

Dublin University Pirate Party Constitution

Preamble

We wish to lobby for change of global legislation to facilitate the emerging information Society, which is characterised by diversity and openness. We approach this by requiring an increased level of respect for the citizens and their right to privacy, as well as reforms to copyright and patent law. We do this by encouraging discussion and debate regarding copyright and patent law, lobbying to protect digital right and freedom of information, and providing services to enable anonymity, privacy and freedom of information on the internet and through other media.

The Pirate Party wants to fundamentally reform copyright law, get rid of the patent system and ensure that citizens' rights to privacy are respected. With this agenda- and only this- we are making a bid for representation in the European and Swedish parliaments.

Not only do we think these are worthwhile goals, but we also believe they are realistically achievable on a European basis. The sentiments that led to the formation of the Pirate Party in Sweden are present throughout Europe. There are already similar political initiatives under way in several other member states. Together, we will be able to set a new course for a Europe that is currently heading in a very dangerous direction.

The Pirate Party only has three issues on its agenda:

Reform of copyright law

The official aim of the copyright system has always been to find a balance in order to promote culture being created and spread. Today that balance has been completely lost, to a point where the copyright laws severely restrict the very thing they are supposed to promote. The Pirate Party wants to restore the balance in the copyright legislation.

All non-commercial copying and use should be completely free. File sharing and p2p networking should be encouraged rather than criminalized. Culture and knowledge are good things, that increase in value the more they are shared. The Internet could become the greatest public library ever created.

The monopoly for the copyright holder to exploit an aesthetic work commercially should be limited to five years after publication. Today's copyright terms are simply absurd. Nobody needs to make money seventy years after he is dead. No film studio or record company bases its investment decisions on the off-chance that the product would be of interest to anyone a hundred years in the future. The commercial life of cultural works is staggeringly short in today's world. If you haven't made your money back in the first one or two years, you never will. A five years copyright term for

commercial use is more than enough. Non-commercial use should be free from day one.

We also want a complete ban on DRM technologies, and on contract clauses that aim to restrict the consumers' legal rights in this area. There is no point in restoring balance and reason to the legislation, if at the same time we continue to allow the big media companies to both write and enforce their own arbitrary laws.

An abolished patent system

Pharmaceutical patents kill people in third world countries every day. They hamper possibly life saving research by forcing scientists to lock up their findings pending patent application, instead of sharing them with the rest of the scientific community. The latest example of this is the bird flu virus, where not even the threat of a global pandemic can make research institutions forgo their chance to make a killing on patents.

The Pirate Party has a constructive and reasoned proposal for an alternative to pharmaceutical patents. It would not only solve these problems, but also give more money to pharmaceutical research, while still cutting public spending on medicines in half. This is something we would like to discuss on a European level.

Patents in other areas range from the morally repulsive (like patents on living organisms) through the seriously harmful (patents on software and business methods) to the merely pointless (patents in the mature manufacturing industries).

Europe has all to gain and nothing to lose by abolishing patents outright. If we lead, the rest of the world will eventually follow.

Respect for the right to privacy

Following the 9/11 event in the US, Europe has allowed itself to be swept along in a panic reaction to try to end all evil by increasing the level of surveillance and control over the entire population. We Europeans should know better. It is not twenty years since the fall of the Berlin Wall, and there are plenty of other horrific examples of surveillance-gone-wrong in Europe's modern history.

The arguments for each step on the road to the surveillance state may sound ever so convincing. But we Europeans know from experience where that road leads, and it is not somewhere we want to go.

We must pull the emergency brake on the runaway train towards a Society we do not want. Terrorists may attack the open Society, but only governments can abolish it. The Pirate Party wants to prevent that from happening.

Article 1 – Definitions

1.1 – Name

The Society shall be known as the Dublin University Pirate Party Society, abbreviated to 'Pirates' or 'DUPP'.

1.2 – The Executive

The Executive, abbreviated to the 'Exec', will consist of the Chairperson, the Treasurer and the Secretary of the Society.

1.3 – The Committee

The Committee will consist of the Exec, the Public Relations Officer, the System Administrators, and the following positions which may be filled or ignored at the discretion of the Executive or acting Committee at an AGM, EGM or OGM; Political Officer, Events Officer, Junior System Administrator, Amenities Officer, Intersocieties Representative, Webmaster, General Officers.

1.4 – The CSC:

The Central Societies Committee will hereafter be referred to as the 'CSC'.

Article 2 – Officers

2.1 – The Chairperson

The Chairperson, known in the Society as the 'Captain' or the 'Auditor', is the figurehead of the Society. The role of the chairperson is to ensure the Society conforms to its constitution and acts in a way that reflects the beliefs specified in the constitution. The Captain oversees the general running of the Society.

2.2 – The Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be generally responsible for all the finances of the Society, including collecting and securing Society subscriptions, applying for grants in a timely manner, maintaining and ensuring the accuracy of the accounts and ensuring the accounts are used appropriately with regards to the Constitution and the rule of the CSC. The treasurer shall have the duty of conducting routine communications with the CSC, and is obliged to vote on motions during CSC meetings.

2.3 – The Secretary

The Secretary shall be responsible for all the correspondence of the Society and shall keep a record of it, for keeping the minutes of all meetings of the Society and of the Committee, to provide the Secretary of the CSC with a record of the Society's activities during his/her term of office not later than the date set by the CSC For submission of this report and shall be answerable to the Committee.

2.4 – The PRO

The Public Relations Officer, known as the 'PRO', shall be responsible for promoting Society events, making posters, sending the weekly Society media and other correspondence and distributing other promotional material. It will have ultimate control of social media accounts and the public profile of the Society. Given the time commitments involved with being a PRO, the Officer may ask for assistance from members of the Committee regarding its duties, in particular the General Officers in the Society.

