by the general assembly of the German Pirate Party ([we already reported](#)): more citizen participation

and rights for the European Parliament, a Marshall plan to deal with Europe's economic crisis, energy generation that should be decentralized, access to a net-neutral internet should be guaranteed and Creative Content licenses promoted. The concept of a "Fortress Europe" and the agency FRONTEX should be abandoned.

Here is the translated version of the whole election programme point together with an additional point of the agricultural policy:

Preamble of the German European Manifesto

Today's European Union, as a supranational institution, is composed of its member states rather than of its citizens. Pirates hold the opinion that the future of Europe ought to be organised on the common interests of all European citizens, rather than the special interests of single member states. The democratic deficit, within the European Union, has existed since its beginning and has not been sufficiently addressed during the course of the integration process.

The primary goal for all Pirates will be to fix this democratic deficit through the building of a solid democratic foundation for the European Union. In order to achieve this goal it will be crucial to design more citizen-friendly political processes and to create a common European cultural space. Political decisions at European level need to be preceded by European-wide debates - allowing adequate participation for everyone. Without this adequate level of participation no proper decisions representing the general public interest can be taken.

The internet, as a new sphere of communication, offers many opportunities: providing the possibility for political development, helping to overcome political top-down communication as well as one-way communication, and breaking the dominance of the mass media. We Pirates will therefore defend the freedom of the internet with fierce determination at the European level as well as on a global scale.

Additional Democracy for Europe

We Pirates demand the convocation of a constituent assembly (Constitutional Convention) for the European Union. The aim of the Constitutional Convention will be to restructure the political

system of the EU and its relations to the member states and regions, thus establishing a truly democratic foundation. The process to create this democratic foundation must be transparent and include all European citizens in a comprehensive manner. The members of this assembly are to be elected democratically and should represent the cultural diversity of the Union. All citizens will then hold a vote on the compiled draft of the constitution across the Union at the same time.

We Pirates also demand that citizens should be able to take part in votes all over the EU, in order to influence European legislation. They should be able to suggest changes to legislation or stop European laws in the making by means of "citizens' initiatives". These European Citizens' Initiatives must be easy to use and free of charge. Changes in EU- contracts or the constitution of the EU may only come into effect if a majority of EU-citizens approve it in a simultaneous vote across the EU. The EU-executive must make sure that these votes can be conducted, even at short notice.

The present EU legislation is dominated by the executive branch (the European Commission) at the expense of the legislative branch (the European Parliament). We Pirates demand a re-adjustment of the separation of powers, favoring the legislative branch. Therefore, the initiative- and decision-making powers of the European Parliament should be expanded.

European Economic and Monetary Union

The European Union is currently experiencing its worst crisis since its foundation. The common currency (the Euro) has not functioned as an engine for further integration. During recent economic and financial crisis it has surfaced that the conceptional flaws of the European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) are further contributing to the imbalances among Euro-member states.

One-sided European rescue policies; in particular the austerity measures such as cuts in pensions, wages and social benefits, are a slap in the face to all citizens. This crisis management results in the socialisation of losses and privatisation of gains, while widening the economic and social division between and within member states. What is more, this type of

crisis-management constitutes an un-democratic setback for the European integration process.

We Pirates strictly reject the massive financing of public debt that holds dubious value through the European Central Bank (ECB) or the European Stability Mechanism (ESM). In order to effectively solve the European debt crisis, PIRATES demand timely, single measure-haircuts, effective restructuring and, if necessary, recapitalisation of ailing banks. If the equity ratio is still too low, following a consequent involvement of owners, the respective bank may be stabilised by converting borrowed capital into own funds. As a last resort, the socialisation of the concerned banks may be considered; however only if insolvency must be avoided for fear of severe general economic consequences.

In order to soften the shock of drastic social cuts: small scale investment savers, pension funds and life insurances ought to be guaranteed up to a reasonable fixed limit.

The European Union cannot survive without solidarity. We Pirates demand that economically weak member states are supported by means of a "Marshall-Plan" - an investment and development programme to boost short-term economic activity and strengthen long-term growth.

Our goal is the reorganisation and modernisation of European economies towards an energy-efficient and resource-conserving economic structure. In order to restore the rule of law and market-oriented principles within the EU, the necessary rescue measures for financial institutions and governments must come under independent scrutiny and, if necessary, should be reversed. Disclosure of all corresponding transactions is crucial here.

The partly criminal conduct of the financial sector - in combination with insufficient banking regulation and supervision within the EU - has proven to be harmful to the common good, and constitutes the major reason for the financial crisis. We Pirates call for an effective European

supervisory mechanism independent from the ECB and allowing it to identify and efficiently inhibit credit excesses in a timely fashion. For the further stabilisation of the European banking sector the effective separation of "Investment Banking" from other business activity (separate banking system) must be made mandatory by law.

To ensure independence of the Eurozone from the whims of US rating agencies and international financial markets, Pirates call for the immediate foundation of an independent European rating agency.

We Pirates regard the increasing interference of the European Commission into budgetary policies of single member states as a violation of the democratic principle and an imminent danger for the economic development and the process of European integration. Consequently, Pirates eject the fiscal pact as an intervention into budgetary sovereignty of member states without democratic legitimation. Further steps towards Eurozone integration imperatively require increased democratic legitimation, proper accountability and more effective parliamentary control.

European Energy Policy

A functional European internal market for energy must be geared towards security of supply, resource protection, consumer benefits and competitiveness. The yet incomplete structure of the existing EU-internal energy market has to be completed with the challenges Europe faces in the sectors of energy and climate protection. We Pirates advocate decentralized integration of the energy market in the European Union, favoring a wide range of small and medium-sized energy providers. This decentralized energy market can guarantee affordable and stable energy supply for households and businesses. We Pirates want to implement net-neutrality throughout the European energy infrastructure. The independent and consumer-friendly energy networks will lead the way to break up the actual oligopolistic structures of the European energy market and strengthen the position of consumers.

We Pirates demand the abolishment of all subsidies and aid in favor of any fossil or nuclear energy-production. State-subsidies for fossil or nuclear energy, including legal liability waivers

for nuclear power plants, are counterproductive to the changes we want to happen. These subsidies prevent a climate friendly and largely self-sufficient energy supply in Europe. Transparent pricing and disclosure of the mix of energy sources is a pre-requisite for a functional, consumer-controlled energy market. Only then are European consumers able to take informed decisions about what and where to buy their energy (according to their own individual preferences). We Pirates defend the agreed climate goals of the EU. To reduce global warming we need a mix of energy efficiency, an improved system for emissions trading at the European level and a strong support for renewable energy. We favor stronger cooperation and joint investments into the European energy infrastructure.

We Pirates demand a mandatory and European-wide commitment from the energy suppliers to present the relevant data in a barrier-free manner. In the implementation-process of the European internal energy market state of the art, net-supported technology (SmartGrid) will play a key-role. Admittedly, the detailed documentation of individual energy use does involve a certain risk of abuse. Hence, extensive data safety standards must be implemented.

Digital Agenda for Europe

The digital revolution changes social and economic structures throughout Europe. Free and equal access to the internet is the basic requirement for participation in the digital life. We Pirates want to include a right to digital participation in the European Charter of Fundamental Rights and we support the Europe-wide development of a capable communication infrastructure by the EU.

Our goal is to enable access to broadband for everyone in the EU. To ensure a permanent incentive for investment, fair competition and equal treatment of everyone in the digital space, the principle of network neutrality must become European law. In the course of improvement and modernisation of networks it must not come to a monopoly in communication infrastructure. The internet, as a communicative space, knows no borders. We Pirates therefore consider

artificial national barriers for cultural goods within the European internal market as a hindrance for the European integration process and demand their abolishment.

Overall, a change in mind is required to the area for rights of immaterial goods and their restrictive enforcement. A further monopolisation of information and culture has to be stopped. Therefore, basic legislation is required to enable the state to only allow (or sustain) monopoly rights for immaterial goods if they are not in conflict with the general interest. In addition, they have to be temporarily limited and neither their time span nor their scope may be changed retrospectively.

The creation of commons (such as free software, free cultural goods, open patent pools, free education and open education) have to be ensured and promoted through an appropriate legislative framework. Social life, which increasingly takes place in digital spaces, must not be restricted by rights to immaterial goods. This has to be ensured through allowing fair use.

We Pirates demand European Standards for copyright contracts that strengthen the position for creators against processing and collecting entities as well as balancing it with the interests of the general public. Comprehensive transparency and fair participatory rights for their members have to be ensured in European regulations for collecting societies.

We Pirates eject international trade agreements, like ACTA, that stand against the aforementioned principles on immaterial goods and data protection. We demand an end to all plans and laws that aim to subject the whole populace to general suspicion. Existing legislation, such as data retention, must be abolished. We Pirates also advocate a common European data protection legislation which guarantees the highest standards of data protection, especially for consumers. At the very least, such standards have to correspond to existing national levels of protection. Any reform of European data protection law has to prioritize data avoidance and informational self-determination. This is especially true for data collection, data processing and data sharing by public entities. In this context, we Pirates demand the introduction of effective and harmonised penalising powers, including deterring fines, for the European Data Protection

Supervisor and the data protection agencies of the member states. The independence of data protection agencies has to be warranted at all times.

European Policy on Internal Affairs and Security

We Pirates propose a fundamental reform of the EU-policy concerning refugees and asylum. Any 'full boat' ideology is unacceptable. The European approach must be based on the acknowledgement of human rights and fully respect the Geneva Convention on Refugees and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

All member-states must accept refugees and asylum-seekers according to their capacity. No individual member-state should be left alone with the financial, logistic and administrative burden. European solidarity is called for instead of burdening individual countries.

'Frontex', the Agency for the control of EU-borders, which often violates international law and human rights, is an incarnation of the European Union's misanthropic exclusion policy. We Pirates demand the complete dismantlement of the Agency.

EU-neighbourhood policy (ENPI) and EU-development policy (EuropeAid and ECHO) must be directed towards lasting improvements of living conditions and focus on the promotion of human rights throughout all partner-countries and partner-regions. We denounce all tendencies to create a repressive system of surveillance and control in Europe.

The planned and indiscriminate use of drones is a complete aberration. Except for restrictively defined and exceptional cases, Pirates oppose the deployment of any drones in the EU and its member states or by the EU and its member states in other countries.

European Traffic Policy

We Pirates view mobility as a fundamental right. Sustainable traffic policy must find better solutions than the use of individual cars where all the negative and environmentally harmful

effects are forced upon the society. We support the reduction of road-based traffic in the context of multi-modal traffic planning, while emission-free urban mobility is the supreme goal.

On European level, Pirates demand that all carriers and systems of transport take on a fair share of the overall costs, based on the costs-by-cause principle.

We Pirates regard connected traffic infrastructure and the extension of the trans-European railway-corridors, as a substantial contribution to the process of European integration. Harmonization of technical standards, reduction of administrative hurdles, and suitable complementary construction are indispensable requirements for the creation of a common European traffic system.

We Pirates consider the act of transporting goods via shipping and rail as trendsetting. The extension of transnational traffic lines for cargo is a primary goal. The decisive shift of traffic volume to railways will be essential to meet environmental requirements, relieve the road networks and optimize the capacity for all transport systems. The promotion of pan-European inland-water transport will offer an ecologically sound alternative to transport of cargo on roads. The capacities of shipping are to be expanded on the European level, while acceptable technical standards must be made mandatory also for ships registered outside the EU.

We Pirates demand a unification of European airspace in order to increase security, efficiency and to allow for more innovative routing. Reduction of noise, pollution and environmental damage is a central goal of our air traffic policy. We demand the standardization and expansion of passenger rights, in particular in the area of data protection. Pirates also support the use of suitable communication-technologies so that traffic may be reduced as far as possible.

