

EUROPEAN ELECTION PROGRAM 2024

New solutions for Europe

PIRATEN

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NEW SOLUTIONS FOR EUROPE WITH THE PIRATES

Ahoy dear citizens,

The European elections are upon us and the Pirates have been diligently working in recent months to present you with new solutions for Europe in this program.

The European Union has problems: the economy isn't turning as it should, security is no longer guaranteed, climate change is becoming increasingly noticeable for our environment and economy, and all this leads to more and more radical-extreme politicians and parties trying to get your votes with hatred, jealousy, and cheap proposals to come to power. Once there, these people will dismantle our freedoms, democracy, and the rule of law, thereby undoing what our ancestors paid for with a lot of work and blood decades ago.

We must improve the European Union together! New solutions for Europe will only come when people are involved in speaking up, making decisions, and cooperating. You should have a say when it comes to your home, your environment, and your tax money and be included in important decisions. With more co-determination, we build trust in politics again and thus give no chance to the hatred, jealousy, and cheap proposals of extreme politicians.

Those who choose the Pirates, choose the path for more citizen participation and co-determination.

The EU then needs new solutions, especially regarding our economy. For too long, the major parties have listened to the big lobbies, who care not for the well-being of Europeans but for their profit. Today, the European industry is dwindling; medications, batteries, and solar panels are imported from China, and energy from Russia or Qatar. Europe must rethink and become independent. Free trade is important, but we must not jeopardize our economy, our independence, our security, and our freedoms. The EU must protect and rebuild various sectors to

become geopolitically more independent! This affects medications, energy, agriculture, and also our defense with a joint European army. A good economy is built on the work of people. We Pirates stand for improving the quality of life and purchasing power of working people. With us, there are no gifts for millionaires, international corporations, big banks, or monopolists.

Those who choose the Pirates, choose new solutions for Europe.

The Pirates remain committed to environmental and animal protection, as there is no future without a healthy planet. We will commit to ensuring that humans, animals, and nature stay healthy. We will ensure that energy is sustainable and affordable for everyone. And we will advocate for changes to improve the well-being of animals, whether pets, farm animals, or wildlife.

Those who choose the Pirates, choose the path to a sustainable future for humans, animals, and nature.

Your vote for the Pirates is a vote for a party that approaches politics differently than other parties.

Trust us on June 9th with a cross on our list for new solutions for Europe!

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FOR MORE CO-DETERMINATION

MORE CO-DETERMINATION AT THE EUROPEAN LEVEL

Citizen participation: everyone wants it, everyone promises it, but it is rarely done. As the Eurobarometer shows, EU citizens are often dissatisfied with the way democracy functions in Europe. This produces mistrust and skepticism in the European Union and a feeling that democracy doesn't work and that one's voice at the European level doesn't count. Many other parties equate citizen participation simply with transparent communication or sensitization. But just informing has never allowed anyone to have a say or to co-decide on concrete solutions. Something must be done to involve citizens more in shaping the future of Europe.

The Pirates advocate for genuine European citizen participation by:

- A digital platform that enables cross-border exchange, where citizens can discuss legislative proposals publicly, propose amendments, and support or oppose changes online.
- A directly elected Citizen's Convention, tasked with drafting a new EU treaty to clarify and replace the current treaties and thus address necessary democratic reforms in the EU.
- Clear guidelines for citizen participation and ongoing evaluation and monitoring of the relevant measures.
- Inclusion by offering support to older generations with the new digital participation tools, in the form of training or physical alternatives.

EU-WIDE REFERENDA WITH TRANSPARENT COMMUNICATION

Referenda are an ideal opportunity not only to participate but to be part of the design process. Citizens can be involved through thematic referenda and debates. Citizens should have the right to abolish existing laws, stop ongoing projects, and initiate new laws through simplified procedures. For particularly important topics, the EU Parliament should be able to organize an EU-wide referendum. EU citizens should be able to request a referendum or submit a legislative proposal when a minimum number of residents in the EU (1 million EU citizens) requests it in writing, similar to the system of the European Citizens' Initiative (ECI).

E-PARTICIPATION

Democracy does not take place in a plenary hall but in the discussions among citizens. We must seize the opportunity that the internet provides to bridge physical distances across Europe. E-participation is a bridge that connects EU citizens from all corners with the EU Parliament. The EU Parliament must develop a tool for e-participation, allowing citizens to publicly discuss legislative proposals, support or reject them online, and propose amendments.

MORE PARTICIPATION FOR THE YOUTH

If we want a democratic Europe where every group is represented, then the opinions of young people must carry more weight in the political shaping of Europe. The Pirates want young people to be able to request the right to vote in EU elections from the age of 16.

A DIRECTLY ELECTED EU PRESIDENT

The EU Commission is not elected by the citizens but is negotiated among government politicians from the various EU countries. The Pirates want the EU Commission President to be directly elected by all citizens.

STRENGTHENING THE EU PARLIAMENT

The legislative process in the EU is dominated by the executive branch (the European Commission), at the expense of the legislature (the European Parliament). The Pirates also want to strengthen the EU Parliament. The EU Parliament must finally receive full parliamentary powers, including the right to initiate legislation and to vote on the EU budget each year.

RESPONSIBILITY OF NATIONAL POLITICS

All too often, national parliaments and governments make the European Union responsible for unpopular decisions. They often hide behind the EU because they lack the courage to take responsibility. This only leads to more skepticism among citizens and fosters mistrust in the EU. The Pirate Party wants to make the European Union more efficient, transparent, and democratic. Decisions in the EU should be made in the interest of the people.