2.5 – Political Officer

The Political Officer is responsible for issues regarding the political views of the Society. This includes answering media queries related to the political beliefs of the Society, as well as keeping up to date with current political events and international legislation.

2.6 – Events Officer

The Events Officer is responsible for overseeing and organising the societies events. This includes booking a room and booking a place for refreshments.

2.7 – Amenities Officer

The Amenities Officer is responsible for ensuring the Society room is kept in good condition, looking after the Society library and being the point of contact with the CSC Amenities Officer.

2.8 – Intersocieties Representative

The Intersocieties Representative, also known as the 'Intersocs Rep', is responsible for all interactions with other societies. This includes organising inter-Society events and resolving disputes with other societies.

2.9 – Webmaster

The Webmaster is responsible for updating the sites social media pages and website on a regular basis.

2.10 – General Officers

The General Officers are responsible for helping with the general running of the Society. They have no specific duties, but are expected to help the other Committee members in their roles.

Article 3 – Elections

3.1 – Annual General Meeting

(a) The Society must have an Annual General Meeting, hereafter AGM, where all Officers are elected to their positions. The meeting will be held during the college Hillary Term.

(b) A general meeting of the Society may be called by any member of Executive Committee, or by a group of 20% of the ordinary members by presenting a signed petition to the Committee.

(c) All members must be given a weeks notice before the AGM by email or by other means deemed appropriate by the PRO.

(d) The meeting shall be open to all students, staff, and external members. Only full/ordinary members of the Society shall be entitled to vote. The Captain will chair the meeting, outlining the role of each position before the election for it takes place.

(e) At the meeting the Officers shall read their reports of the Society's activities for the year, and the election of a new Committee shall take place.

3.2 – Emergency General Meeting

(a) An Emergency General Meeting, hereafter EGM, shall be held to elect an Executive Committee Member, vote in a new constitution, or hold another vote as deemed necessary by the Committee, such as electing a Committee member.

(b) All members must be given at least 1 weeks notice before the EGM by email or by other means deemed appropriate by the PRO.

(c) Voting will conform with the guidelines laid out in Article 4.

3.3 – Ordinary General Meeting

(a) The Ordinary General Meeting, hereafter OGM, should be held once a week during the Michaelmas and Hillary college term, with exceptions allowed for exceptional circumstances as deemed by the Captain or the majority of the Exec.

(b) The purpose of the OGM is to discuss the issues of the Society, plan and organise events, assign tasks for Officers and discuss short and long term goals.

(c) General meetings do not require advanced notice however all members

must at some point during the year be made aware of the location and time of the meetings. A Committee member may call a vote for members to be notified if deemed necessary.

(d) A minimum of 3 Committee members including at least 1 member of the Exec are necessary for an OGM to be valid.

3.4 – Election Procedure

(a) Officers of the Executive may be elected at an AGM or EGM.

(b) Officers of the non-Executive Committee may be elected at an AGM and an EGM. These Officers may also be elected at an OGM, if at least 1 member of the Exec and the majority of the Committee are present.

(c) Elections shall be run by show of hand or by secret ballot as decided by the Exec.

Article 4 – Removal of Committee members

4.1 – Suspension/Removal of Officers of the Exec

(a) A Committee member may call for a vote of the removal of an Executive Officer at any general meeting.

(b) If a quorum of 60% of the Committee is present then a vote may be called for the suspension of the Officer. If this vote is passed by majority then the Officer is considered suspended pending an EGM to decide the removal of the Officer, and the possible election of a replacement Officer to fill the role until the following AGM. This EGM must be held within 2 weeks.

4.2 – Removal of Non-Executive Officers

(a) A Committee member may call for a vote of the removal of a Non-Executive Officer at any general meeting.

(b) A 50% majority is required for the vote to pass. For the vote to occur 60% of the elected Committee must be present. If the quorum is not reached, the Committee may vote to defer the vote until the next meeting, where the quorum requirements are void. Voting will follow the guidelines stated in Article 3.4(a).

Article 5 - System Administration

5.1 – System Administrators

(a) System Administrators, also known as 'Head System Administrators', are Officers of the Committee who are responsible for the technical services of the Society, including the Server and the VPN. They shall be responsible for making sure the servers are secure and that the privacy of users is intact.

(b) A System Administrator may also have another role on the Committee, but shall only have one vote at meetings.

(c) The System Administrators will inform the Committee of the status of the Systems at the meeting, including current goals, progress, and any issues they are facing.

(d) The decision of the System Administrators may be overruled by a majority vote of the Committee at a meeting, or in the case of urgency, by a unanimous vote of the Executive before a Committee vote at the next meeting. The deciding party shall take responsibility for the decision.

5.2 – Junior System Administrators

(a) A Junior System Administrator is a non-Committee position intended for members who wish to help or learn alongside the Head System Administrators.

(b) A Junior System Administrator may be appointed by a Head System Administrator with the approval of one member of the Exec. The member must be declared at the next meeting.

(c) The Access Rights, such as getting root access to a server, of an individual Junior System Administrator shall be decided by the System Administrators as a group. These changes should be declared at the next meeting.

(d) A Junior System Administrator may be removed at the discretion of the Head System Administrators, or according to Article 4.2.

Article 6 – Amendments

6.1 – Amendments to the Constitution

(a) This constitution may be amended by a vote of a majority of those present at an Extraordinary General Meeting or an Annual General Meeting.

(b) A Majority of at least 50% is required to pass the motion.

(c) Notices of such amendments must be given to the Committee at least 24 hours in advance of the time set for the General Meeting, and to the chairperson of that meeting before he/she takes the chair.

(d) This constitution is binding as and from the date of being approved by both the Society and the CSC.