!-http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=2LCdx-CVurA-->

Improving Agriculture

We Pirates work towards a powerful and regionally adjusted agriculture. This would allow even small farmers to participate on equal terms, while their competitiveness is assured in the framework of sustainable husbandry and growing consumer awareness for ecologically sound production. Farmers and their associations (jointly with food wholesalers), nature and animal protection associations, food quality certifiers and representatives of consumers (including politicians), should get together and negotiate in full transparency over the conditions, possibilities and optimal implementation of that approach.

Agricultural businesses should not suffer from price-pressure dictated by large food wholesalers and the processing industry. Neither should agricultural policy primarily aim at growth without consideration of sustainability and the needs and preferences of consumers.

We Pirates oppose the industrial mass-breeding of livestock. This practice undercuts the quality of life for all of us, in particular in the rural areas. Industrial Animal Production also is associated with unacceptable standards for the keeping and treatment animals which endangers traditional rural farming. We defend the rights of all farm animals to proper treatment.

We Pirates want to adjust the standards for laying-hens and the entire process of poultry-keeping; in particular we criticize that the floor-area available in sheds for chickens and turkeys is too small. The proper need for space has to be defined and checked by experts and be improved where necessary. Holding of artiodactyls (ungulates - pigs and sheep) needs to be adjusted in accordance with a decent ratio of animal per acre. Healthy and ecologically-sustainable animal stock can only be guaranteed if the production of feed and environmental friendly utilization of excrement are in line with available space and a complete nutrient-cycle. Laws and regulations have to be applied consequently and compliance need to be controlled more strictly.

Agriculture should conserve, rather than endanger natural resources and the ecological balance.

Seeds, whether bred genetically or conventionally to be resistant against pesticide, may cause particular harm for the environment when they are introduced to virgin ecological systems. Plants bred for resistance will only work in conjunction with specifically adjusted pesticides. Thus, farmers are often forced to use specific pesticides produced by monopolistic companies. This constraint will lead to a direct dependence to the rights owners for seeds and pesticides. We reject this forced combination of seeds and pesticides protection through patents.

We Pirates oppose the allocation of public money in the form of agricultural subsidies without reciprocal contributions in sectors such as protection of the climate, the environment, nature, animals and biodiversity. If subsidies are granted, effects in terms of potential benefits and added value to consumers and society must be regularly evaluated and grants adjusted accordingly, at both EU and national level.

Our long-term goal is to abolish all agricultural subsidies. In order to protect agri-businesses against elimination, decreasing adjustment should be applied over a transition-period, while payments are being limited to a decent amount per individual farmer.

Featured images: Public Domain of various Pirate parties

Written by Patrick Schiffer published at June 4, 2013

Quiz for May 2013 – Win Marina Weisband’s Book



The Pirate Times Quiz for May 2013

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/alias and you will be placed in a draw for 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 11 June 2013 CET and the winner will be announced in the following Pirate Times "P-review", published at the start of every week.

This month's treasure trove is a signed copy of "Wir Nennen es Politik" by [Marina Weisband](#) .

CC-BY-SA Pirate Times

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

Rules:

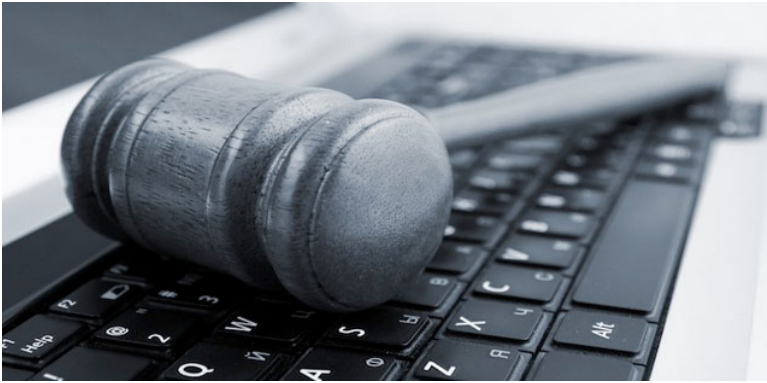
- Only one entry per person
- Late entries will not be entered in the draw
- Draws will be made using [Random Picker](#)
- Copying the correct answer from someone else is allowed and even encouraged
- Email addresses will not be kept past the end of the draw except to get the details of the winner.

[To the QUIZ](#)

Featured image: CC BY-SA Pirate Times

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at June 3, 2013

According to Spanish Law, internet piracy is the same as torture



In the last few days, the rough draft of the new Spanish Criminal Code ? prepared by the right-wing **People's Party**, who currently have an absolute majority in the Congress ? **has been leaked**. It contains many disturbing aspects, such as the **criminalization of several forms of peaceful protesting** ? however, one of the most debated topics has been its treatment of internet piracy.

In short, the new Criminal Code will give Spain what is probably the most restrictive legal framework in any democracy, in terms of internet file-sharing. The two main articles regulating it ? 270 and 271 ? impose prison sentences up to four years just for sharing works protected as "**intellectual property**". And in sentencing it's irrelevant whether or not it was done for profit. In other words, uploading movies, TV shows, songs or books, even if it is for free and you are a fan, can get you four years in jail.

Should anybody "facilitate the access" to said works (even if that person did not share the work themselves), the sentence is up to three years. The scary bit here is that the Code doesn't explain what "facilitate" means in this context. This makes it open to the interpretation by the judge. One example of such a grey-zone would be if Google was considered to be "facilitating" access to "intellectual property" just by making it searchable.

To sell or distribute "intellectual property" that circumvent DRM systems is punished with three years. Additionally the mere possession of such devices is also punished with the same amount

of time. If anybody owns a single copy of these systems (or even a hacked game console), they can end up serving three years in jail. But the most severe punishment is for 'link pages' (such as [The Pirate Bay](#)). That is, pages that link to copyrighted material. In this case the prison sentence goes up to six years. This six year sentence can also be applied to mere uploaders that do not make profit, provided that the number of files shared was "important". Which means that, if anybody has many "illegal" files on his computer and shares them, he will be threatened with six years in prison.

If all this seems staggering, it becomes even more shocking when we compare these sentences to those applied to other crimes in Spain:

- If one [stabs anybody with cruelty](#) (causing inhuman pain), the maximum sentence is five years.
- [To induce or facilitate the prostitution of minors](#) is only punished with five years.
- If a Spaniard [totally destroys somebody's property ending in total bankruptcy](#), the maximum sentence will be three years.
- In Spain, [to discriminate against somebody in their workplace on the basis of ideology or race](#) has a maximum sentence of two years.

When comparing the sentences for civil servants, authorities, or politicians, the treatment of internet piracy gets even more absurd:

- Six years is the maximum sentence [a police officer will serve if he seriously tortures a detainee](#).
- A [Judge who convicts unfairly in a criminal procedure](#) goes to jail for four years.
- [Influence peddling](#) is punished with two years.
- A civil servant who [falsifies the documentation of a public enterprise](#) only gets a fine.

This being said, it seems absurd for the Spanish Government to declare that internet piracy is the same as torture. They also make it a worse crime than child prostitution, compared to some of the examples above. If we keep in mind that this very government, now acting harshly against piracy, some time ago **pardoned some officers** who had been convicted of torture. -We could conclude that, for the Spanish Government, internet piracy is worse than torture.

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Featured image: CC BY-NC-SA by **marshmet532**

Written by FabiÃ¡n Plaza Miranda published at June 2, 2013

Austria Invites International Pirates to their General Assembly



Over the weekend of 21-23 June 2013 the **Austrian Pirate Party** will be holding its General Assembly in the ancient and picturesque city of **Sankt Pölten** found in the State of Lower Austria (which is in the north east of the country). As the featured image shows, the State Parliament Building is in the form of a ship. A ship ready to be boarded by Pirates.

The Austrian Pirate Party are expecting over 100 Pirates from all corners of Austria and this is an especially important event for them as they prepare for elections in September. These upcoming elections will make the assembly busy and exciting. They are hoping to see Pirates from other countries there as this will help by showing Austrian voters that the Pirate Movement is an international one. While the proceedings will be held in German a separate area will be set aside for international guests and English speaking Pirates will be able to guide the visitors

through the proceedings.

Friday has been set aside for workshops, socializing and tours of the area. A special event, on Saturday evening will be an international discussion panel. The provisional topic will be "The Pirate Ba(y)by -Pirate Vision 2029 : What will the world be like, when someone born today, reaches maturity".

Austria's central position in the continent makes it an excellent place for Pirates to meet and network together especially as the European elections are looming on the horizon. Pirates in Europe will need to develop ways of cooperating in 2014 and the Austrian elections would make a good start.

St. Pölten is a half hour train ride from Vienna. The specific venue is the Kulturhaus Spratzern, Eisenbahnerstr. 5, 3100 St.Pölten. For further details about their meeting see [their wiki](#) (German).

Here is a translation of the social program (subject to change):

Friday 21 June 2013:

- a trip to the [Wachau Valley](#)
- a visit to the winery [Winzer Krems](#)
- Heurigenbesuch - The sampling of a local delicacy
- a visit to the [State Parliament of Lower Austria](#)
- a pub tour

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Saturday 22 June 2013

- a discussion evening with international and local guests

□ a Pirate Party and the official start of the election campaign

Sunday 23 June 2013

□ 17:00 Press conference

If you have questions you can contact PPAT at [sekretariat-wien\[at\]piratenpartei.at](mailto:sekretariat-wien[at]piratenpartei.at)

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This article has been updated and further updates are possible as the date nears. For the most up-to-date information refer to the [conference wiki](#)

Featured Image: [Roberto Verzo](#)

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at June 1, 2013

History In The Making: First Ever Pirate Unionist Elected In Athens



Athens teachers ballot "[Pirates in Education](#)" managed to get one out of nine seats, changing the "status quo" of the [Greek Teachers Federation \(DOE\)](#) and sending the first ever Pirate unionist to their body of representatives. By the time when this article was written it is not clear yet who of the three candidates ([Thanasis Gounaris](#), [Markos Papaioannou](#) , or [Electra Pagoni](#)) would take the seat but this is the first election worldwide that sees a Pirate unionist elected to

a top position running as a Pirate.

"Pirates in Education" doubled their percentage from 5.4% to 10.42% and raised their voting result from 50 to 90 votes in Athens Teachers Association "Aristotle" ([previous article](#)). They were competing against ballots supported by the parties of PASOK and DHMAR (that are in the Greek government) and also SYRIZA in the left.

The day started for Pirates arranging their stands outside and inside the school where the elections were to be held. Pirates caught a place right at the entrance of the school and hung their flags and plastered their posters. Their stand was the only one with computers, playing videos like [the one with Pirates from around the world](#) talking in Greek and saying "Ime kai ego Peiratis" ("I am a Pirate too!")

One of the success factors for Pirate Party Greece in the election was the passion they displayed compared to the other candidates. Thanasis Gounaris, head of the ballot and chairman for the Board of Pirate Party of Greece, spoke thrice in the General Assembly of the Association and captivated the audience present with his dynamic speech.

Pirate Times contacted the three Pirates for a comment:

Thanasis Gounaris: "The sign of Athen's teachers will not go unnoticed by Greek society. Teachers message is spotless and Greeks take it seriously in mind. I would like to thank my colleagues for entrusting "Pirates in Education". This success marks a great beginning for Pirate Party of Greece. Greek society will see the brand of teachers who were inspired by Pirates and

turned their backs on traditional union trade behaviours. We doubled our rate and votes, we are the fourth power in the Association of "Aristotle" and not unfairly after we convinced our colleagues. We performed with patience and persistence an exemplary campaign in making the most of all available forces, digitally and physically. I personally visited and talked with my colleagues in all of the schools falling at the club 'Aristotelis', so did Markos and Electra. Congratulations to all Pirates who helped in any way to this collective effort to be a success! I would like to thank all the teachers, men and women that voted for us because they believe that our voice must be heard. We would like to invite you to join us and participate in joint training session configuration of our seats. A special "Thank you" to the vanguard of the ballot Markos and Electra. "

Markos Papaioannou: "I feel that maybe something is changing. The result clearly shows that society includes traditional trade unionists as a part of what has led this place in this situation, and begins to spin back by voting for something new. No wonder that "Pirates in Education" not having a year of action and existence, managed a 10% to overcome the ballots that supported PASOK, SYRIZA and DHMAR. Yes, I thought that sooner or later a successful result will come because although our party has no publicity in television spreads like a virus because it is something special. I am doubly happy that this first success came in the trade union sector and I hope for a good continuity. "

Electra Pagonis: "I feel very happy that we managed to squeeze a seat in DOE for the first time in Greece. I had high hopes for a positive outcome. Our leader, Thanasis Gounaris, has organized pirate teachers very effectively and gave a hard fight all the time. We send message for the overturn of the "status quo" of DOE. As Thanasis said today in the GA we will strive for transparency and participation of all teachers in decision-making."