NEW SOLUTIONS FOR EUROPA

BECOMING INDEPENDENT FROM THIRD COUNTRIES

Not only has the COVID-19 pandemic shown that there are significant production dependencies on third countries like China. The reason why products are largely imported from third countries is often linked to cost factors. However, there are products where we cannot afford to be dependent on other countries, especially in areas such as energy or health. The Pirates will advocate for industries crucial to the security and independence of the EU to return to Europe. An example is the production of medications. The Pirate Party will address this issue at the European level, proposing subsidies that would encourage the production of medications in Europe.

A TRADE POLICY IN THE INTEREST OF EUROPE

The Pirates believe that trade and cooperation can lead to greater prosperity in Europe. However, we currently see many challenges in the area of trade, as past EU trade policies, both internal and external, have favored large companies and made Europe geopolitically dependent on other countries, which is concerning for our security. For the Pirates, free trade agreements must be negotiated as transparently as possible before being ratified by the EU Parliament. This was not the case with agreements like TTIP, CETA, or Mercosur. The ultimate goal of international trade agreements must then be the positive development of all involved countries. We must demand that our trade partners adhere to human rights, fair working conditions, and environmental and climate protection measures.

REDUCING ENERGY PRICES

For too long, Europe has relied on fossil fuels and nuclear energy, but these are the technologies that are currently driving up prices. Europe has unfortunately become too dependent on energy imports from countries like Russia. Also, nuclear power is not as safe as some would have us believe – during droughts in the summer of 2022, many nuclear power plants in France were unable to produce electricity.

We Pirates would consistently focus on power from solar, water, and wind and massively and preferentially expand this technology in suitable regions of the EU. By significantly expanding these technologies, we aim to significantly reduce electricity prices, making electricity appealing to everyone. Sustainable electricity in

mobility and heating brings a new impetus against global warming and for more climate protection.

The benefits of the energy transition should primarily benefit the citizens. Therefore, we advocate for the decentralization of energy production, which gives people many more opportunities to participate in energy policy – for example, through electricity cooperatives. Production and demand should first be coordinated locally. The European electricity network should primarily serve as a safety net to balance fluctuations between supply and demand.

PRODUCING SOLAR PANELS LOCALLY

We, the Pirates, want to strengthen the European economy and give more weight to small and medium-sized craft businesses locally. We support the ClimateTech sector in Luxembourg and across Europe. Under ClimateTech fall solar systems and wind turbines in all forms, but also the capturing of CO₂ from the air (Carbon Capture). This approach kills two birds with one stone, as it drives solutions to the climate crisis while creating sustainable jobs.

NO BAN POLICY IN INDIVIDUAL MOBILITY

Electric cars and new clean technologies are the future of our mobility. We, the Pirates, view the timeline until 2035 critically because the climate crisis is already being felt today. It is generally questionable whether a ban policy can convince people about electric cars. We prefer to make electric cars more appealing through attractive purchase prices, comfort, performance, and a good charging infrastructure compared to combustion engines, thus convincing more people to switch to electromobility before 2035 and do something for the climate today.

SUPPORTING COST-EFFECTIVE ELECTRIC CARS FROM THE EU

In the long run, the European automotive industry must not become dependent on technologies from third countries if we want to be strong in electromobility. We, the Pirates, would target subsidies to manufacturers for building battery factories and technologies around electric vehicles. In exchange, we would impose tariffs on imports of cars from third countries, including combustion engines. We would also introduce rules requiring manufacturers to offer a certain model of the electric car at a cheaper price than the comparable combustion engine.

BATTERIES MUST BE REUSABLE

The first electric cars are now reaching the end of their lives, but often the batteries are still at 60 to 80% of their capacity.

- We, the Pirates, want an EU-wide obligation for batteries to be given a second life and reused, for example, as home batteries for solar systems.
- The batteries should be built in advance so that they can be reused after use, according to a uniform EU standard.
- All car manufacturers must adhere to clear guidelines and ensure before selling the car that the batteries can be taken back at market price after use.

The manufacturers of electric vehicles will be required to build their platforms so that battery cells can be easily exchanged. Alternatively, the price of the battery can be removed from the sale price and offered just as a lease and then taken back. This also prevents a significant loss of value in electric cars.

In electromobility, we would introduce a mandatory 10-year minimum guarantee for batteries as well as the charging infrastructure of the car.

DECONSTRUCTING COPYRIGHT = BOOSTING THE ECONOMY

For an economy to evolve, it requires innovation. Innovation comes from, as in cooking, improving existing recipes. But first, you must know the recipe. If the recipe is kept secret, no one can improve it. This is precisely the problem with the current state of copyright and intellectual property rights—they hinder the spread of culture and knowledge by monopolizing access to information and stifling innovation.

The patenting of knowledge in fields such as genetics, biotechnology, and software makes intellectual property rights a tangible threat to the future of our society. Patents should not exist to allow large multinationals to fragment the competitive market with an ever-increasing flood of patents. We want to stop the misuse of patents and thus promote innovation, free education, and open access to culture.

Knowledge Shared is Knowledge Multiplied: The Pirate Party seeks to reform European and international rules on copyright and intellectual property rights (TRIPS and WIPO treaties):

Authors and artists should be fairly compensated for their work;

Everyone should have the opportunity to spread their cultural heritage without legal obstacles;

Freedom of information, in the form of free linking of content or creating parodies, quotes, and remixes, should be exempt from commercial copyright monopolies;

Legalize the private exchange of files ("file sharing") for non-commercial use;

Regulation that copy-protected products must not be excluded from sale in Luxembourg;

A European directive that generally prohibits DRM (Digital Rights Management) for digital products. Only then can digital music or films be resold or inherited.

