

# **Report of the PPI Co- Chairman Gregory Engels**

Pirate Parties International  
General Assembly



19th - 21st April 2013  
Kazan, Russia

## Report of the PPI Co-Chairman for the period of April 2013 till April 2014

PPI, alongside the pirate movement has seen a successful growth and development, despite the desperate attempt from some notorious trolls to obstruct its undertakings or even to destroy it and the common spirit of the worldwide movement of pirate parties.

### Political development

Pirate Parties International, as the international umbrella organization of the pirate parties movement have the main task to act in the interests of its members, to support the foundation of new pirate parties and to act on the international political floor where no single political party can make a difference.

During this year we had set a track to be acknowledged as the international political lobby organization representing the new political developments that are present on the whole globe. We had filed a successful application for observing Membership at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and our application was recommended for approval by WIPOs Secretary General and tabled for voting upon at the last WIPO General Assembly. Unfortunately there were informal protests from some countries delegations and the decision on PPI admission as WIPO Observer was postponed to next GA, that will happen at the end of September 2013. Nevertheless we sought the opportunity to visit several WIPO meetings and due to a cooperation with Knowledge Ecology International (KEI) and the Civil Society Coalition (CSC) we were able to visit a meeting of WIPOs Committee for Enforcement as part of their delegation. (See report of Denis Simonet for details on that).

The other important opportunity for international lobbying was my talk at the UNESCO regional conference in Marrakesh in February [1] presenting a 15 minutes talk on “copyright for the digital age” giving specific advice on how to change the Moroccan copyright legislation to support open access and creative commons. (It had also several thousands of views on slideshare.net, so the reach of it was even much larger than the 50 or so UNESCO conference participants)

At those meetings we met with several important political influencers – besides of representatives to WIPO delegations (Ghana and Switzerland and briefly with others) with representatives from Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA), World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Bank, the Director of ICANN, secretary of PEN International, the Chairs of Internet societies of Libya, Syria and Morocco, the Internet Society (ISOC), Forum IPv6, Oxford Internet Institute, HIVOS and some others.

As a most recent achievement, PPI has been registered as an official lobby organization with the European Commission. As the result we will receive requests for consultations and comments on policy development from European political bodies.

PPI Board has also decided to support the activities of the “coalition against DRM in HTML5” and has called PPI members to support it as well and support the activities during the international day against DRM.

Last but not least, I personally have been asked for supporting PP-Russia by acting as official registrant of the website [rublacklist.net](http://rublacklist.net) that is publicizing excerpts from the Russian internet black lists.

## Internal business

PPI Board had contact this year with pirates from over 30 countries that had set up a goal to set up a new pirate party in their country, most successful of which were the pirates from Israel that are facing their first election next week, from Israel, who had just weeks from foundation to their first participation in national elections, Hungary and Poland.

PPI general assembly in Prague, has not finished a lot of business during its seating, and it was expected from us to conduct an online GA to finish the proceedings. This proved to be very difficult to do, as we received a lot of very conflicting input on how to do it, ranging from interconnected regional meetups, an online voice only call, or a video conference to an offline, forum based method spanning several weeks. We have asked our members on what method do they prefer, or what is unacceptable for them. Unfortunately we have only received replies less than from a third of our members, and none of the presented options had found any majority. I suggest, that specific rules of procedure for a purely online GA are being approved by the next physical GA.

The most successful project of the last year was clearly the creation of the international pirate news letter and site "Piratetimes" - I want to thank all who were involved in the fulfillment of that project from the PPI GA 2012 action plan that I had presented in Prague. Other points from the Action Plan that we had started with significant results includes the "Image Bank" and "Pirate Archive". We also had created several opportunities for interactions for our members, including consultation meetings for GA business on mumble. Unfortunately we had found no resources to conduct the proposed regional conferences in latin or north americas due to lack to access to any financial funding or other means of income.

## Outlook

PPI need to continue to seek involvement in the international policy making process to represent the interests of its members. More observing memberships should be sought for, as the field of interest of Pirate Parties has widened with the advance of the pirate movement. This include a non-exhaustive list ILO International Labor Organisation - (as some PPI Members advocate basic income) International union for the protection of new Varieties of Plants (UPOV) UNESCO, UN DPI, UN ECOSOC, WTO, ITU, World Health Organisation (WHO) - as some PPI Members advocate a reform in drugs policies, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), FAO as Pirate Parties oppose patents on lifeforms.

[1] [http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/freedom\\_of\\_expression\\_on\\_the\\_internet\\_unesco\\_conference\\_in\\_marrakech/](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/freedom_of_expression_on_the_internet_unesco_conference_in_marrakech/)