All pictures in article are CC-BY, [PPGR](#)

Introduction of the Pirate Party of South Korea



The Pirate Parties International (PPI) had their general assembly in Kazan on 20-21 April 2013 where they accepted some new ordinary members. One of these new members was the Pirate Party of South Korea. Pirate Times interviewed the founder Gyung Chan Lee about the current situation.

Pirate Times: What was your motivation to apply for a PPI membership and what do you expect from the PPI?

Gyung Chan Lee: Korea is the number 10 or 11 nation in economic size. We'll be under the 10 biggest of OECD and our annual Budget is ca. 340 billion US\$ per year. But our politics are out of service. That's WHY we Koreans are less happy than more poor nations in Asia or the world. We can get a happier society if we get righteous and smart politics. I would like give a chance to young politicians in Korea via the Pirate Party System.

Pirate Times: Will the Pirate Party of South Korea participate in any upcoming elections? Please tell us about your expectations for the next elections you will participate in.

Gyung Chan Lee: Yes! June 2014 is our local elections date. It's our core target for the election to offer better and new grassroots politics in the whole of Korea. Our local politics are totally corrupted and it's sad to see how our taxes are wasted. Me, personally, well.....as the Mayor of

my hometown, Daegu city, would be nice, because it's almost as conservative as Munich or Bavaria in Germany. I'm pretty sure that I will fail. But I can spread Piratism (Ideology of PP) to Korea's "black of black" metropole (a ultra conservative city). So, we will be the winner of 2020 local election.

Pirate Times: How long has the Pirate Party of South Korea existed and what was your motivation to found the party?

Gyung Chan Lee: Since 2011. I created a Pirate Party Forum. Nobody -or just few guys- knew of the PP and so we invited interesting persons like IT professors [and] lawyers etc. It's a party format as in real parties, I mean a party, like a drink and dinner party. Now they all know what we should do in order to create, "a real political party." The world best "Digital/IT system Party!"

Pirate Times: What are the core topics of the Pirate Party of South Korea? Are there topics that are unique to the Pirate Party of South Korea, something that distinguishes them from other Pirate Parties?

Gyung Chan Lee: PPK's core topics are JOBS and once more JOBS for youth. So, we're going to create a social Pirate Cooperative in Seoul. I'm planning on flying to Berlin to discuss a Global Pirate Coop and to do some networking with PPEU and PPI. Pirate Coop could create thousand of good jobs and we in Korea have the world best Internet infrastructure. The world's best infrastructure means that if we have wide/broad software (Piratism) then we can simply be the world's the best Pirate Party. Korea's country size is also optimal. 50 million in the south, and 20 million in the north. That's good! North Korea already has the world's best hacker army. It will be nice once the iron wall starts falling.

Pirate Times: Please tell us more about the inner structure of the Pirate Party of South Korea.

Gyung Chan Lee: We're still a forum. Our law for creating a new political party is not simple. We have, since 60 years, a system with 2 big parties like in old Germany. CDU/CSU und SPD. We're about to talk with Prof.Ahn Cheolsoo about a co-operation. He was a presidential candidate and is now an elected Member of the National Assembly. He needs a new party and

he is the owner of an IT antivirus company called "Ahn Lab", the biggest in Korea.

That's WHY we can achieve real power in 2017. He will be a strong presidential candidate. The problem is, I think, we can't use the "Pirate Party" name. Pirates got a very negative image because of the old Japanese Pirates. But I'm sure we can use the PP system.

Pirate Times: If you think 5 years ahead, what will be different compared to today's situation?

Gyung Chan Lee: 5 years ahead ? Please. see the answer above.

Pirate Times: How do you manage to keep your financial balance? Do you have any special fund-raising methods? How can people support the Pirate Party of South Korea?

Gyung Chan Lee: Financial: We will sell Pirate Coop's membership. It's easier than just membership fees for a pure political party. Young people , as we call 2030 generations, don't like pure politics. Me personally, my religion is Roman Catholic, now I'm coordinading 5 million Korean Catholic people for Catholic Coop. It's an experiment for a Pirate Coop later on. A Super Coop. "**Mondragon**" from Spain is my dream for the next 10 years. A Korean Mondragon!

I also can create a social foundation later. Prof.Ahn got a foundation already, he donated 100 mio. USD, nearly half of his fortune. It's a small Gates foundation. We all know we cannot take our money luggage to heaven.

Pirate Times: How many members does the Pirate Party of South Korea have at the moment?

Can foreigners become members of the Pirate Party of South Korea?

Gyung Chan Lee: Actually, we're ca. 120 professionals. Surely Seoul is the main metropole for Piratism.

Featured image by Gyung Chan Lee

Written by Daniel Ebbert published at May 30, 2013

PIRATES OF DENMARK KEEPERS OF TRANSPARENCY



While Denmark is well known for the openness of its society, Danish government has revolutionized protests by intending to change the law on **Freedom of Information** and restrictions on access to government documents. Under the proposal the Minister of Justice has brought to the parliament a lot of documents characterized as 'political advisory' and would not be available to the media.

The whole situation motivated people, organizations, journalists and **Pirates of Denmark** to participate in a demonstration that was held on 15 May 2013 at Christiansborg Slotsplads, right outside of the Danish parliament. Pirates attracted attention after two of them dressed in purple spandex suits and stood outside the building holding Pirate flags in their hands like the guardians of transparency.

Emil OW Kirkegaard, member of the Board of PPDK told the Pirate Times about it: ?Since one of PPDK's core policies is that government transparency is important, it was an obvious choice to take part in this demonstration. This is obviously a step in the wrong direction. PPDK made a press release that noted that the party is for openness in the administration and that this law is a dangerous move in the opposite direction.?

Pirate Times: What is the basic thrust of the proposed changes?

Emil OW Kirkegaard: The basic thrust of the proposed changes is: It will be harder to use freedom of information acts to force official bodies to disclose information. The details are complicated. But two Danish journalists have spent a lot of time on the issue demonstrating how quite a few recent scandals in Danish politics would never have seen the light of the day with the new law. The politicians (particularly the Minister of Justice) claim that they need more freedom to discuss policies with their employees, but it looks more like that they want to avoid scandals. They have offered no concrete examples as to why this should be the case. It will be a sad day for Danish democracy if this law passes, which it looks like it will do.

Pirate Times: How many people are against this new law?

Emil OW Kirkegaard: There is a large public movement against the proposed changes, and a popular list of signatures is at [~83,000 signatures](#) right now. Considering the population of Denmark is about 5,500,000 and it is a very dry subject, this is a large list of signatures. About 1.5% of the total Danish population. Their [Facebook page](#) also has 10,000 likes. This law is under fire by [journalists from all over the world](#). It was a demonstration arranged to protest against a proposed change to the Danish equivalent of the Freedom of Information act.

Pirate Times: Whose idea was to appear with these purple suits?

Emil OW Kirkegaard: The purple suits were Rolf Jørgensen's idea, who is also a member of the board. He is one of the two people in the suits. We also distributed eye patches for free to tourists and others who wanted them. Our stunt gave us a bit of media attention, as [quite a few Danish newspapers mentioned us](#).

Pirate Times: When PPDK was founded? How many members has it got today?

Emil OW Kirkegaard: PPDK was founded in 2009 and today has 200 members. There are 6 members on the Board: chairman Andreas Petri Petersen, vice chairman Ole Husgaard, treasurer Peter Bjørn Hansen and 3 other members Emil OW Kirkegaard, Thomas Petri

Petersen, Rolf Jørgensen.

Pirate Times: Have you taken part in elections?

Emil OW Kirkegaard: None. It is not feasible to take part in elections because of the difficult conditions of the Danish law on the subject. One needs to collect 20,500 signatures that include the entire **CPR-number** thus making it open to abuse, and making it harder to collect from citizens. All signatures must be collected within 18 months. Then, one has to deliver them to the local authorities where the citizen lives (no central agency), which is impractical and expensive. Each of the communes must verify the signature. Then they send it back to the citizen himself (not to us), and the citizen must then mail it to us for it to count. We estimate that it would take at least 100,000 DKK to just get on the ballot with this system. The relevant Danish minister has promised to change the law by "early summer", but nothing has happened so far. Before that happens, we are not able to run for the national parliament or the EU parliament.

PPDK?s identity:

Homepage: <http://www.piratpartiet.dk/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/piratpartietdk>

Google+:

<https://plus.google.com/u/0/b/110104014765371755397/110104014765371755397/posts>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/PiratpartietDK>

Featured image: Public Domain

Written by Stathis Leivaditis published at May 28, 2013

Swedish Pirates Want to Send Minister of Justice to Mars

The Young Pirates of Sweden has nominated the Swedish Minister of Justice, Beatrice Ask, to the Mars One project. They now hope that she will accept the nomination and leave Earth and politics behind her.

The not-for-profit organisation [Mars One](#) made great waves in media earlier this year when they started taking applications to create the first human settlement on Mars in 2023. [165 000](#) people have since applied for a one way ticket - most of them for their interest in science and exploration, but the Pirates have now nominated Beatrice Ask for a completely different reason.

"We want to send the Minister of Justice to Mars since she has systematically dismantled the legal security in Sweden", said Young Pirates of Sweden president Gustav Nipe [to Nyheter24](#). "We think it would be the best for all parties if she moved to another planet."

Beatrice Ask is unpopular for Swedish Pirates for many reasons, including supporting the [FRA law](#) in 2008 which introduced a mass surveillance of all communication passing through Swedish borders. She is frequently the target of criticism, and the Swedish Pirate Party has previously [commanded her resignation](#), but these are the largest measures asked for yet.

The Young Pirates are now hoping that she will accept the nomination, fully aware that it could mean hard training and having to give up her political responsibilities. But they also wish to increase focus on space exploration overall.

"Man is curious and wish to discover new things", Nipe told Pirate Times. "By traveling into space we can take humanity on the coolest trip ever. Sadly, less is spent on space today, partly because the US aren't making the same investments they used to. When the cold war ended there was no longer a reason for a space race. Therefore, it is important for Europe to take the lead."

Beatrice Ask has been contacted by Pirate Times, but has yet to comment on the nomination.

Featured image by NASA, in the public domain.

Copyright Preventing Public Statue from Appearing in Media

One of the most famous symbols for Denmark is the [Little Mermaid statue](#) outside of Copenhagen. The statue turned 100 years old last Friday but was hardly mentioned in Danish newspapers. The reason for the lack of coverage on this important birthday for a national symbol was copyright problems.

Danish newspapers [described](#) the copyright problems with displaying a picture instead of focusing on more positive aspects for the statue's 100th birthday. The problem comes from needing the heirs permission and often paying them each time the statue is published. If you do not apply for permission you risk that the heirs come after you with a large fine, which has happened several times.

"Every time we are about to photograph the Little Mermaid, we are careful. She is the only statue that we have to act like this with. Every time we approach her we ask permission from the heirs" - Thomas Borberg, Photo-Chief for [Politiken](#) (quote translation by article author)

Even though the Little Mermaid is such a public figure and it was never a problem for Edvard Eriksson (the sculptor), the heirs still have the right to decide what is done with the copyright of the figure. Laws give the heirs right to the copyright for 70 years after the creator has passed away. This makes the sculpture less accessible until 2030.