The protection periods for patents should be reduced to the minimum allowed under current TRIPS and WIPO rules and in the medium term to a maximum of 14 years from the registration of a work – this period has been shown to be economically optimal.

PREVENTING MONOPOLIES

An economic policy that advocates for competitiveness prevents the concentration of power by a few large companies that hinder small companies from participating in the market. Moreover, healthy competitiveness promotes consumer protection. The Pirates committed to ensuring that all citizens benefit from prosperity in the EU and that abuse of power is prevented and punished.

Authorities responsible for antitrust laws must be financially and institutionally structured to be protected from direct political decisions.

A EUROPEAN DIGITAL MARKET WITHOUT GEOBLOCKING

The internet knows no national borders. The phrase "This video is not available in your country" should not exist in a digital EU without borders today, as the rule of freedom of movement applies to digital products as well. We aim to expand cross-border e-commerce and establish open standards for data within the European Union.

ANONYMOUS PAYMENTS WITH CASH AND CRYPTOCURRENCIES

Whether online or offline, citizens should have the right to make payments or donations without being perpetually monitored and analyzed. When every transaction is recorded, people's consumption habits and private lives become transparent, allowing large organizations or governments to create detailed profiles.

The Pirates firmly support the continued use of cash for payments in the future, even in a digital age. We see great potential in cryptocurrencies and believe that they can contribute positively to the development of a free economy as an anonymous means of payment. For us, cryptocurrencies offer a chance to protect the privacy of citizens, naturally within the bounds of anti-money laundering and tax laws.

REDUCING TAXATION ON LABOR

The Pirates advocate primarily for reducing the taxation on labor income. Conversely, capital taxes should be increased, especially for large multinational companies that specialize in tax avoidance.

TAXING MULTINATIONALS TO FINANCE PENSIONS

The Pirates stand for justice, and thus large multinationals should pay their taxes just like individuals. The Pirates advocate for the introduction of a so-called "Digital Levy," a tax that would apply to multinationals in the digital sector (e.g., Facebook, Google, Amazon) based on their revenue. The Pirates also support the idea of a financial transaction tax at the OECD level. These additional revenues could flow into pension funds or a universal basic income.

COORDINATED TAX POLICY

Tax rules in the EU should be coordinated as much as possible, but the EU Commission should not dictate from above how high tax rates for various activities should be. An EU tax policy should be designed primarily to maintain competitiveness, simplify company formations, and tax as close to the people as possible.

A STRONG BUDGET FOR A STRONG EUROPE

Currently, the EU budget is about 1% of the Gross Domestic Product of the European Union. With this budget, the EU has the opportunity to implement projects and drive European development forward.

We, the Pirates, want the EU Parliament to control the budget, which should be voted on annually in the Parliament. We advocate for strengthening the EU budget. On one hand, the EU budget should be increased to 2% of the EU's GDP in the long term, and on the other, the EU should also be able to provide itself with more financing options, for example, through an increase and expansion of its own resources. Ideas include a Digital Levy or a financial transaction tax. These funds should secure pensions, strengthen the European economy, improve environmental protection, and finance more efforts in education, research, science, and innovation to make Europe stronger for the future.

AN EU STARTUP PROGRAM

The economy in the EU largely depends on the work of small and medium-sized enterprises. The Pirates want to simplify company formations across the EU:

- Every formation in the EU should be completely digital and possible in any EU country;
- With the formation of a company, one should be able to offer services immediately in all EU countries;
- Specific solutions must be found for VAT and income taxation issues to avoid 28 different tax filings;
- The 25% reduction in reporting obligations at the EU level, promised by the EU Commission, must be implemented.

MORE COMFORTABLE WORKING REGULATIONS

For EU citizens working in another EU country should be established to overcome dozens of administrative barriers and integrate fully into another EU country's system, especially varying social security systems, contributions methods, and health system registrations.

The Pirates demand:

- Simplification of procedures for people coming to Luxembourg with a work visa. Partners who come to Luxembourg should have the right to work here;
- Less bureaucracy for the recognition of diplomas;
- A European training fund to prepare people for tomorrow's workforce;
- Better regulations for cross-border workers to prevent double taxation and uncertainties in social contributions.
- A uniform EU rule for a minimum amount of work time that can be done from home, regardless of which EU country one is in.
- Transparent access for employees to information and adequate legal protection to negotiate fair wages.

FAIR PAY FOR INTERNS

The Pirates support the position that internships, whether part of studies or voluntary, should be paid. Every intern should be paid fairly according to their qualifications, with compensation aligned with the real living costs based on the minimum wage of the respective EU country. Furthermore, if an intern is hired after the internship, the internship period should be counted towards the trial period in the subsequent employment contract.

TESTING THE UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME

Valuable time is often lost in the management of state aid due to bureaucratic procedures and administrative overhead. We want assistance to reach people as quickly as possible without being slowed down by bureaucracy. The Pirate Party advocates for an unconditional basic income for everyone to ensure a secure existence, social participation, and economic freedom. Basic income would be an income paid to every citizen.

The Pirate Party wants to test the ground in individual EU states for the introduction of basic income. We intend to establish a fund to test basic income in various regions across Europe. This fund could be financed through our Digital Levy or the taxation of multinationals. The experiment should be launched in at least two regions in each EU country, prioritizing structurally weaker regions. The experiment should be accompanied by an interdisciplinary team of scientists. The duration of

the experiment should be at least three years, and the amount of basic income should be adjusted to the cost of living in the region.

AGRICULTURE - FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING OUR FARMERS

The Pirates believe in a common agricultural policy that ensures food production, food security, and the sustainability of our resources by many independent farmers. Subsidies should first and foremost guarantee food security by covering farmers' operational costs. However, the subsidy policy should primarily serve as a drive for businesses to make agriculture as sustainable as possible, making it more animal-friendly, environmentally friendly, and climate-friendly. The transition to organic farming should be a priority.

