

PPI Financial Report 2013

For yet another year, we have been unable to secure access to the Triodos accounts. Triodos have ignored my multiple emails and faxes and have refused to deal with me by telephone as my name has not been on the PPI HQ paperwork as Treasurer.

Despite efforts, I have seen no financial statements past 2010 (in fact, they were *deliberately* withheld from me), and therefore I can only assume the accounts to be in the same state as they were when I inherited them¹.

All debts outstanding at the time this office was placed on me are still outstanding, as at no point have I had any access to money to settle them.

All PPI expenditure (such as servers) has been paid out of personal money and may be considered debts if receipts are presented to the new Treasurer and Board – as of now, no receipts other than that for the notary have been presented for payment and as such are not accounted for other than as notional expenditure totalling 0. The invoice for the notary totals € 269.95.

An agreement was reached with PP-CZ over the money remaining from the 2012 GA; all money (46167 CZK ≈ €1800) held by PP-CZ as shown on the financial report² was to be transferred to an account held specifically for the organisation of the current GA^{3&4}. As the account for this purpose was revoked by the opening bank (due to a decision from their board weeks after the account was opened and advertised), this money remains with PP-CZ until such a time as a bank account allowing the generation of financial reports is put in place.

As I understand it, Gregory Engels and Jerry Weyer should have access to the Triodos accounts by the time of the current GA and therefore hopefully all necessary paperwork can be completed within short order. Also as I understand it; due to the above, the issue regarding the "anti-fraud" paperwork has also now been solved.

Due to all of this, I have nothing to hand over to the new Treasurer except electronic copies of the outstanding receipts paid out of the previous Treasurer's own pocket, the invoice from the notary and the paperwork sent to me when I was originally foisted Treasurer.

1 <http://lists.pirateweb.net/pipermail/pp.international.general/attachments/20120415/6777b403/attachment-0001.pdf>

2 http://www.pirati.cz/zo/5_2012

3 [http://wiki.pp-international.net/PPI_Minutes_2013-02-19#3 - REPORTS](http://wiki.pp-international.net/PPI_Minutes_2013-02-19#3_-_REPORTS)

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Personal Report

It would be fair to (and I'm sure many will) ask me "*you have had a year – why have you failed to get access to the accounts?! Why have you not set up another account?!*"

My response to this I will try to make as clear as possible:

- At NO POINT has my name been listed on PPI HQ as Treasurer.
 - The Notary in Brussels whose responsibility it was to draft the legal paperwork for the transfer took over 7 months to do so (and what was finally produced was filled with errors which needed to be corrected before it could be sent out), despite constant reminders and pressure
 - Once we finally had the physical paperwork, it quickly bounced across the globe gathering signatures
 - Due to lack of communication (other than a one-line Skype message after it was on its way back), none of us were aware, however, that one set of the paperwork bearing 4 out of the 5 required signatures was incorrectly addressed and sat at a post office for over a month before being returned to sender
 - On its return journey, the paperwork vanished and never arrived
 - When this happened, we no longer had enough time to start the process all over again
- In the meantime, I could not prove to the banks that I was speaking on behalf of PPI as an organisation - an email address proves nothing and my signature is not on the bank's records.
- They refused to deal with me on existing accounts for this very reason.
- The Triodos accounts have sat in a state of limbo, with no-one able to access them.
- Setting up further accounts in PPI HQ's name would lead to exactly the same problem as we have with Tridos... with *even more* accounts!
- Setting up an account with my name alone (or mine + co-chairs) is almost exactly how we ended up in this accounts mess in the first place.
- None of this is helpful to anyone.

I have at no point felt in control of anything going on in PPI; I have constantly felt in the dark.

This whole thing was, frankly, a demoralising experience – I did not come into this in order to inflate my own ego, I sincerely wanted to help turn PPI into something useful for all of its members. I was asked to stand for the board in 2012 and I have been asked to do so again this year. I won't.

I am saddened by the way this has turned out. I neither achieved anything I had wanted, nor felt I had the power to do so.

Given the current issues surrounding the CoA, the only competent authority I feel this report could be taken to is the GA. Please take this as that submission.

Lessons for the next board

It is of the utmost importance that the new board get their names listed on the PPI HQ paperwork as their absolute number one priority. The second priority is for the HQ address to be changed to a more sensible place; Amelia Andersdottir has offered PPI the use of her office and my recommendation is that this becomes the postal address for the bank account once electronic access has been established.

Once this has been done, it is important that PPI pays off its debts to Patrick Maechler. It has been completely unfair that I have been in no position to do so, but these debts arose in the first place because he was unable to access the accounts.

I also recommend moving the account away from Triodos if possible - their handling of this does not fill me with confidence that they will be helpful in the future. As to where it is moved, I have no recommendations other than a bank with global branches so that in future these things can be dealt with face-to-face.

Without bank account access, PPI is crippled.

I also recommend the next board draw up a series of aims, a public list of concrete things it plans to achieve. Without this, it is all too easy to drift between meetings every two weeks with nothing ever getting achieved.

I wish PPI all the best for its future.

APPENDIX

Subject: Re: Meeting today.

From: Ed Geraghty <ed.geraghty@pp-international.net>

Date: Tue, 05 Feb 2013 18:11:22 +0000

To: Nuno Cardoso <nuno.cardoso@pp-international.net>, board <board@pp-international.net>

Just left work, won't be back in time for this.

Yesterday, I had the mumble meeting with ppcz where we reached a compromise. As part of the contract to be signed by ppru, ppru will nominate a bank account into which they will receive the whole amount of czk shown on the financial report as it stands now. This week, I will be drafting an email on behalf of the PPI board which I will issue with ppcz to the mailing list.

To avoid such problems in future, we must ensure that the board's expectations are explicit in the agreement with ppru and all expenditures must be approved by PPI before they are paid.

I cannot control the bank account, but it is important that any potential problems are addressed before they arise.

I would also appreciate if the ppru organising committee could appoint at least one English speaker (if possible) so I am not relying on Gregory or Lola (or Google...) to translate the whole time :)

I am available by email if you want me to clarify.

I would also like to minute my thanks to Tom and Petr for yesterday's meeting.

Ed

Nuno Cardoso <nuno.cardoso@pp-international.net> wrote:

>Hi guys,

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>I'm stuck at work solving urgent matters, I don't think I'm going to

>make

>it in time to today's meeting, sorry :(

>

>Pirate regards,

>Nuno

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Sent from my Android phone with K-9 Mail. Please excuse my brevity.