Featured pic: CC-BY-SA, Pirate Times. Modified from original CC-BY-SA, [avda-foto](#).

Written by Josef Ohlsson Collentine published at August 28, 2013

Young Pirates of Sweden to Hire ?Election Admiral?

The Young Pirates of Sweden, the youth wing of the Swedish Pirate Party, recently announced that they will be hiring an ?Election Admiral? for the upcoming election year of 2014.

Next year there will be a "super election year" in Sweden, starting in May with the European

Parliament and followed by local, regional, and national elections in September. To prepare for this year, the Young Pirates have recently **announced** that they will be hiring a full time ?Election Admiral?.

The Election Admiral will be responsible for ?leading the organisational part of the association?s election work?, and the job will focus on distributing campaign material and supporting local chapters in their campaigns. **On their website**, the organisation asks for someone who is ?comfortable in being a leader?, ?naturally communicative?, and who ?loves delivering in time for deadlines?, among other things.

Young Pirates are now receiving job applications through email until October 18, which will be followed up by interviews in Uppsala, where the central office is located. The position is planned to start February 1, 2014 and last until September 30, 2014.

This will be the third full time position assigned by the Swedish Youth Pirate Party, after president Gustav Nipe and secretary Mikael Holm. The youth organisation has no member fee, but receives annual income from the Swedish Youth Agency, a grant calculated from membership numbers. **The income of 2013** was almost 1.4 million SEK (?161 000), which is lower than previous years due to lower membership numbers - from having had over 20 000 members in 2009, **they are now down to under 6 000 members**, still making them the second largest Swedish political youth organisation.

Featured image: Swedish Pirates campaigning in 2009. CC BY-SA Anne Kekki.

Written by Anton Nordenfur published at August 27, 2013

Digital Goods as a Public Good

The Pirate Parties have an obvious lineage from The Pirate Bay and other forms of digital piracy, but bootlegging and sharing of media has been going on for decades. What is it then that has changed with the advent of digital media? Why has the concern of piracy become a political

one? The answer lies in media digitization, and thus transformation, into a public good.

A public good is commonly defined as one that is both **non-excludable** and **non-rivalrous**. The importance of digital goods is media becoming non-rivalrous? meaning one person's use of the good does not diminish the ability of another from using it. Examples of this can be the air we breathe or the parks we visit. Prior to the Internet our media required some sort of medium, be it CDs or VHS tapes, in order to be transported. While they could be copied and shared they required the use of a physical product and could only extend so far among acquaintances. Sharing online effectively makes the number of copies irrelevant; this is especially true for torrents where one copy is not so different from infinite copies. This new public good can be used without limit by anyone with a computer and an Internet connection.

Where the political Pirate Parties come in is in the non-excludable side of our modern public good. This is the ability to stop a group of people (usually those who do not pay) from using a good. This can be a hamburger bought from a restaurant or a house lived in by a family. These are excludable by requiring payment before receiving the product and removing trespassers, respectively. As mentioned, media products previously had a physical medium, which made excludability simple? you get the product when we get the money.

While copyright laws (excludability) are sometimes used as evidence that digital goods are not public goods these laws are better understood as a very artificial barrier, just as a gate requiring a ticket can be put in front of a park or a fence can be put around a lake. Thus, excludability is best viewed as a political decision rather than an inherent quality of a product. DRM and other barriers are attempts at creating excludability of a product in order to maintain the status quo. However, as any pirate can tell you, this forced excludability is no match for the non-rivalrousness the internet has created for digital goods.

Historical Comparison

Before moving on to the problem of digital goods and the argument in favor of copyright laws, it will be beneficial to examine a historical parallel with our current situation. As children we were taught about the importance of Gutenberg's press, but being so young it was difficult to conceptualize the revolutionary nature of his invention. The printing press made the collective knowledge of man more available to the average person. This drastically altered the knowledge

structure that was in place in Europe.

Even Victor Hugo's Hunchback of Notre Dame laments how the book destroys the building, as conveyance through architecture is no longer required. Knowledge became more dispersed and no longer required the scribes' handwriting or relied so much on the priest to pontificate vocally. Though illiteracy was another barrier the outcome was access to the collective knowledge of man—a virtual conception of the world's thought. Placed online this collective knowledge is further rectified and faces its own barriers.

What must be understood is that fear of the inevitable disruption and attempts at maintaining the status quo are inherently luddical. The genie is out of the bottle and this is something we must accept. This should not be difficult due to the benefit that advancement brings, unless, of course, you are one who benefits from the status quo. With the printing press we lost oral tradition, centrality of the priest, and scribes. But we gained shared information that allowed scholars better communication of ideas that helped fuel our technological advancement. The internet is the printing press on steroids; it will inevitably cause disruptions, but it will lead to even greater gains.

The Problem of Free Riders

The disruption caused by internet piracy can be seen in the problem of any public good—free riders. Because of the nature of a public good, one cannot be excluded due to their lack of support of the good; in the case of piracy of media this would be not paying for the product. While we do not condone theft of goods we argue that the concept of piracy must be refashioned with the facts of our time. Copyright infringement cannot be seen as the same as theft of a physical good, and there is little way around this. Just as books can only be burned, piracy can only be stopped by destroying the internet as we know it—destroying our freedom and privacy. Consequently, China is in a much better position to stop piracy than most countries, but we slowly creep closer to this digitally totalitarian environment.

Our current relationship to digital media cannot be undone, nor should we want it to be. Forcing such a disruptive excludability on what should be accepted as a public good can only be maintained at very high costs. As a society we must find a new way to reimburse producers of

digital goods and do away with the draconian measures. This will empower us as a community, democracy, and global society. What we all know for certain is that the internet has changed us drastically and should be embraced.

Those who fight for reactionary policies must learn the history of the Luddites, who fought against the industrial revolution for their own inefficient interest. If the media industries knew as much about genes as they should know about their own products, it is that they do not go back in their bottles.

Featured image: CC-BY, [photosteve101](#)

Written by Michael Wartenbe published at August 26, 2013

What is the TPP? (The Big Brother of ACTA Explained)

Currently under negotiations is an expansion of the Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership, a Pacific orientated trade agreement composed of Brunei, Chile, New Zealand, and Singapore. Eight additional prospectives have joined negotiations for membership, which would expand the agreement to Australia, Canada, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, the United States, Vietnam, and possibly Japan. As suggested by proponents, once finished the Trans-pacific Partnership (TPP) will have implemented liberalized economic and trade policies throughout the Pacific coastal members. As with all trade-blocs, however, there are grave concerns over democracy, transparency, and privacy, with intellectual Property measures mimicking and even exceeding the notorious [ACTA](#) (Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement).

Ironically the terminology used in trade-bloc ?liberalization of trade? is quite the opposite of its use during the creation of our global liberal system. During the [Bretton Woods system](#) (post-WWII environment) both trade-blocs and intellectual property were more likely to be seen as illiberal. Only in the past two or three decades has ?liberal? taken on new meaning. The new form provides the means to bypass democracy domestically as well as globally and pushes nations to protect their increasingly monopolistic Intellectual Property industries over the concerns of individual citizens.

As there is already a global trade agreement in the [World Trade Organization \(WTO\)](#), trade-blocs are a means to push through difficult policy in a more local arena?policy even too liberal? for the commonly criticized WTO. Negotiated behind closed doors by bureaucrats and sometimes industry, these agreements have a nature of being very nontransparent and undemocratic. The TPP is no exception to this. By placing these laws within a trade agreement, negotiations can take place outside the public's view as was the case with the ACTA. While the ACTA ultimately failed, its spirit still lives on, hidden under the guise of trade partnership?a common political tactic to push through and hide policy the public cannot swallow as well as force politicians to accept or reject en masse with other important legislation.

As the U.S. has historically been a fierce negotiator for its favored policies, citizens of the remaining members will see a strengthening of IP enforcement upon completion. This allows domestic governments to place blame outside of their state while accepting the obligation of enforcing these decisions in a very undemocratic manner. All states face this decrease of political accountability, which is increased by enforcement mechanisms in the agreements. This makes it much more difficult to undo than a domestic law that has no international component. The permanence of these agreements provide the need to negotiate in secrecy as there is an urgency in pushing through law that cannot easily be undone.

Developing members of the TPP will face a maximalist interpretation of Intellectual Property laws that are standardized throughout the partnership, doing away with flexible and sovereign solutions that reflect the domestic situation. TPP signatories will not, however, simply be facing adoption of U.S. based Intellectual Property laws. Instead, all members, including the U.S., will be agreeing upon laws based on the ACTA, and in some cases beyond. These include:

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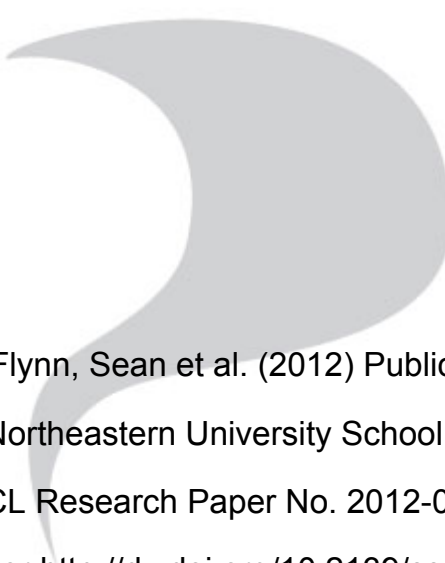
- Bypassing the multilateral ICANN, Country Code top-level domains will be placed under TPP rules, limiting the sovereignty each member state has on their domain (.uk, .se, .de...etc)
- Expands scope of copyrights based on U.S. Law and further
- Adopts U.S. Length of copyrights of 70 years after author's death, 95 years after publication, or 120 years after creation. This goes far beyond the minimum of TRIPS of 50 years after publication or 50 years after creation.
- Extends liabilities of those who facilitate copyright infringement as well liability of ISPs beyond both U.S. Law and the proposed ACTA, while limiting the freedom to make exceptions
- Extends liabilities to ISPs and other intermediaries and provides incentives to ISPs to assist copyright owners in deterring infringers and monitoring users
- Allows authorities to seize 'suspected' counterfeit or pirated goods without individual identification, contrary to the U.S. 4th Amendment
- Eases the process of applying for patents while making it more difficult to challenge
- Expands and eases the ability to 'evergreen' patents?the process of renewing patents by a minor alteration in the product.
- Extends the scope of what can be patents and restricts the ability to revoke patents, forcing each state to allow patents for plants, animals, and treatment methods and limiting their ability to exclude subjects
- Broadens the scope of copyright infringement
- Prescribes both imprisonment and monetary fines beyond compensation of the infringement to one of deterrence, based on ACTA prescriptions[1]
- Corporations will be able to sue governments based on the TPP rules written for corporations, thus bypassing democracy and sovereignty

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These are just some of the proposals that only due to a leak, were available to the public. In short the TPP is a nontransparent agreement that greatly empowers corporations, especially the

Intellectual Property industries, at the cost of democracy, sovereignty, and freedom. Even those outside the agreement are facing an increased expansion and acceptance of laws and norms in the TPP. The slow creep of trade agreements bypasses the already unbalanced rules from global organizations, causing greater concern by empowering corporations to the detriment of individuals like us.