AN EU SPACE VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Satellite-based communication and navigation, Earth observation for weather predictions, disaster relief, pollution tracking, and orbital-based research are now normal parts of our lives. Space has become an economic factor. Due to technological advancements and commercialization, space activities are no longer just a topic for the distant future. The EU must define a clear vision, strategy, and goals to ensure international cooperation, and the fundamental principles of the rule of law, justice, and democracy in the space sector. We must guarantee the further development of the EU Space Programme Agency and give it a clear mandate.

EU HOUSING INITIATIVE

In many member states, especially tenants who have to rent a home, are in financial difficulties. Tenants are unlucky in that they are paying for someone else's property over their heads. We, the Pirates, stand for a housing policy of choice where every person should be able to decide whether to rent or buy. Every person should have the opportunity to own their home.

We advocate for a public housing policy throughout the EU. For this, an EU fund should be created that finances real estate in the EU countries themselves, manages the housing, and thus provides long-term housing. This fund would complement and relieve the private market but would not replace it. It should be built complementary to national initiatives and also monitor how EU countries can improve their building regulations and whether competition rules for the construction market in EU countries are being upheld.

LOWER INTEREST RATES

For many people in the EU, the dream of owning a home has turned into a financial nightmare due to interest rate developments. In some EU countries, there are rules to protect against interest rate developments, in others, there are not. It should not be that buying a home puts people in financial distress. Therefore, the Pirates clearly say that interest rates for ordinary working people on home loans must go down. Those who take out a loan for their own home should benefit from the lowest possible interest rate. The Pirates are considering introducing special EU mortgage loans for buying a personal residence with a favorable interest rate, where banks' profit margins are clearly capped. For first-time buyers, we also want to reduce the equity capital quota for home loans by setting up a transnational fund that can be used as a guarantee.

EUROPEAN PENSION FUND

EU countries are facing a crisis in their national pension systems due to demographic changes. While continuous innovation and especially digitalization can increase productivity, the necessary working hours in certain sectors will probably decrease, leading to pension funds filling up slower. The Pirates propose the establishment of a joint European pension fund. This fund should coordinate pension schemes across Europe and serve as a supplement to ensure a minimum income. Pensions should be fairly accessible to everyone without unnecessary restrictions.

SIMPLIFYING ACCESS TO EU FUNDS

The process for securing financing for projects through EU funds must be administratively simplified. It should be possible to apply for a fund over the Internet without much paperwork.

NO PRIVATIZATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE

The Pirates adhere to the approach that infrastructures and services that are necessary to meet people's basic needs and facilitate participation in society should be in public ownership and accessible to everyone in all EU countries. This includes installations for drinking water, wastewater and rainwater, and district heating, the networks for electricity and telecommunications, roads and rail networks, and the management of waste and recycling. This ensures that the infrastructures serve the public interest and everyone in the long term.

MORE FREEDOM

MORE PRIVACY THROUGH DATA PROTECTION

Since its founding in 2009, the Pirate Party has championed privacy, viewing it as fundamental to our freedom. We staunchly oppose the trend towards mass surveillance, where the state and large organizations continuously gather and store more personal data about individuals. Surveillance should be minimized, especially in the digital realm, where the presumption of innocence should take precedence over mass surveillance.

The Pirates advocate for more data protection and less surveillance:

- We are against the massive expansion of cameras in public places.
- We consistently fight for your chats, emails, or messages not to be accessible to those you haven't chosen (for digital postal secrecy and against chat control).
- We oppose the state having permanent access to your private photos and videos (against chat control).
- We reject the massive and indiscriminate collection of data by telecommunications companies (data retention).
- Biometric data collected for issuing biometric passports or identity cards should not be stored by government agencies for long periods.
- Discriminatory algorithms and disproportionate collection, evaluation, or sharing of personal data should be penalized.
- The EU must protect its citizens' data and prevent countries that suppress human rights from accessing EU citizens' personal data.

PROTECTING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

In a free society, everyone has the right to express their opinion without fear of censorship or punishment. The right to freedom of expression must be guaranteed without restrictions, as long as it does not infringe on the rights and freedoms of others. We, the Pirates, strictly oppose censorship programs in Europe and beyond.

FOR ARTISTIC FREEDOM

Art is, and always will be, subjective. Therefore, the state should not interfere in the evaluation of art nor censor any form of art that does not discriminate or incite violence. On the contrary, artists contribute significantly to societal life and should thus be supported by governmental bodies. It is also important to preserve and promote local cultural heritage in Europe. The Pirates committed to ensuring general access to cultural goods and greater support for young and local artists and associations.

PROTECTION FOR WHISTLEBLOWERS

The revelations and fates of whistleblowers like Chelsea Manning and Edward Snowden have shown that activists risk punishment and even torture for expressing their opinions on the internet, on social networks, or for their political engagement online. Therefore, the Pirates demand special support and compensation for individuals who responsibly report vulnerabilities. The EU should be a political actor that protects European and international whistleblowers. They should have the right to seek political asylum in the EU.

PRESS FREEDOM

A free press is essential for a functioning democracy. Only if the press can freely monitor the state and report on it can abuses and political machinations be exposed. It is concerning that in recent years, some EU states have attempted to undermine the principle of the free press.

Press and freedom of expression must be maintained and expanded under all circumstances, and the Pirates want to maintain an independent, pluralistic, and free media landscape. Information monopolies should be dismantled where possible. EU member states that attempt to undermine press freedom should be sanctioned.

