

Report on the activities of the Board and its members 2024

Preamble

2024 was a challenging year for liberal democracy in general, and the pirate movement in particular. There have been setbacks, such as the loss of seats in the European Parliament and the loss of power in national contexts. However, setbacks also come with opportunities. The European pirate movement started small, but grew and, in spite of the setbacks, we still have a presence in the European parliament. In the face of the challenges we now face, we have assessed our vulnerabilities and are working to strengthen our organisation and our common movement.

2. Events and Activities

2.a Workshop in Brussels/Vision/Roadmap

On June 16th, 2024, the PPEU board participated in a workshop to develop a vision and roadmap for the next 5 years leading up to the next European election.

A report and draft roadmap can be found in the following Discourse channel:

<https://discourse.european-pirateparty.eu/t/5-year-workplan-with-teambuilding-drafts-and-4th-board-meeting-discussions/728>

2b. Donation scheme

The board has adopted a new donations policy. Details can be found in the following Discourse-thread:

<https://discourse.european-pirateparty.eu/t/9th-board-donations-scheme-implementation/651/6>

2c. Pirate social media

The European Pirate Party uses Discourse for discussion, debate, information sharing and voting. During 2024, the board committed to using this platform more to ensure transparent and consistent communication with member parties.

2e. 2024 EU Elections

The common European election program was adopted by the organization to be used by the member parties in their local campaigns.

Ahead of the European elections, the European Pirate Party elected two lead candidates. The lead candidate (or candidates) is the person that the party proposes to lead the European Commission, should that party become the winner of the European elections. The council elected Anja Hirschel and Marcel Kolaja as lead candidates for the 2024 European election at the council meeting in Luxembourg, 2024-01-27.

The European pirate movement saw a setback in the 2024 European elections, losing 3 of 4 seats in the European Parliament. The Pirate MEP remaining in parliament is Markéta Gregorová from the Czech Pirate Party.

2f. The program at the in-person part of the 17th Council meeting in Prague

In connection with the 17th council meeting, the Czech pirate party organized a series of activities. The delegates were able to attend a tour of the Czech national parliament, a sightseeing tour around Prague and talks by Young Pirates of Europe, Olga Richterova and Markéta Gregorová.

2f. Stop killing video games campaign

The Stop killing video games campaign is a citizen's initiative that aims to protect gamer's rights. Based on input from the 17th council meeting, the board has decided that the European Pirates should endorse this initiative. The board appointed Cal as the main contact for the Stop Killing Games ECI on the European Pirate Party's behalf.

More information is available in the official PPEU press release here:
<https://european-pirateparty.eu/european-pirates-endorse-citizens-initiative/>

3. Administrative matters

3a. Board meetings

The 9th board of the PPEU met on January 28th, March 21st, June 16th, July 4th, September 12th, October 17th, November 14th and December 12th (and January 16th). The minutes of each meeting can be found here:

1st meeting of the 9th board, January 28th, 2024: https://wiki.ppeu.net/doku.php?id=pp-eu:board-meeting09_01

2nd meeting of the 9th board, March 21st, 2024: https://wiki.ppeu.net/doku.php?id=pp-eu:board-meeting09_02

3rd meeting of the 9th board, June 16th, 2024: https://wiki.ppeu.net/doku.php?id=pp-eu:board-meeting09_03

4th meeting of the 9th board, July 4th, 2024: https://wiki.ppeu.net/doku.php?id=pp-eu:board-meeting09_04

5th meeting of the 9th board, September 12th, 2024:
https://wiki.ppeu.net/doku.php?id=pp-eu:board-meeting09_05

6th meeting of the 9th board, October 17th, 2024: https://wiki.ppeu.net/doku.php?id=pp-eu:board-meeting09_06

7th meeting of the 9th board, November 14th, 2024:
https://wiki.ppeu.net/doku.php?id=pp-eu:board-meeting09_07

8th meeting of the 9th board, December 12th, 2024:
https://wiki.ppeu.net/doku.php?id=pp-eu:board-meeting09_08

9th meeting of the 9th board, January 16th, 2025: https://wiki.ppeu.net/doku.php?id=pp-eu:board-meeting09_09

9th meeting of the 9th board, February 13th, 2025: https://wiki.ppeu.net/doku.php?id=pp-eu:board-meeting09_10

3b. Council Meetings

The 15th, 16th and 17th council meetings were held on January 27th, June 23rd and November 24th, respectively.

The minutes from these council meetings are available here:

15th council meeting (Luxembourg, January 27th, 2024):
https://wiki.ppeu.net/doku.php?id=15th_council_meeting_2024

16th council meeting (Online, June 23rd, 2024): https://wiki.ppeu.net/doku.php?id=16th_council_meeting_2024

17th council meeting (Prague, November 24th, 2024):
https://wiki.ppeu.net/doku.php?id=17th_council_meeting_2024

3c. Communications Received (Board email)

When the board took office, it identified that the board emails were out of date and that there were no guidelines on how email communication should be handled. The board emails have been updated since then. We would also like to encourage the new board to create guidelines for how email communication should be handled.

The discussion can be found here:

3d. Members

The Swiss pirate party (PPCH) was approved as a member party ahead of the 16th council meeting.

4. Reports from individual board members

The 9th board of the European Pirate Party was elected by the European Pirate Party Council meeting in Luxembourg, 2024-01-27

4a. Mikuláš Peksa (Chair, resignation effective 23.06.2024)

No report.

4b. Florian Roussel (Board member, elected Chair 23.06.2024 by the 16th Council Meeting)

This year has been tumultuous, both for the organisation and for me as I stepped up to become Chairperson of the Board. Consequently, this pushed me into the depths of inspecting the purpose of PPEU.

Aside from the compliance and administrative works and the handling of board meetings, I have been thinking extensively about the role and work PPEU should accomplish. In practice, this meant working on the fundraising with the donation scheme and OpenCollective, building a relation with our MEP and her team, attending events in Brussels to represent the organisation, meeting volunteers and member organisations representatives. These networking efforts are essential to complement the needs assessment and survey I prepared with the support of the board.

4c. Veronika Murzynová (Vice chair, resigned 04.04.2024)

No report.

4d. Anja Hirschel (Vice chair, resigned 10.06.2024)

No report.

4e. Sara Hjalmarsson (Board member, elected Vice-Chair 23.06.2024 by the 16th Council Meeting)

2024 has been an interesting, but challenging year. The local election efforts have taken a lot of time, effort and energy from all of us. At the same time, the European Pirate Party has pulled together to focus on solutions and a path forward in the face of setbacks. On the whole, I believe we have a supportive and driven community here in Europe. Together, we can make a real difference.

I agree with the rest of the board that we need to prioritise our community, our network and our organisation if we are to stand a better chance in the next European election. I believe an important part of this is communication and, ideally, opportunities to meet face-to-face.

4f. Marek Barbuš (elected Vice-Chair 23.06.2024 by the 16th Council Meeting)

No report.

4g. Alessandro Ciofini (Treasurer)

No report.

4h. Petra Kovačec (Board member, resigned 2024-12-19)

No report.

4i. Giuseppe Calandra (Board member)

No report.

4j. Jan Mareš (Board member)

No report.

4k. Bjoern Levi Gunnarsson (elected 24.11.2024 by the 17th Council Meeting)

No report.

4l. Babak Tubis (elected 24.11.2024 by the 17th Council Meeting)

No report.