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[1] All prior summary of laws from Flynn, Sean et al. (2012) Public Interest Analysis of the US TPP Proposal for an IP Chapter. Northeastern University School of Law Research Paper No. 82-2012; American University, WCL Research Paper No. 2012-07. Available at SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1980173> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.1980173>

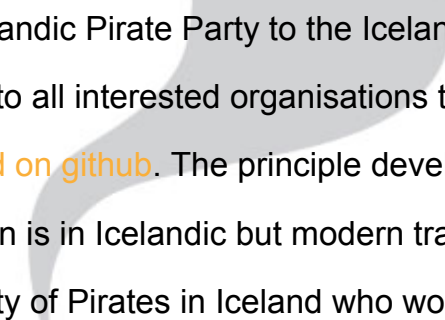
Featured image: CC-BY-NC-SA, [Caelie_Frampton](#)

Written by Michael Wartenbe published at August 23, 2013

Icelandâ€™s Parliament Viewer, Keeping Track of Politicians

In the run up to the national election in Iceland one of the comments about the Pirate Party was that they were keeping their electoral promises before the elections had taken place. One of the reasons for this was the development of the Online Parliament Viewer or Alþingisrýnirinn, which is in line with the Pirate's call for increased transparency

The Online Parliament Viewer sources data from publicly available records and presents them in a way that is easy to understand. It shows how MPs have voted on a single bill or on the top 100 most controversial issues in the last term and it also highlights instances where representatives have voted against their own party line. Another feature that voters might like to know is how often their member of parliament turned up to represent them; for that purpose there is an attendance record. Voters can see at a glance how often their representatives have been representing them.



The software is a gift from the Icelandic Pirate Party to the Icelandic nation. It is open source software and as such is available to all interested organisations to take and adapt to their own system and the code can be [found on github](#). The principle developer is [Bjarni Rúnar Einarsson](#). The description and documentation is in Icelandic but modern translation software does a reasonable job and there are plenty of Pirates in Iceland who would help you adapt it.

Featured image: PPIS CC BY-SA

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at August 22, 2013

Icelandic Pirates Found a Youth Wing

The Icelandic Pirates are at it again. Their party was only founded officially on [24 November 2012](#). Less than half a year later they became the first Pirate Party to get people elected in a [national parliament](#). Now the Pirates in Iceland are taking a new step in growing their organisation. On Sunday the 18th of August 2013 they officially founded their youth organisation. The founding of a youth pirate party comes only about a week after the creation of a [European umbrella organisation](#) for Pirate youth wings.

This new youth organisation is called "Ungir Piratar". Membership is open for pirates from age

15 to 30. According to Stéfán Vignir Skarphedinsson, one of the founding members, the age limit was not chosen because it's a legal requirement. Rather, the Icelandic Pirates wanted to have less than half of the members of the party to be eligible for the youth wing. Using the usual limit of 35 years no less than 69% of the party would be a youth member. So the age limit was set to 30 which came down to 42% of the members.

There were more than 20 Pirates present on the first inaugural meeting, 14 of whom became the founding members. The first board of the new organisation was elected. The new board members are: Stéfán Vignir Skarphéðinsson, Elísabet Guðrúnar Jónsdóttir, Arnaldur Sigurðarson, Árni Þór Þorgeirsson, Andri Harðarson. There was no president or other functionaries elected. The board will decide the roles between themselves.

Featured image: CC-BY-NC, Andreas H. Lunde

Written by Koen De Voegt published at August 20, 2013

Here Comes the European Pirate Party

At the latest conference held on 27-28 July 2013 in Warsaw, Poland the European Pirates have finalized the preparation process for the foundation of the European Pirate Party. The Conference of PPEU in Warsaw, as part of the establishment of the European Pirate Party, was the last of the Conferences that started after the Declaration of Prague nearly one and half year ago. The work has taken place in several other conferences (Barcelona, Manchester, Paris), meetings (Aarau, Potsdam, Rome, Zagreb, Kiev) and countless online meetings showing that there really is an international work force behind it.

The Warsaw conference was a success and the organization by the [Pirate Party of Poland](#) worked well. Having completed both the Manifesto and the highlights of the Statutes, European Pirates declared their intention to establish the "European Pirate Party" (or "European Pirates" or "PPEU") next month in Luxembourg. European Pirate Parties should ratify both the manifesto and the declaration by 1 September 2013. The founding Congress will then be held in March

2014 in Brussels.

The agenda of the Conference

? Workshop to finalize the Manifesto of European Pirate Party

? Discussion and final voting on the Statutes of European Pirate Party

? Weight of the vote of each member. It was decided the number of votes of each member to be appointed under the number of voters and electoral successes. The system is based on the equivalent use by the European Greens, and it is linear (not giving too many votes to the powerful members)

? Rights of states outside the European Union. European Pirate Party is open to members from across Europe, and there will be no differences in rights between members within and outside the European Union.

? Membership fees (basic membership, plus customized subscription to set by the board, multiplied by the weight of the vote). Basic subscription was set at 300 ? (multiplied by the number of votes each member will have). The board could increase the cost of membership in the future.

? Majorities (for changing statutes 2/3 of the attending members needed, double majority)

? PPEU Committee: number of members, election details

? PPEU Council: number of members and scope

? Signing the Letter of Intent, discussion for the next Conference

A PPEU working group, responsible for implementing any late corrections or comments that may arise, will make contact with all Pirate Parties that have ratified the Declaration of Paris. This team is also responsible for answering any questions any party might have regarding the content or the effect of the statutes. At the end of the Conference Pirates worked on the Declaration of Warsaw, in which Pirate Party participants declared the negotiations on the establishment of the organization as integrated, and their intention to establish PPEU.

Warsaw Declaration of the European Pirate Party

Letter of Intent

We, the undersigning European Pirates, realizing the need for a new political party in Europe,

affirming the declaration of Prague,

affirming the declaration of Paris,

taking into account the negotiations at the Barcelona conference,

taking into account the negotiations at the Manchester conference,

taking into account the negotiations at the Paris conference,

taking into account the negotiations at the Warsaw conference,

noting the results of the meeting in Aarau,

noting the results of the meeting in Potsdam,

noting the results of the meeting in Rome,

noting the results of the meeting in Zagreb,

noting the results of the meeting in Kiev,

noting the results of countless online meetings,

Declare negotiation process for the foundation of the European Pirate Party as complete,

Agree on the overall details of the structure of the statutes for the organization as was decided on the said conferences and meetings,

State our commitment to the Manifesto as agreed upon at the Warsaw conference,

Declare our intent to join the European Pirate Party, with regard to the ratification process that is set by individual Parties,

Agree to convene in Luxembourg to lay the foundation of the European Pirate Party by formally adopting statutes and Manifesto,

Invite other Pirates Parties of Europe to join us in the foundation of the European Pirate Party.

European Pirate Party Manifesto

We, the European Pirates, want society to welcome and adjust to the digital revolution: We identify the digital revolution as a moment of total renewal of human societies; we recognise therefore as one of our primary goals the defence of the Internet as a common good and a public utility. This is the preamble of the Manifesto that Pirates from across Europe endorsed in Warsaw. The manifesto is the distillate of common points of the Statutes of European Pirate Parties and specifically refers in Civil Rights, Citizen participation and Open Government, Transparency, Copyright reform, Patent system reform, Open Access and Open Data, Net Neutrality, Free software and Libre Culture. Manifesto is compatible with the principles of Pirate Parties in EU, and to many is a very successful Pirate Manifesto.

Preamble

We, the European Pirates, want society to welcome and adjust to the digital revolution: We identify the digital revolution as a moment of total renewal of human societies; we recognise therefore as one of our primary goals the defence of the Internet as a common good and a public utility. We want a society based on the following manifesto:

Civil Rights

Human dignity is inviolable. Everybody has the right to life, liberty, security of person, freedom of thought, self-determination and participate in society. We, the European Pirates, support the highest standard for civil rights in the European Union. Essential are the rights of free

association, freedom of movement and free assembly in public, freedom of opinion, expression, and free access to information. Whistle-blowers should be protected by law and not subject to legal action. We strongly believe that all people have the right to fair and equal treatment. As everybody belongs to a minority, the respect of the rights of the minority is essential for society. The Privacy of the individual should be valued at all times and protected from being exploited by public and economic actors.

Citizen participation and Open Government

Power resides with the people. Their rights and their dignity stand above all else. We, the European Pirates, strive to create opportunities for democratic participation and to promote their widespread use, because only democracy can ensure an equitable balancing of Europeans' diverse interests. Public authorities should be encouraged to put forward participatory and collaborative tools that allow citizens to actively propose policies and make decisions.

Transparency

Transparency and Accountability for public institutions are the counterpart of good data protection regulation to protect Privacy. We, the European Pirates, want clear transparency in common affairs and good privacy for individuals. Public authorities should be required to regularly publish organisational and task descriptions, including catalogues of all administrative records. Everybody has the right to access documents and proceedings on all levels of government and the information available to the respective public authorities. The respect of this right shall be controlled by a strictly independent organ.

Copyright reform

We, the European Pirates, want a fair and balanced copyright law based on the interests of society as a whole. We therefore demand that copying, providing access to, storing and using

literary and artistic production for non-commercial purposes must not just be legalised, but protected by law and actively promoted to improve the public availability of information, knowledge and culture, because this is a prerequisite for the social, technological and economic development of our society. Everyone shall be able to enjoy and share our cultural heritage free from the threat of legal action or censorship. The commercial monopoly given by copyright should be restored to a reasonable term. Derivative works shall always be permitted, with exceptions which are very specifically enumerated in law with minimal room for interpretation.

Patent system reform

Patents are government-backed monopolies which are obstacles in a free market and increasingly hinder, instead of help, innovation. Patents should definitely never be given for things that are trivial, non-substantial, target ideas, computer programs, business models or are otherwise unethical. In the long term, an alternative system to support innovation must be developed to replace patents and ensure that the results of research come to the benefit of society.

Open Access and Open Data

The results of any research carried out with public funds, completely or in part, must be published in open access scientific journals or by other means which make them readily accessible to the general population. All data created for public use or with the use of public money, regardless of origin, should be freely available to the general public, as long as personal details are not revealed without the consent of the concerned individuals. It shall be made available in an appropriate form, which shall also include a form for data processing. Access must not be limited by application procedures, licenses, fees or technical means.

Net Neutrality

Everybody should have unencumbered access to the internet and other public information and communication networks and have the possibility to protect all data transfer with good privacy. To ensure this we, the European Pirates, advocate for a discrimination-free Internet, which does not permit operators, governments and other bodies to either block or prioritise certain kinds of applications, services or contents nor limits the access depending on the location of sender or receiver.

Free software and Libre Culture

We, the European Pirates, support the promotion of software that can be used, analysed, disseminated and changed by everyone. This so-called free and libre open source software is essential for users' control of their own technical systems and provides a significant contribution to strengthening the autonomy and privacy of all users. Free culture is an important resource for the education and creativity of society. We strive to promote artistic activity and cultural diversity to ensure a rich educational and artistic environment for our and future generations.

Further reading: [Minutes of Warsaw conference](#)

Written by Stathis Leivaditis published at August 18, 2013

Happy Birthday Pirate Times! 1 Year of Pirate News



Our first news article was published here on Pirate Times one year ago. The two first articles we published on 13 August 2012 was [?How Sweden found an effective way of broadening their politics?](#) and [?You can participate in European politics?](#). Since then we have covered most of

the pirate elections that have taken place the past year. We reported on conferences and general assemblies of national and international Pirate Parties and organisations. We have seen the pirate movement grow and seen several historic "firsts" for the Pirate movement: the **first Pirate Mayor** (Switzerland, September 2012), the **first Pirate Senator** (Czech Republic, October 2012), the **first three Pirate MPs** (Iceland, April 2013), the first **two Municipal Councillors** (Croatia, May 2013), the **first Pirate Trade Unionist** (Greece, May 2013). Many of these were covered by team members who traveled to these events at their own expense.

Throughout these past 12 months we have had 25 article authors write 237 posts with a total 184.149 words. This productivity of news led us to win the "Pirate Blogger of the year" award, on December 2012, from the Young Pirates of East Sweden chapter. We write news to inspire and inform others which is why we take a lot of pride in that several of our posts are translated to many different languages (thanks all you who have helped to translate them!). We had around 85.000 visitors (only counting people seeing our news directly on our website) from all over the world where about half came from USA, Germany, Sweden, UK or Spain. From our visitors we have been given money through flattr by 67 persons totaling 212.51 Euro from those 967 flatters they gave us. Of that money we have **spent 105 Euros** on various costs. Thanks a lot for your support! Means a lot to use knowing people are willing to support our work.