TRANSPARENCY THROUGH OPEN DATA, OPEN SOURCE, AND OPEN ACCESS

Knowledge should not be owned by anyone. Everyone should have the right to be informed, which for the Pirates means that data must be freely accessible and not restricted by paywalls or subscriptions, otherwise, people who cannot afford it are excluded from digital participation.

Data are the basis for decisions in our society. However, data can only be used if they are accessible and not hidden behind licenses. Accessibility isn't everything—the format must also be correct. Data must be made public promptly and kept up-to-date.

The Pirates are committed at the European level to ensuring that everyone has open and free access to all public data available in an open format, easily accessible to all. Results from completely or partially publicly financed research must adhere to the Open Access principle, making them freely and easily accessible to the general population. Software developed with public funds must be open source. The principle "public money, public code" should function within open-source operating systems.

DEFINING FREE INTERNET ACCESS AS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

Research or simply "getting informed" is increasingly unthinkable without the internet. To actively participate in society, access to free internet is a fundamental prerequisite. Non-discriminatory access to the internet must be ensured throughout the EU for everyone, and any restriction or prioritization based on content or service must be prohibited (net neutrality). The Internet is free and should remain accessible to all.

REGULATING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

Increasingly, programs that belong to the realm of so-called "artificial intelligence (AI)" are entering the market. Unlike what the name might suggest, these machines are not yet truly "intelligent" because they do not possess consciousness but can independently "learn" from a code to find ways to solve a problem. Such new programs can, for example, generate speech, movements, images, or sounds and also scan content for anomalies.

This can be very useful but can also lead to problems depending on the data fed to the machine. It must not be forgotten that these programs are not perfect. They make mistakes, so the results generated by AI must be checked by humans before use. For instance, if a program for facial recognition has only been trained with photos of young men with light skin, it is not surprising if the program "discriminates" against people of other ages, genders, or skin colors. AI currently challenges existing data protection rules, raises questions about patent and copyright issues,

and highlights problems regarding accountability. Protection against discrimination and the right to privacy is therefore of central importance to frame AI.

Therefore, we demand:

- A revision of the European AI Act, which in its current form undermines individual rights through too many exceptions that favor automated surveillance. We need improved regulation at the EU level that provides strong protection of individual rights and prohibits indiscriminate biometric mass surveillance;
- A ban on the use of automated systems in crime fighting and warfare;
- Clear data protection rules that software developers must follow, including appropriate controls. People whose data are evaluated by automated systems must be informed and give their consent;
- Awareness campaigns to highlight the dangers of AI-generated “fake news”;
- An obligation for commercial providers above a certain size to open their sources to be traceable in how their software works;
- Preventing monopolies in the areas of information and culture: The Pirates strictly oppose the creation of additional levels of restrictions through copyright in the realm of AI-generated content, such as texts, images, and other works.
- No use of programs where it is not clear how data is operated, especially in areas where data of minors are processed (e.g., in schools).
- A ban on the use of automated decision-making processes without human intervention in areas like justice, health, or finance.

RIGHT TO INCLUSION

The Pirates advocate for a society without barriers and obstacles, where people with physical or mental disabilities can freely participate without discrimination or stigmatization, having the same opportunities as everyone else. A disability should not limit participation opportunities, and the state must ensure with all means that everyone, with or without a disability, can lead a self-determined life. The implementation of the European Accessibility Act in EU countries must be closely

monitored and analyzed to ensure that any ongoing problems in the accessibility of products and services can be quickly improved. It is also crucial for people with disabilities to be able to move within the EU without encountering unexpected administrative barriers. An improved European parking permit and a European disability card would be significant steps toward harmonization in this context.

Whether it concerns leisure activities, mobility, culture, education, intimate and sexual life, politics, work, or family life - people with physical or mental disabilities should be able to participate equally in all areas of life.

GUARANTEEING SPACE FOR DIVERSITY

Diversity is one of the core values of the European Union. Freedom and equal treatment should be guaranteed for every individual, regardless of belief, religion, or worldview. The Pirate Party also demands special attention to the rights of LGBTIQ+ couples in a marriage or partnership. These should be recognized in all EU countries and beyond the EU borders. The Pirates support the Council of Europe's recommendation to allow flexibility in the classification of individuals by gender. We favor a solution where more genders than just "male" or "female" are possible.

A COMMON EUROPEAN FAMILY LAW

The Pirate Party wants family policy to fall within the competence of the European Union. A common family policy would enable all citizens to have the same rights and thus the same protection in all EU states. This concerns common guidelines on a wide range of issues, such as divorce, child abduction, maintenance payments, asset division, marriage, and living as a couple.

MAINTAINING FREE TRAVEL

The Pirates advocate for maintaining freedom of movement in Europe. Every European should continue to travel freely within the Schengen area and benefit from cultural exchange. Free travel must be preserved. Border controls, such as those conducted between Germany and Luxembourg during the pandemic, should not occur again.

RIGHT TO EDUCATION AND FREE KNOWLEDGE

A well-educated and critically thinking population is necessary to maintain a functioning democracy and social cohesion. We aim for universal access to high-

quality education throughout the EU, regardless of one's origin. Everyone should have the opportunity for personal development. The Pirates want to genuinely reform European educational policy and define minimum standards for certain competencies. Socially relevant topics should be found in the educational plans of all member states.

Free access to knowledge and information is of fundamental importance and must be promoted and assured in the educational sector. Educational institutions should use educational resources that are available under free licenses without copying restrictions. The availability of educational media under free licenses for everyone is essential for barrier-free access to education, both within and outside the EU borders.

