

Report of Gregory Engels (Board Member 2014-15)

Pirate Parties International
General Assembly



04th - 05st July 2015
Warsaw, Poland

Report of the PPI Board Member for the period of April 2014 till July 2015

I was elected at the Paris GA into a new role for me, moving away from the representative task of a co-chair towards being a regular Board member. I luckily can say that the transition into this new role was smooth, with a well organized hand over to the new Co-Chairs. Especially I would like to emphasize the significance of the Real-Life meeting in London, with the great support of the Pirate Party of UK.

I have gave over the responsibility for the second Think-Twice conference in Istanbul, that I had started to plan earlier, to Anders and Stathis, who have produced a successful conference, and have published its proceedings as an open access journal.

I have started to organize the “PPI Pirate Summer” vacation camp that will happen in three weeks time.

I have assisted with the establishing of a working banking account with the help of PP-LU as an interim solution, until a separate bank account will be established.

Overall we had a successful, but eventful year in PPI with a lot of the tasks and goals given by the PPI GA and the statutes accomplished. We finally have a working E-democracy system, a usable bank account, submitted (and well documented, thanks to Koen) financial return documents, we had a successful online GA, and last but not least have now membership fees, that can be used as planing grounds for PPI activities. I also salute especially the decisions of the online GA to include individual people as supporter members and to established the standing committees.

It is sad, that the success of the PPI have called an organized efforts by the trolls and people who would like to see an international Pirate organization to fail – in the coordinated effort to spread false accusations (like we never have addressed issues with representation of remote delegateions), or even outright lies (accusing me for making personal vacation in Bali on the PPI account – this one is wrong on so many level, it really hearts that this one is being spread around, without any fact checking), or even racist (“we need to end the german dominance” - just replace “german” with “nigger” or “jews” to see how racist it is). But it is understandable that the trolls want to see PPI failing and replacing it with some kind of an internet chat that has the aim to ensure that Pirates would have no impact in the world.

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 lifefoms. To make it clear, what points are to pursue internationally, the negotiations on PPI Manifesto should be conducted (if the GA decides that it is a good thing to have the Manifesto)

PPI also need to broaden the base for the communication towards its members, its supporters, the NGOs and UN bodies. PPI need to continue to conduct events for people to network, like the ThinkTwice conference, the Pirate Summer, the Real-Life board meeting (maybe even as a joint event with the PP-EU and PWB boards) and the Real Life Standing Committees Meetings, and maybe a dedicated PPI Supporter conference. PPI should make a conference on copyright during

the WTO ministerial summit in Nairobi.

Having now sorted out the finance, bank account and the reporting, PPI is now eligible for public funding. PPI should apply for funding with the European budget money (like the Europe for Citizen, the Erasmus 2020, or the ESF programs), and money from private grant givers, so that the various events could have some reimbursement for traveling costs of the speakers, delegates and participants. I think that at least 20 such applications should be filed during the next year.

I would like to thank everybody from the current PPI Board and the alternate members, the lay auditors and jury of the council of the court of arbitration members for the constructive, and more important, productive work they done during the past term. I also would like to thank the few volunteers who are spending their time assisting PPI – especially Jelena for managing the social media teams of PPI, Nuno for managing the E-Democracy platform and Radek Pietron and Tomasz Slowinski for organizing the GA in Warsaw.