Our top 5 viewed articles:

- **According to Spanish law, internet piracy is the same as torture** (June 2, 2013) by Fabian Plaza Miranda (7511 pageviews)
- **The pirate world 2012** (January 24, 2013) by Josef Ohlsson Collentine (5417 pageviews)
- **Pirate Parties Help Victims of Megaupload Seizure** (February 1, 2013) by Andrew Reitemeyer (2622 pageviews)
- **The Hydra Bay ? PPSE Pulls Back But TPB Emerges in Norway and Spain** (February 26, 2013) by Josef Ohlsson Collentine (2050 pageviews)
- **Alex Arnold Becomes the First Elected Pirate Mayor!** (September 24, 2012) by Anton

At the end of 2012 we had a team-meeting where we set goals to reach at the end of 2013 for Pirate Times. We have progressed on these goals but will need your help to fulfill them by the end of this year (4.5 months remaining). The goals we want to achieve for Pirate Times:

- We want to grow our team by at least six more regularly contributing members so we can achieve the goal of one article per day (If you are interested please apply by [joining the mailing list](#) and introducing yourself).
- 1000 readers per day
- 333/500 [newsletter](#) subscribers
- 1323/2500 [Facebook Page](#) likes
- 1328/2500 [Twitter](#) followers
- Translate Pirate Times to French and Spanish (slow progress but moving forward)
- To start a podcasting service (still in planning stages, if you have an interest in helping please give us a shout!)
- To get ourselves quoted more by the main stream media (a few more mentions)

We end this post with a few comments from some of our team members about what Pirate Times has meant for them during this year. We hope to see some comments from you readers as well about what Pirate Times has meant for you?

Gefion

What I love about the Times is the international view on things. So often I get stuck in my own national view of what the pirate movement is, what pirates are, what is relevant. The Times and all the articles from various countries around the globe helps me to bear in mind that we are an international movement, with international topics that are too big to be covered - or solved - by one country alone. Whatever we can achieve, we can do best internationally. I like to think that the Times contributes some momentum to this common goal.

Andrew

I joined as a proof reader and soon started writing and editing. For me the most valuable thing I have gotten from the Pirate Times is meeting the team members - many of whom have gone on to take important roles in the movement at national or international levels. Also the privilege of getting to know Pirates from across the globe many of whom I have the honour to be able to call personal friends.

Josef

We created Pirate Times as an international news hub to make Pirate Parties more aware of each other and the international movement that they are. In our first year we have come fairly far on this goal and many people have met up or been inspired from something they read on Pirate Times. Everytime I see or hear how our news have helped someone I get motivated to work harder. A big thanks to my team members whom have made this possible, especially the ones who have been keeping up the hard work when times got tough.

Loïc

The Pirate Times is in my opinion one of the most important parts of the Pirate movement, by sharing information between pirates and with the rest of the world, it allows us to keep the swarm coherent and to grow it further. Who would miss being part of this?

pakki

This open-minded, international and vanguard pirate magazine is the shifty eye beyond the pirate's nose. When I began contributing by learning and writing about international topics concerning everything around Pirate Parties, I've realized its magnificent potential and get known to a lot of inspiring people in this movement around the globe. I am very proud and grateful to be part of this. We all have to fill this world more with such great avenues. Participate!

Stathis

I feel happy being in the team of Pirate Times. I had the opportunity to meet with pirates from around the world and shared thoughts, opinions and questions about the Pirate movement. Best things that happened to me: Interviewing Rick Falkvinge (founder of Pirate movement) and meeting in person with Andrew Reitemeyer. Call to all Pirate Parties: Let's join forces; come in contact with Pirate Times to promote all small or big activities.

Fabián

It's always good to know there are more Pirates in different countries fighting for the same ideals and changing the world one step at a time. I also love the fact that the Pirate Times lets you know about Pirate initiatives abroad, so that you can learn from their success and import it into your own country.

Matic

I'm very happy to be a member of a team of broad-minded people who are working very hard to post articles regularly and who are always willing to offer help to other members. Pirate Times is an important platform for all Pirates around the globe for updates about other Pirates and problems they face. I hope that Pirate Times will maintain its position as important information source for all people involved in the Pirate Movement. There were Ups and Downs during this year but that's the fate of every child who wants to learn to walk. Or as ancient Chinese philosopher said: "Every journey starts with first step."

Written by Josef Ohlsson Collentine published at August 13, 2013

An Open Letter From Pirate Party Brazil About Their Progress

An open letter from the Pirate Party Brazil, explaining their progress. Translation by Josef Ohlsson Collentine

OPEN LETTER NUMBER 1, 2013

PIRATES,

Our journey began in 2007 when a small group of people, inspired by the Pirate Party of Sweden, decided to join together to create the Pirate Party of Brazil. Since then it took six years and many events passed for us to reach for us to reach the foundation of Pirate Party Brazil in Recife, the Capital of Pernambuco, on July 28, 2012. From that time we launched a national campaign to raise funds to register our documents in the Official Gazette (DOU). The Pirate Party does not accept donations from corporations or legal entities. Because of we this have received donations during the last twelve months from 418 donors (individuals and citizens) from all over Brazil. They made donations that together exceeded the figure of twenty thousand Reals, the minimum amount needed to make a publication in the Official Gazette. With the publication and the work to get there many Brazilians became aware of our existence, identified with the causes we advocated and became PIRATAS.

Currently thousands are organized into collectives/Clubs in municipalities across the country, gathered around not one but several causes related to human rights, the environment, the privacy of information, sharing information for free, promoting access to knowledge/culture, freedom of expression, minority rights to equal treatment, the defense of the secular state, the transparency of public management and construction of full democracy for the political empowerment of the people. All these values ??and principles are in our bylaws and other documents of the Party, built collaboratively on the internet during months of open discussion with Brazilian civil society and approved at the General Meeting of the Party's Foundation.

Also in recent months our participation in political action, both online and in person (on the streets), multiplied. There were marches, peaceful occupations, forums, debates, interviews and protests, twitter campaigns, publications, reports and more online campaigns, which involved the direct participation of Pirates - and these activities are still going on- all over Brazil.

Now it's time to move further in our journey, because in the coming days we will register our bylaws, after which we will begin collecting supporter signatures for our Registration with the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. Therefore, we need to act, with coordination, to reach the amount of 500 000 supporter signatures needed for the creation of the Pirate Party of Brazil, under the symbol: PIRATES.

Our fight is the fight of all us Brazilians wanting a nation and a world free of injustice and oppression. Above all, our cause is motivated by the construction of a fair balance between equality, justice and freedom. We want that every person, regardless of origin, color, religion (creed or not), gender, sex or social class, can live with dignity and security .

Therefore, it is with great pleasure that, on behalf of the Pirate Party of Brazil, we thank each person who has devoted a portion of your time and a portion of your savings to work with the construction of this Party.

I take this opportunity to urge all Pirates and supporters to engage in our campaign to gather the supporter signatures, which will begin in the coming days.

Not too far away from each pier, harbor or beach, in each horizon, you can observe, flaming and haughty, the flag of the Jolly Roger collective with hope of change and transformation. Our voices, hearts and minds long ago joined the cry of the people in the squares and streets, walking in front, holding hands, heads held high and chest open, without hatred and without fear, because it is the people we are born with, the same people who will fight and build a better world.

Nazaréda Mata, August 10, 2013.

Written by Josef Ohlsson Collentine published at August 12, 2013

Flattr Appreciation During July Euro 7.75

In July we had 24 things flattred by 10 unique users. In total we were flattred 35 times last month and received Euro 7.75 in support for our work. This is the lowest amount so far but July has also been our most inactive month in Pirate Times history. More active months are coming for us so hopefully we will see our support rise again with our activity.

Flattr is a microdonation service that allows you to give a small amount of money each month to content you would like to give support. It can be compared to a "facebook super-like" with money attached. Users act like **patrons** of work or people they want to support and "many small streams" adds up to something larger.

Period: July

Thing:

Clicks:

Revenue:

Pirate_Times on Flattr

6

2.944

Russian Pirates Battle Piracy Laws

3

1.047

Pirate Party Charges Banks for WikiLeaks Boycott

1

0.666

A Pirate's Monologue on Change

2

0.637

The Pirate Party UK Will Remain an Ordinary Member of Pirate Parties International

2

0.637

PPI blocked from becoming observer members of WIPO

2

0.412

Pirate Times website

1

0.409

Internet and Social Media as Tools of Freedom

1

0.409

Ed Snowden's bid for Asylum ? Live Updates

1

0.409

#exile6e ? a Pirate Docuseries

1

0.250

About Us

2

0.184

The Team

1

0.147

UK Prime Minister calls for further Web Blocking

1

0.037

Luxembourgish government fell apart, re-elections in October

1

0.037



How a Swarm of Pirates Can Redefine Politics According to Rick Falkvinge

1

0.037

UK Pirates to decide PPUK's international direction

1

0.037

Happy Birthday was Stolen From Us

1

0.037

The Pirate Movement on Facebook and Twitter - April 2013

1

0.037

Spanish Pirate Confederation attends Democratic Organizations Congress in Salamanca

1

0.037

Local elections in Croatia

1



0.037

Alex Arnold Becomes the First Elected Pirate Mayor!

1

0.037

Flattr Appreciation During August

1

0.037

How Sweden Found an Effective Way of Broadening their Politics

1

0.037

Crypto Currency: A Funding Method for PPGR

1

0.037

Flattr fee

- 0.860

Total sum for 24 things flattred by 10 unique users

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

Written by Josef Ohlsson Collentine published at August 11, 2013

Young Pirates of Europe Has Been Founded

Today the international organization [Young Pirates of Europe](#) (YPE) was founded by its eight founding members: the Young Pirates of [Sweden](#), [Finland](#), [France](#), [Luxembourg](#), [Germany](#), [Flanders](#), [Norway](#) and [Belarus](#). The reason a European organization instead of an international one is because they are not aware of any youth organizations outside Europe (please comment if you know any) but also to receive funding from the European Parliament.

The main goal of YPE is to bring together European pirate youth organisations and their members, improving not only the coordination of their political work, but also supporting cultural and personal exchange. As a federation of youth organisations, education and personal development of young people as well as the exchange of ideas and support of each other is an equally important aim of YPE. YPE supports access to information and education, copyright reform and the protection of fundamental human rights.

The newly elected board of Young Pirates of Europe consists of: Julia Reda as chairperson (Germany), Paula Roth as treasurer (Sweden), Lukas Martini as secretary general (Germany), Paul Beret Toni as board member (France), Lotta Söderholm as board member (Finland), Sviatlana Yermakovich as board member (Belarus), Mikael Iresten as board member (Sweden), Joel Kortesaari as board member (Finland) and Jana Michailidu as board member (Czech Republic). The [statutes of YPE](#) mentions, amongst other things, how they will work together, how EPIC meetings will be held once a year and as a bonus how to properly pronounce YPE in different languages

- ❑ Belarusian: ???????? ??????? ??????? (Maladiya Pirati Europi) (MPE)
- ❑ Finnish: Euroopan Piraattinuoret (EPINU)
- ❑ French: Jeunes Pirates Européens (JPE)
- ❑ German: Junge Piraten Europa (JPE)
- ❑ Luxembourgish: Jonk Piraten Europa (JPE)
- ❑ Swedish: Ung Pirat Europa (UPE)

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Featured image: CC BY-SA YPE

edit Aug 12: added Norway as founding member (missed in reporting because of late admission), changed Mikael Persson to Mikael Iresten because of a recent name change

edit Aug 15:

New Zealand has a youth organization.

Sviatlana Yermakovich and Joel Kortesaari were only running for the board, never elected

Written by Josef Ohlsson Collentine published at August 9, 2013

What is a Surveillance State and is it Good For You?