We support the digitalization of educational institutions and the publication of documents preserved in public libraries and archives throughout the EU. We support educating citizens and students about their right to information and free formats and software of all types in educational institutions.

IMMIGRATION RIGHTS FOR LGBTIQ+

The Pirate Party demands that persecution based on sexual orientation be recognized as a valid reason for seeking asylum so that any person at risk of being persecuted due to their sexual identity or sexuality can benefit from this protection.

To avoid conflict situations in shelters and to ensure the physical and psychological well-being of those affected, the Pirates call for the creation of a separate area where LGBTIQ+ individuals can be accommodated. This area would also host training sessions on coming out, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

In this context, we also demand ongoing monitoring and evaluation of these measures, as well as an EU-wide collection of statistics and information concerning asylum seekers from the LGBTIQ+ community.

ENSURING SECURITY

AGAINST THE RIGHT, OUT OF RESPECT FOR OUR GRANDPARENTS

Europe has endured difficult times under right-wing extremists. Our grandparents had to fight hard for our freedom. Likewise, many suffered for decades under left-wing extremism, such as Stalinism in the Soviet Union. Currently, Europe faces the challenge of not falling for the empty promises of extreme parties, such as the AfD in Germany and the National Rally in France, which aim to steer our continent away from democracy and freedom of speech toward an authoritarian—if not outright totalitarian—system, which would bring suffering to everyone. In Luxembourg, the ADR is consistently moving in a far-right direction. We are deeply convinced that Europe must never again fall prey to such extreme movements as in the past. Therefore, we will continue to stand against all extremes, whether from the left or the right. #FCKNZS

COMBATING CROSS-BORDER CRIME EFFECTIVELY

Crime knows no national borders, yet police work unfortunately does. In a Europe with open borders, criminal individuals often have an easy game. Therefore, we need more European cooperation and systematic cross-border collaboration. Under the control of the European Parliament, Europol and Eurojust need to be strengthened. Especially in the Greater Region, more investment is needed in developing a unified strategy for fighting crime.

A NEW DRUG POLICY

The war against drugs has failed, and a world without drug consumption is realistically unachievable. A purely prohibitive policy consumes resources and costs us billions in tax dollars each year, which the police could use to tackle more serious crimes.

The Pirates call for a revision of the UN Drug Convention, and if necessary, its denouncement to decriminalize drug use across Europe. Drug policy needs to be adjusted and modernized: moving from a punitive approach to one focused on health. By implementing a new and modern drug policy, we want to give the police more time to pursue truly dangerous criminals (such as those involved in violence, human trafficking, child pornography, etc.) and bring them to justice. A new drug policy would enhance security for everyone.

EUROPE-WIDE LEGALIZATION OF CANNABIS

The Pirates advocate for the decriminalization of cannabis for recreational use. Cannabis should be removed from the list of illegal drugs, and there should be an opportunity everywhere in Europe to legally sell cannabis. For the sale, consumption, and taxation of cannabis, we rely on the regulations that apply to alcohol and tobacco. Education and prevention work should also be structured similarly to tobacco and alcohol.

COMBATING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

To fight child pornography across Europe, Europol needs more resources, better staffing, and more authority to intervene directly in EU member states. This requires stricter and harmonized rules among EU countries with severe penalties to protect our children.

STRICTER PENALTIES FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is organized internationally, and only with common European rules can we begin to address it effectively on this continent. The EU must focus on locations known to be hotspots for human trafficking. The Pirates want to target the European labor market and prevent the current patchwork of mobility and migration regulations from leading to abuse. The rules must be simple, clear, and understandable so that every European employee can assert their rights. Sham self-employment or endless subcontracting must be limited. Prostitution should be recognized as work at the European level. To make it harder for pimps, more contact points should be created and publicized where victims of human trafficking can report and receive protection. In human trafficking, especially the masterminds should be more severely punished.

ANTI-TERROR POLICY

Europe has been tested by a series of terrorist attacks in recent years. This has led to some improvements in the European security system but also to excessive mass surveillance, which often could not demonstrate concrete results. Europe's security policy needs to be reconsidered. The Pirate Party demands a thorough analysis of the European anti-terrorism policy. The goal should be a policy that respects citizens' rights and is not driven by irrational fear.

IDENTIFICATION OF WEAPONS

The Pirates demand the mandatory use of the UN instrument for the marking and tracing of weapons. All portable weapons, whether produced within the EU or by European manufacturers outside the EU, must be identifiable. This will help better trace exports and recognize illegal sales.

NO FINANCING OF SPYWARE

In 2022, an international network of journalists revealed that various European governments used spyware named "Pegasus" to spy on journalists, human rights activists, and opposition politicians. The state Trojan "Pegasus" is developed and sold by an Israeli company based in Luxembourg. We, the Pirates, are committed to ensuring that governments no longer purchase or use spyware and that no EU tax money should be spent on financing surveillance projects like PEGASUS. We agree with the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS), who proposed that EU states should define the use of surveillance technologies as a criminal activity.

SECURITY IN DIGITAL TIMES

With the Internet of Things, computers have a direct and physical impact on our world (e.g., through cars or hospital technology), which naturally comes with risks. The Pirates want to obligate commercial manufacturers of devices to regularly provide security updates for their products. If patches for critical security vulnerabilities are not delivered within a reasonable time after their discovery, the commercial manufacturers should be held liable. If a company decides to discontinue a product that is still widely used, the source code and development tools must be published so that the community can continue to provide support for this product.

Authorities are required to publish all known or discovered vulnerabilities. In encryption technology, there must be no so-called backdoors, as these weaken and endanger the integrity and security of all systems. The Pirates also oppose fully automated systems in crime fighting, where the computer makes decisions instead of humans.

