



pirateparty

Two chamber hybrid model for PP-EU

Pirate Party Switzerland 07.06.2012

This paper describes the idea of a two chamber hybrid membership model for PP-EU. It is far from complete but outlines the basic workings of such a model. It deals with membership, decisions process and financing as these issues are tightly connected.

The hybrid model with both individual and party membership is both compatibles with the pirate ideal of political participation on every level and the reality that most work is and will be done at the country level.

It binds together the European pirate parties to form a powerful party at the European level but allows also for the cultural differences thereby following the motto **United in diversity**.



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Basics

The full members of PP-EU are both the individual European pirates and the European pirate parties. To decide both the individual pirates and the pirate parties need to agree.

We all want to promote the initiative and decision power of all individual pirates. At the same time PP-EU exists to support national and regional pirate parties in getting their members elected to European Parliament. Therefore the parties must also consent to the decisions. This concept also keeps the many small parties from constantly overruling the larger ones and vice versa.



Membership

Full membership for parties

Pirate parties are eligible for full membership if they are the largest independent pirate party in their country or autonomous region and are based in a EU member, EFTA member or EU acceding member country.

EFTA countries are already heavily impacted by EU decisions. They all have extensive treaties with the EU and its member countries. Acceding EU members will soon become EU members and thus be impacted too. Candidate members on the other hand may remain candidates for a long time and perhaps never join. Some of them do not fulfill some important prerequisites for joining the EU.

This would make pirate parties from the following countries eligible for full membership:



Austria	EU member
Belgium	EU member
Bulgaria	EU member
Cyprus	EU member
Czech Republic	EU member
Denmark	EU member
Estonia	EU member
Finland	EU member
France	EU member
Germany	EU member
Greece	EU member
Hungary	EU member
Ireland	EU member
Italy	EU member
Latvia	EU member
Lithuania	EU member
Luxembourg	EU member
Malta	EU member
Netherlands	EU member
Poland	EU member
Portugal	EU member
Romania	EU member
Slovakia	EU member
Slovenia	EU member
Spain	EU member
Sweden	EU member
United Kingdom	EU member
Iceland	EFTA member
Liechtenstein	EFTA member
Norway	EFTA member
Switzerland	EFTA member
Croatia	acceding EU member

Full membership for individuals

All individuals from the countries mentioned above are eligible for full membership.

Individuals should be allowed to join as full members whether or not they are in a pirate



party which is a member.

Observer membership for pirate parties

Pirate parties are eligible for observer membership if they are a full or observer member of PPI and are based in an EU candidate country or a country which has a land boarder with any EU member, EFTA member or EU acceding member country or a sea boarder with the Mediterranean sea.

This allows regional pirate parties as well as pirate parties from bordering countries to join as observer members.

Observer membership for NGOs

NGOs are eligible for observer membership if at least two full members are a member in that NGO.

This allows NGOs which are close to the pirate movement to join as observer members.



Organization

Chamber of Pirates

All individual pirates form together the Chamber of Pirates. Everyone has exactly one vote. The Chamber of Pirates generally convenes in a decentralized manner either life or in a ballot voting form.

One general assembly for the whole of Europe is not feasible in both time any money. Therefore the individual members will meet in many locations and connect to each other over the Internet. Votings will be tallied locally and summed up or conducted online. This enables members from all over Europe to vote on all issues.

The Chamber of Pirates works through its standing committees on both organizational and programmatic issues. Each committee is made up of 53 pirates. These are elected by the full Chamber of Pirates.

While input from all members is extremely important, the work itself cannot be done in too large a forum. The number of seats on the commissions is deliberately chosen high so many voices can be heard.

Chamber of Parties

All full member pirate parties form together the Chamber of Parties. Every party has one vote. The chamber generally convenes physically or online in a life session. Each pirate party determines their two representatives and positions in their own may.

Even when gathering the opinions of all parties we must respect our differences and let each party determine its vote in its own way.

The Chamber of Parties also works through its standing committees on both organizational and programmatic issues. Each party can send two representatives to each committee but they get but one vote.

The Chamber of Parties can best gather all ideas from all parties if each party can speak out on all issues.



Decisions process

Every pirate can put forward a proposal to any Chamber of Pirates committee, where it is discussed, improved and integrated with similar proposals. Also every party can put forward a proposal to any Chamber of Parties committee.

Initiatives should come from all interested pirates but be gathered, refined and compared at one point. We also want to gather the ideas and ways of each party and integrate them with the ideas of all individuals to the best possible proposals.

If a quorum of one third of committee members suffices to bring a proposal into the corresponding committee of the other chamber. It a proposal can reach a quorum of one third in the committees of both chambers it then voted in both chambers.

The quorum is deliberately chosen low so even minority proposals can be discussed broadly and be voted on in the chambers.

Depending on the nature of the proposal it either needs a simple majority in both chambers or a two-thirds majority if it's a binding programmatic item or statute amendment.

Any binding programmatic decisions will only be accepted by the pirates and the parties if an overwhelming majority.

Election process

For the elections of the officers both chambers act together and both chambers have the same total weight. In the Chamber of Pirates each pirate has the same weight while in the Chamber of Parties each party has the same weight.

Like in the decisions process both parties and individual members should be included in the elections. Since election followed by approval is impractical as it can last forever, both chambers elect jointly.

Example: There are 3 candidates for chairman Hans, Jean and John. They get votes as follows:

	Pirates		Parties		Total
Hans	1000	50%	2	20%	35%
Jean	600	30%	5	50%	40%
John	400	20%	3	30%	25%

Therefore Jean is elected chairman.



Financing

The annual membership fee is 1/1500 of mean household income rounded down for individual members and 1% of total budget for member parties.

The newly founded PP-EU will need financing to get pirates into the European Parliament. All individual members and all parties should contribute to its success according to their economic ability. A member from Greece simply cannot afford to pay as much as one from Switzerland. The same goes for the parties. Those who are successful and attract many members can contribute more than others.

These are the above numbers calculated for some countries. The numbers are computed using the 2010 numbers mean household income from Eurostat and declared party expenses.

Country	EUR/pirate	EUR/party
Germany	11	5782
Switzerland	20	426
Luxembourg	21	?
Sweden	13	?
Spain	8	?
Greece	7	?