There has been a lot of talk about surveillance since Edward Snowden recently leaked information about Prism. This led to other scandals such as Tempora being revealed. What a surveillance state is and whether it is good for individuals or not is explained in the following video:

I recommend that you watch the video since the animation depicts the subject very well but if you prefer pure text there is a transcription of the subtitles used in the video below.

A surveillance state is defined as a state which legally surveils all actions, locations, and friends of its citizens, in order to prevent crimes or in order to solve them faster. That sounds like a quite good idea for now: Crimes are being prevented and everyone is more secure. Nevertheless the term has negative connotations.

why does it have negative connotations?

One of the most important tasks of a state is to provide security for its citizens. At the same time, the state has to allow them liberties so that everyone can live their life individually. Security and liberty complement each other, but also put each other in their place, because liberty always goes hand in hand with risks, and security always limits liberties. That's why in democracies a compromise has been established, which unites the best of both worlds. In a surveillance state, though, liberty is over-limited by security needs. And that's already its biggest problem.

Recently, this topic was in the news regarding the so called data retention, which aimed at saving all telephone and internet connection data for six months for the fight against terrorism. And although the retention and its benefit were heavily controversial, and were forbidden by the Federal Constitutional Court, today this data retention seems almost harmless compared to PRISM and Tempora, the two surveillance programmes of the British and U.S. American governments, which affect everyone in the world - including us in Germany. That's because those surveillance programmes not only save connection data, but also simply everything everyone of us does on the Internet, which goes through British or U.S. American servers. Every text and every picture - literally everything. Even that you're watching this video here right now.

Some types of surveillance have already been possible in Germany for many years, for example wire-tapping of telephone calls, chats or e-mails in order to fight terrorism and organized crime.

For this, in specific cases judges can order so-called eavesdropping operations. But what would happen if from now on we surveilled simply EVERY telephone call, EVERY chat and EVERY e-mail without any suspicion? Couldn't we prevent crime and terrorism for all time then?

Maybe for a short time, but it's more likely that advocates of this idea underestimate the inventiveness of criminals. Those who don't want to be brought to light will always find a way, for example by strong encryption or personal conversations at locations where the surveillance state has no access. And now the only victims are completely normal, innocent citizens, who from now on are being watched by the state in everything they do.

Anyone who ever got a friend request from their mum, teacher or employer on Facebook can maybe understand how it feels to be surveilled. Do I really want my parents seeing the tagged pictures my friends made of me smoking? And do I want to get caught by my employer online when I'm perhaps not saying nice things, when I'm actually running a temperature and should be in bed? Tumblr and GAG are full of examples in which careless people harshly criticise their employer, then get fired by them in the comment area. Or stoner confessions, replied to by their parents with: 'Get your ass home. We gotta talk.' A surveillance state, which is always reading along, principally is nothing else but that - except that in a surveillance state one doesn't have the choice to decline its friend request.

What results from such surveillance is self-censorship: Everything one says or does, what could be controversial, people will keep to themselves in order to avoid possible problems - even though they will assume that what they are doing is totally legal. So, even critical discussions and statements will be limited out of fear.

Advocates of surveillance argue that someone who has nothing to hide, has nothing to fear. But unfortunately that idea contains a number of mistakes. It's about balance between state and citizens. That means that the citizen has something to fear, if he has something to hide. Is that also true for secret services whose name shows that they have something to hide? Why should

someone assume that the state's secrets are always legitimate while at the same time, secrets of citizens are in principle not?

That surveillance could be inconvenient for a single person is also ignored, which brings us back to the 'has nothing to fear' part. A completely innocent person has indeed to fear inconvenient 'surveillance'. And what about governmental sanctions like custody? In Great Britain, people can be detained for up to fourteen days without being charged. Should the suspicion turn out to be unfounded, there won't be any compensation for the imprisonment. Bad luck. The same holds true for Germany, where due to probable cause computer hardware and data of companies and private persons is confiscated - something that happens frequently! And even if the people concerned turn out to be innocent, they are left with the damage, because police can keep confiscated computer hardware and data for months and even years.

The statement '... has nothing to hide' assumes that the only one at fault is the citizen - not the state. And it is also possible that as laws toughen, what used to be unproblematic, now, suddenly, raises suspicion. Or that a democratic system turns into a dictatorship, what may be currently happening in Hungary. The statement '... nothing to hide' assumes, that the state always is right - even if it is mistaking or abusing its power.

In the beginning of 2012 the Briton Leigh Van Bryan tweeted about his upcoming journey to the U.S that he wanted to 'destroy America' and 'dig up Marilyn Monroe'. By 'destroy America', of course, he meant to party and get drunk. The US immigration department which obviously scans twitter for phrases like these, couldn't take a joke, searched his luggage for spades and sent him and his female companion in handcuffs first to prison and then back to Britain.

Even worse is what happened to Justin Carter, a teenager from Texas, who was called 'fucked up in the head' by a Facebook friend after a match in 'League of Legends'. His sarcastic answer, 'Oh yeah, I'm real messed up in the head, I'm going to go shoot up a school full of kids and eat their still, beating hearts. LOL. JK.', not only got him put into jail for months but now, he also has

to fear a jail term of ten years.

What was meant to be a harmless joke is loved to be misunderstood by sarcasm-resistant authorities, who follow them with serious consequences. In that case, is there any room left for sarcasm? And what effect will it have on your liberty and self-censorship if you fear that what was once private - every word you write and say - is being checked by authorities for possible law suits, and therefore possibly misunderstood?

Andrej Holm, a scientific academic in Berlin's Humboldt University, got attention from the police after using the words 'gentrification' and 'precarisation' in an online article. The exact same words appeared in a confession after an assault on police cars in Berlin. For that reason, Holm and his family were heavily surveilled for months before he was arrested in his apartment, wearing nothing but underpants, and finally he was taken into custody for three weeks. Holm proved to be innocent, however, the damage made was irreversible. He now has to deal with the state having deeply documented his intimate life for months, including that of his family, and that they continued to do so for some time after his release.

You don't even need to pursue the authorities' attention, if you have the wrong name, for example. Three James Robinsons from the USA had to experience what it means to be on a terror watchlist. The first is a pilot, the second a lawyer, and the third a year old boy. And all three have been suspected to be terrorists and had to endure intense inspection or even not being allowed to fly. Although all three protested against such treatment, nothing changed. Only after they 'changed' their name in bookings - like 'Jim' for 'James' - were they allowed through. What is a terror watchlist worth, if it punishes the wrong people, and what conclusions can be made on the reliability of other forms of surveillance?

A further problem is the abuse of data - and that does not only mean the sale of private addresses for advertising purposes, as is perfectly legal in Germany's registry offices, but also the usage of private information discovered through spying such as affairs, sexuality or political

convictions. Who knows about your private life has power over you, and nobody knows this better than the victims of communist East Germany's intelligence service or that of another German rogue state. The German police enlisted known and suspected gays in the 19th century to ease prosecution under a law forbidding gay sex. Those lists came into the hands of the Nazis, who first tightened the law, and then took ten thousands of men into psychiatric custody and castrated or killed them in death camps. Nobody thought this would happen as they started the so-called 'rose lists', so this became an important memorial against data collection.

Concerning Nazis - what opportunities would the Jews have had to escape from Hitler's Reich with false documents, if there had been biometric passports and networked surveillance systems on every airport and border back then? Aren't we already preparing for the future prosecution of minorities with this? Politicians, such as the former German minister of the interior Wolfgang Schäuble, always rejected such comparisons with the message, that a fall-back into the Nazi's system in today's Germany would be unthinkable. But how can he be sure that here in twenty or thirty years' time no other rogue state would be established like now in Hungary, or that Germany will not be taken over by some angry stranger? A state of law must not only care about security - it has to take care that its methods will never be abused against its citizens.

A surveillance state is also described by George Orwell in his novel 'Nineteen Eighty-Four': A state forcing its citizens to act within the law by total surveillance, controlling language, suppressing sexuality and staging war and terror to justify surveillance. The saying of surveillance critics, 'Nineteen Eighty-Four was not supposed to be an instruction manual' is meant seriously. Many of Orwell's fictions became reality: The programmes PRISM and TEMPORA are surveilling everything you do on the internet. Because of GPS and smart-phones, your location can be queried at any time. Sexuality is being suppressed to prevent crimes which are often entirely unrelated. Cameras surveil public space and identify license plate numbers, faces or even 'suspicious behaviour' automatically. War reports are manipulated, and public opinion is controlled by it, like for example the alleged 'weapons of

mass destruction' in Iraq.

The pursuit to protect people can turn out to be more damaging than any damage avoided. Permanent surveillance restricts our liberty, causes self-censorship and paranoia and costs a lot of tax money without being shown to be useful. It's likely that surveillance will rise within the coming years. The reason why every private conversation in the world is not yet being surveilled is not due to respecting privacy - it is simply not possible, yet. But technology will progress enough soon, and the question is how we will deal with it. Do we want to live in a world, in which security and liberty are equally valued? Or in a surveillance state, in which liberty itself is suspicious and has been suppressed in the pursuit of security?

What do you think? Is surveillance good or bad for our society, or are we already on the way into the surveillance state?

Written by Josef Ohlsson Collentine published at August 5, 2013

The Game of Politics : Book Review

If you have never read a book on politics before then this one, being easy to read and follow, is the one to start with.

?The Game of Politics? - Pursuit of power over people game manual.

Author: **Jón Thór Ólafsson**, one of the first three Pirates to be elected to a national parliament in Iceland in April 2013.

Jón Thór has a political science degree and was on the **PPIS** campaign committee that realised the **historic electoral victory** in the last election. He worked as the parliamentary assistant for **Birgitta Jónsdóttir** when she was an MP for the Movement political party, and is therefore well qualified to write a book such as this one. What is more impressive is that the book was first published in 2008 ? four years before his election.

It starts with a warning from Plato that is very applicable to today's situation: ?The penalty for

refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being ruled by worse men than yourself.?

The book is aimed at bringing the principles of game theory to the rough world of politics in an educational and practical way. Expansive use of well thought-out tables and matrices help the novices (and more experienced politicians) to make better, more informed decisions. And whether you like it or not, we are all politicians - be it in the family, at work or on the national (or even world) political stage.

It is literally a pocket book and only 57 pages long, but packed with helpful advice. The book is currently out of print and its associated website is also closed but Jón Thor has agreed to let us publish a [PDF version](#) on a [Pirate Times page](#).

The book is divided into three main parts:

Part 1: The Game of Politics

This contains a very good primer on politics in general, which deals with factors that motivate people to reach for political goals and how political players work to achieve those goals.

This section contains three subsections:

The Human Qualities - which covers the motivation and the means to reach political goals.

The Political Players - types of players and the various political systems.

The Political Power ? defining direct and indirect power.

Part 2: Predicting The Game Results

Being able to see how the game will end given the current set of circumstances is essential to devising good strategy.

This section is divided into two subsections:

Game Results Matrix - how to graphically depict the state of play.

Political Player Profile ? how to analyse the methods, motivations and means of the other players friend or foe.

Part 3: Influencing The Game Results

Now we get to learn how to put the theory into practice.

This section is divided into two subsections:

Mobilizing - how to get yourself and others active for a cause.

Strategizing - how use your new knowledge of yourself, the other players and the relative positions to create an effective strategy.

We Pirates want to change the world and the way we have chosen to do it is by changing the system from the inside. That means we have to be aware of the tactics available to us and those that our opponents will use against us. In the real world, politics is **Realpolitik** (based on power and material factors) and we need to learn to work effectively in that theatre while internally we explore new ways of reaching decisions.

This little book should be the next book on politics you read; perhaps your first but it should not be your last. There is a section with suggested reading.

The book ends with:

The game is on, it's your move!

Featured image: [Newfrontiers](#) CC BY-NC

Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at August 3, 2013

UK Prime Minister calls for further Web Blocking

In a widely criticised move, this week David Cameron (The UK's Prime Minister) indicated his intention to force Britain's ISPs to filter pornography, this would be achieved by making account holders "opt in" for access to otherwise black-listed sites on the public web.