ASYLUM RIGHTS: JOINT EU SUPPORT

The European Union is currently not united and coherent in its approach to the refugee crisis. In this context, the Pirates advocate for a joint EU agency that

provides adequate help to affected asylum seekers, regardless of which country they arrive in. Introducing quotas, every EU country should be obligated to provide structures, financial resources, and other types of support to the joint EU agency.

Through the EU agency, all asylum seekers would automatically also receive a work permit for any EU country. This allows everyone to shape their own lives, quickly becoming autonomous and contributing directly to the economy and social system of the country. In this context, we should also consider a European basic income that could help affected people quickly build a life.

EU EXTERNAL BORDERS (FRONTEX)

Research by journalists has shown that Frontex and various national border officers are attempting to push people back out of the EU by forcing boats back into open water. There has also been the use of overt violence, such as using sound weapons. This year has also seen new scandals involving Frontex. We, the Pirates, therefore advocate that illegal practices used by Frontex at the EU's external borders must stop. Using violence does not solve the problems at the border nor does it lead to greater security in Europe. The Pirates advocate for EU countries to cooperate to resolve the problems in the countries of origin and to adopt a common policy that will relieve the EU countries.

A COMMON EUROPEAN FOREIGN POLICY

The European economy is still one of the largest economies in the world. We assume and rarely use this position because we speak with too many voices. The Pirates want a coherent, common European foreign and security policy. This requires the member states to renounce their national influence in favor of a more influential common policy. Europe should advocate for a reform of the UN Security Council and a review of the ineffective veto system. Europe will have more influence in the world if we demand an additional seat at the UN, the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Bank, and other multilateral organizations.

FOR A COMMON EUROPEAN ARMY AS A GUARANTEE OF PEACE

Defense policy is the guarantor of security and freedom. When totaled up, individual EU member states invest more in their national armies than China and Russia combined. Unfortunately, the current European military cooperation is ineffective and of limited use.

The Pirate Party will therefore advocate for the establishment of a common European defense army. This army should define common needs, coordinate security analyses, and collaborate in areas such as joint procurement, maintenance of equipment, and training of recruits. This European army would be funded by an EU fund to which all member states contribute.

This army should focus solely on its role in a 3D strategy (Development, Diplomacy & Defense). The European Commission should have the power to command, but deployments would only be possible with democratic legitimacy through the European Parliament.

STRENGTHENING THE UNITED NATIONS (UN)

A balanced representation of all continents in the Security Council must be permanently ensured. Especially emerging countries, given their growing importance, should be more strongly integrated into the mechanism for global responsibility. The United Nations can only fulfill its tasks if the member states meet their contribution obligations. It also makes sense to further integrate the United Nations into the coordination of disaster relief efforts in the future.

SUPPORT UKRAINE

The army in Ukraine is fighting not just for its own freedom but for the freedom and values of the entire EU. For this reason, we will continue to advocate for the necessary resources to be provided to Ukraine. Peace in Europe is only possible with a free Ukraine. We, the Pirates, also clearly support the accession of Ukraine to the European Union. Like all accession candidates, Ukraine must also meet the EU criteria, including potential corruption, rule of law, and democracy. Until the effective accession, Ukraine must continue to be supported militarily.

Financial resources from Russian investors have been "frozen" in the EU. To finance the aforementioned deliveries, these financial resources (interests) should be used. The subsequent reconstruction of Ukraine should also be financed with these funds.

STRICT SANCTIONS AGAINST RUSSIA

Russia has invaded Ukraine, and the terrible invasion is not yet over. This is intolerable and inexcusable. The EU should help Ukraine by all means and intensify the sanctions against Russia to increase the pressure on Russia. Relations with

Russia should be limited to the diplomatic minimum.

TRADE AS A WEAPON AGAINST DICTATORSHIPS

Trade is both an economic and a political tool. We therefore also support economic sanctions against dictatorships, especially when they pose a threat to European security or commit crimes against humanity. Sanctions should always aim to damage the wealth of elites while sparing civil society as much as possible. Sanctions should primarily weaken military capabilities and repressive apparatuses. Europe should also not supply weapons or surveillance technologies to authoritarian governments.

ISRAEL-PALESTINE: TWO-STATE SOLUTION

There must be clear demands in the Israel-Palestine conflict. The current conflict must stop, all hostages must be released, and Israel must stop its offensive. The UN must receive a mandate to protect the civilians in Gaza and also help the Israeli population protect themselves from terrorist attacks.

The Pirate Party has always advocated for a two-state solution. We remain committed to this position. The borders of 1967 must be restored. Jerusalem, as a holy city of many religions, should be placed under international administration and protected by neutral troops. Water supply and critical infrastructure should also be protected by neutral troops so that no new conflicts arise.

EUROPEAN TECHNICAL INSPECTION

Why do we need to have a fire extinguisher in the car when driving to Belgium? Why are there different requirements for vehicle inspections in each EU country? We Pirates advocate for common rules in all EU countries, to finally bring unity and clarity to cross-border road traffic. We want a European Technical Inspection that regulates the technical requirements a car must meet, what European papers must be issued, and what safety standards must be respected in a car, such as the possession of yellow vests, a safety triangle, or a fire extinguisher. These standardizations should apply as a minimum EU-wide, to increase safety.

INCREASING ROAD SAFETY THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Every year, people die on our European roads because small human errors can quickly lead to accidents. In recent years, the automotive industry has introduced a variety of interesting safety equipment, such as right-turn assistants or automatic

braking assistants. All these technical safety measures can contribute to achieving the goal of zero road fatalities. The Pirates would make the installation of safety equipment mandatory for car manufacturers at the EU level.