The Prime Minister also demanded that Search companies (such as Google, Yahoo and Bing) do more to block images of child abuse, including the blocking of search terms.

Announcements such as this do not come as much of a surprise to many activists and campaigners in the UK, who have been warning about the creep of such measures for years. What is surprising, however, is that the announcement came not from self-appointed "protectors of decency", but instead from a Prime Minister whose government has been rapidly expanding the proliferation of "Open Data" and, as pointed out in [an open letter by Pirate Party UK](#), flies in the face of the results of their own consultation released in December 2012, sourced from the industry, experts, charities and parents.

The industry and campaigners have been warning that the sort of blocking increasingly seen in the UK over the past 12 months is both ineffective and dangerous. In a nation where there is estimated to be one CCTV camera per 32 citizens and where there were [threats to "switch off" Social Networking websites](#) during last year's unrest in London which was swiftly mimicked in other UK cities, campaigners will increasingly have their work cut out.

WHERE WILL THE UK GO FROM HERE?

It is likely that Mr Cameron will realise how unworkable his proposals are, and after conversations with the industry and campaigners followed by a series of increasingly vague speeches on the subject, they will be quietly dropped in the run-up to the UK's general election in 2015. However, once proposals like this are mooted, headlines grabbed and knees jerked, they become "normalised" in the minds of the electorate and become one step closer to blind acceptance.

So will the UK become a filtered state in the near future? We will be keeping a close eye and reporting on any developments.

Featured images: Ed Geraghty (c)

Russian Pirates Battle Piracy Laws

While Europe and the US are still coming to terms with the implications of Edward Snowden's revelations, we should not forget that it is not only in the West that hard-won freedoms are being attacked by authoritarian governments. In Russia, 'anti-piracy' laws are being introduced on 1 August 2013. These laws are a direct attack on internet freedom according to the [Russian Pirate Party](#), who are organising a series of actions, together with allied activists, with four main tactics.

Tactic One

The first is a protest meeting-concert that will be held on 28 July 2013 in Moscow featuring copyright-free music. There will also be workshops in the use of Tor, VPN and similar privacy ensuring technologies. Initially, the authorities of Moscow denied them permission to hold a meeting in the proposed place, Triumphalnaya Square, but after some work a compromise was reached. Similar meetings will be held in St. Petersburg and Tomsk, as well as other cities.

Tactic Two

The second action planned is a web strike on 1 August. On this day, a large number of popular websites and portals will be turned off for a while and internet users will be encouraged to put a black square in place of their avatars - more than 1,600 users have already indicated they will be taking part.

Tactic Three

The third arm of the party's strategy is to organise [a petition](#) for the abolition of the anti-piracy law; they have already collected over 45,000 signatures - almost half of the required 100,000. On reaching 100,000 the initiative should be included for consideration in the Parliament of Russia.

Tactic Four

Among other things, at the end of July activists will launch a Pirate VPN service and will start to teach users how to avoid the "anti-piracy" law.

More information, in Russian, can be obtained from the [campaign web site](#).

Featured Image: PPRU CC BY-SA

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Written by Andrew Reitemeyer published at July 23, 2013

The Pirate Party UK Will Remain an Ordinary Member of Pirate Parties International

PPUK has been part of Pirate Parties International (PPI) from the beginning, but its ordinary members did not make the decision in the past. **In a vote** triggered by concerns about PPI from the UK's executive, the ballots have been counted, the decision made. The Pirate Party UK will remain an ordinary member of Pirate Parties International (PPI).

Mandate

Over the last few weeks there has been a lot of discussion, debate and argument about the merit of PPI membership. In fact we talked about the value of PPI, issues with personalities, issues with structure, problems with voting, financial irregularities and more. There was little that wasn't brought up and almost everyone had a different position or view on the subject.

There was, however, one thread that remained constant throughout - UK Pirates want an effective way of working with pretty much everyone.

Almost everyone, for or against, pointed out the problems that PPI faces, its failures and its successes. But no-one was happy with the idea of PPI failing. Therefore, as from today, we have a mandate to commit time, people and money to ensure that the PPI becomes more effective. We have to work to help the PPI achieve its potential. Not because it is easy, but because our members demand it.

For the first time, we are clear that we are acting on the basis of what our members want in this area and we will do that to the best of our abilities. It seems that the last line of the case for remaining a PPI member made an impact. It was quite simple, a question of intent:

If you value international cooperation through the PPI, the forums for international discussion it provides and want the UK Pirate Party to make a further effort in working to stabilise and improve the PPI, I would ask you to vote that the party should remain a full member.

The Next Steps

Now we have to work to stabilise and improve the PPI, help it become an organisation that we can all be proud to be members of. That means working with other members and the PPI board to ensure it is equipped to meet its aims as well as ours.

As I said at the start of this vote - we need to work on cooperation. Doing this through the PPI isn't the easiest way to do that; but as it turns out, the Pirate movement is one that generally doesn't take the easy option, but always aims for the right outcome.

Those are the lofty goals - what I need to do now with my team is to identify the practical issues - after all, it is my department that is responsible for international coordination from the UK side. Happily, the reports that were passed back to the party that were part of the reason that this vote was triggered identify many of these issues that we need to solve. There is no good reason why together we shouldn't be able to fix the problems that we found and begin to make the changes that so many of our members, and other PPI members and officers seemed to demand in the discussions of the last month.

So, I'd briefly like to abuse the generosity of the Pirate Times and ask that anyone reading this, member or not, who would like to help in this effort, get in touch with either their own international coordination team, or the UK parties campaigns team [campaigns@pirateparty.org.uk] and let us know. There is work to do. And now, with your help, is the time to do it.

Editors note: For more information about why PPUK was considering pulling out of PPI you can take a look at [the last post](#) by Andy

Featured picture: CC-BY-SA, Tim Dobson

Written by Josef Ohlsson Collentine published at July 17, 2013

A Pirateâ€™s Monologue on Change

Some like to rename the stagnation we are in today as 'stability'. In this case the word "stability" only refers to the maintaining of status quo, mostly because it is suited well for traditional politicians and corporations. If we get out of this 'stability' it does not necessarily mean that we will find ourselves in a period of 'instability'. But let us suppose that a period of 'instability' will occur ('Instability' for whom and from what thing?). The word 'Instability' has only negative characteristics, with ease, it could have positive connotations as well! Although there is a fear of 'instability', does this mean that we should not move from the old to the new? Should we avoid change and experimentation?

Today we are experiencing hard unstable times and are hoping for a positive outlook. It is not right to think in such a way. Our rationale is structured by words that mislead our minds trained to think in one dimension. Everything is not black or white, it is always a balance between the two. For example, let us take the word 'stability'. Of course it has both positive and negative connotations. The negative parts are for the majority while the positive parts are for the very few who have created this "stability" by imposing laws that supposedly guarantee it, of course to their advantage.

It is right to choose those stability features that are really warranted and reject others that are inherent in the terms of a 'going backwards stability'. For example, solidarity ensures stability

while a competitive economy impoverishes. Also, respect for human values and an appreciation of diversity support it whereas the idea that everything has its price does not. These ensure a stability with unstable characteristics? that changes its form from the perspective of the "good stability? and can be accepted by all that changes should be made because that's the way stability prevails!

This is not referring to an economy that needs not be changed but to be repealed at the globalized sense of the prevalence of the strong, the lender against the borrower. Economy needs two to tango, one who sells and one who buys, and are equivalent and equal, with the same value and not by the predominance of the seller. A strong man is not the one who survives but he who coexists.

It should be understood that it is natural new generations to have different opinion and this should be assessed in a positive way and to facilitate its expression. Law of evolution dictates that always there are changes to come and do not bring the overturn of stability because these changes are done to maintain stability.

We basically need a spiritual revolution in everyone's mind, a restoration of the concepts and a sober analysis of the words, what they really mean, because words have lost their meaning and their proper associative display in our minds. During his life, a man should achieve self-determination and self-realization within society or a team. If he doesn't achieve them, he alienates himself from society.

An ideal society creates a safety net for its members, giving them the opportunity to hover over the old and the new, fall and then get up and seek new paths. The reconsideration of predefined roles and rigid positions, the simultaneous and successive movements of members in many directions will gradually lead to a new form of stability without interference or obstacles and create the conditions for a critical and creative subversion. Systems change as long as changes occur in their structure and organization.

In certain phases of our lives there are some revisions required; collective revisions by removal of terms, rules and laws that have become dysfunctional and this is not bad at all! With personal responsibility and collectivity, two interrelated senses, we can get rid of the unnecessary weight of representative democracy. We have the technology, it can be done easily. This pretty much Pirate Parties say.

Pirates seek stability in the sense of the revisions and realignments that we have to dare to do through democratic expression processes. We have to show flexibility in revision and negotiate our differences with productive interactions; we must reduce the fear of the 'new' and co-shape the sense of stability by integrating the 'individual' to the 'collective'.

We've been trained to see concepts in a disjunctive way. Liquidity brings feelings of uncertainty, but the new could only be actualized through the overthrow of the status quo. Stability and instability, order and chaos are two sides of the same coin and based on this, we must redefine principles and forces that govern change.

Instability times should not be linked with disaster scenes or disorganizing, but must be considered as a necessary preparation stage for the creation of new structures of a higher degree of organizing. We already know and have seen in the internet that a small ripple can start a completely new process that will drastically change the whole behaviour of the system.

Pirates are the new ingredients, catalysts in the system, in small doses and quantities that will lead to a new set of reactions between the branches and components and compete with its previous mode. Pirates say, "do not be afraid to experiment", change is the law of life. Whether we achieve change or not it depends on us; the doses we use, the quantity of ingredients, but always having in mind the interrelationship of stability and instability, of order and chaos.

Sometimes we fail to perceive the hidden order below what we see as complex and superficially

unstable and fear of the symptoms of dissolution if we dare to choose an hitherto "unorthodox" solution or behaviour. We must be trained and prepared at every moment for a change of tack and of this is normality and of life. The ideal combination, because of the liquidity of conditions, would be the same flexible in decision-making processes and guarantee the collective decision.

An educated man could redefine and abolish the educational system, or a part of it, by putting important arguments for its effectiveness. And why should we not do it? There is no reason he wouldn't do it when he realizes that it's not working anymore. The purpose of education should be innovation not hypnosis, freedom and broadening of horizons not limits and prohibitions. When humanity, as a whole, doesn't come out for the benefit of education, then it is not called progress and development but regression and stagnation that some like to rename as ?stability?.

And after that, politics as we know it up to now, could be redefined too.

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This is a Team Editorial Article and thus is an expressed opinion rather than a statement of policy of any Pirate Party or organisation.

Written by Stathis Leivaditis published at July 12, 2013

Luxembourgish government fell apart, re-elections in October

Yesterday the Luxembourgish government fell apart. This means that Luxembourg will have elections in October. With the latest poll showing 3% for PPLU it's looking very positive for them reaching over the 3.5% barrier.

Their campaigning needs help and they are trying to get donations to reach their goal of ? 25 000. Help them by [donating what you can](#). With this budget they will be able to run a good

campaign to increase their percentage in elections with the following plan:

Posters and plaques: 10.000 ?

Flyers and election campaign journal: ? 5.500

Giveaways: 6.000 ?

Information booth material: 2.000 ?

Various (administrative charges, transportation, etc.): ? 1,450

Other ways to help is ofcourse to travel there and aid during election times. You can also help to bring more attention to them by using the hashtag #Neiwahlen on twitter which means "new elections" and is followed by press in Luxembourg.

Featured image: CC-BY, [Pirtepartei Lëtzebuerg](#)

Pirate Party Luxembourg (PPLU)

<http://piratepartei.lu/>

<http://www.facebook.com/PirateparteiLu>

<http://twitter.com/Piratepartei>

<https://plus.google.com/102201720880310261301>

irc: #piratenlu irc.pirateirc.net

<http://www.youtube.com/Piratepartei>

Written by Josef Ohlsson Collentine published at July 11, 2013

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