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE & NATURE PROTECTION

IMPLEMENTING THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

The Pirate Party demands the implementation of the Paris Agreement to limit global temperature rise to a maximum of 1.5°C. We demand that existing technologies, that can achieve this goal, be made legally binding within the EU and that minimum targets for development be set EU-wide.

MODERN TECHNOLOGIES FOR MORE CLIMATE PROTECTION (CARBON CAPTURE)

In parallel with the reduction of greenhouse gases, efforts must also be made to remove the existing CO₂ that is already in the atmosphere. Therefore, the Pirates support the promotion of modern technologies that capture greenhouse gases from the air to use them in other chemical products. There are already existing technologies (negative emission technologies) that aim to filter out CO₂ from the air and permanently bind it (e.g., in building materials such as concrete) or where necessary, use it to reduce residual emissions (e.g., e-fuels).

REWARDING WITH CLIMATE BONUS

We must motivate citizens, primarily through positive incentives, towards a more ecological lifestyle. People who live in harmony with nature and the climate should be rewarded for this. The Pirates want to introduce a climate bonus as a direct aid for everyone (for example, 100€ / month on salary, pension, or other income). In contrast, the CO₂ tax on polluting products should be adjusted. For example, a bio-apple from the local region would then be cheaper than an apple from New Zealand. However, because people will have an additional 100€ in their pocket each month, they will not feel the impact and will have the choice. An EU directive could pave the way for the climate bonus.

NO TO NUCLEAR POWER

The Pirates are clearly against the expansion of nuclear energy, and there are many reasons for this. Nuclear power is dirty and dangerous for humans, animals, and nature. A minor accident can have consequences that cannot be reversed for generations. The argument of supply security, often used by the nuclear lobby, is not guaranteed: The droughts in France in the summer of 2022 showed that nuclear

power plants depend on the weather. The myth that nuclear energy is a cheap form of energy also does not hold up when the costs of a plant over its entire lifecycle are accurately calculated. It is our tax money that is used to build, maintain, and eventually dismantle nuclear reactors, to bear the costs of storing radioactive waste, and to pay millions in subsidies to nuclear power producers.

BIODIVERSITY IS CRUCIAL TO SURVIVAL

The loss of biodiversity is a tangible problem in Europe and around the world, which is still not sufficiently addressed. More and more plant and animal species are dying out, and we ultimately risk a global food production crisis. The Pirates support the EU regulation for the restoration of nature, which should guarantee the protection of animal and plant life across Europe. We would expand the rules of the regulation, after evaluating what the regulation has achieved, further.

POLLUTER PAYS: YOU PAY FOR WHAT YOU CONSUME

We must be economical with our resources, and thus we Pirates stand behind the principle that those who consume more resources should also pay accordingly (=Polluter Pays). We believe that the cheapest energy is the energy not used. Therefore, we will continue to support the principle of the Polluter Pays and ensure that European climate and environmental goals are met.

REDUCING PLASTIC

The Pirate Party is committed to ending the unnecessary use of plastic, using this resource only where it makes long-term sense. Plastic should no longer be a disposable item. One solution is to ban plastic filters in cigarettes and replace them with compostable cigarette filters.

NO FOOD WASTE

The Pirates advocate for better policies against food waste. All food costs resources (time, labor, materials). Producers, supermarkets, and restaurants, i.e., everyone who sells food, must take more responsibility for saving food. Food waste must be stopped by allowing products nearing their expiration date to be offered to customers below cost or by donating products that have passed their best-before date but are still edible to associations, organizations, or individuals. A penalty tax should be introduced on food that ends up in company bins.

REGULATING THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

The textile and clothing sector is a highly globalized and lucrative industry. Production is often organized across continents, and clothes travel thousands of kilometers before they are available for purchase in our stores. This industry has internationally organized itself to benefit from cheap labor and less stringent environmental regulations in low-wage countries. The environmental balance of the fashion industry is miserable. The Pirates want to introduce further measures to gradually make the textile industry more sustainable, with a European deposit system for clothes and a label for sustainable textiles with strict criteria. European textile craftsmanship should be specifically promoted to create more local activity here.

HEALTHY EATING FOR EVERYONE

The Pirates advocate promoting sustainable products. Products from organic farming or products made under high social standards (such as Fairtrade) should be sold to consumers VAT-free. This would make sustainable products more competitively priced and more consumers could afford them. For more transparency in the food market, every product should be able to be broken down on the internet. With a QR code, every consumer should be able to find out where the contents of the product come from and which pesticides, medications, or other chemicals have been used in the production process.

CLEAR LABELING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED PRODUCTS

Consumer protection organizations across Europe are against the import and introduction of genetically modified products into the EU. What many do not know is that genetically modified products can also be sold in Europe. These include, for example, grapes, corn, or rapeseed. The Pirates therefore demand a clear directive for the labeling of genetically modified products (NGT) in the EU. We also advocate that foods grown within the vicinity of a nuclear power plant be clearly labeled to inform consumers about the origin.

BETTER PROTECT NATURE AND PEOPLE FROM TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Today, it takes a long time for certain substances suspected of being harmful to human, animal, or environmental health to be banned. Examples include titanium dioxide (an additive in cosmetics), carbon fluorides (water-resistant coatings on clothes and shoes), microplastics, etc. The Pirates will strive to quickly remove such

products from circulation and ensure that potentially dangerous new products are not introduced too quickly in the future.

TRANSPARENT AND HONEST EU LABELING

Currently, there are far too many labels and many consumers can't see the forest for the trees. Many labels are invented by producers themselves and make a product appear more sustainable or healthier than it actually is. The only independent labels that are not profit-oriented and are neutral are government labels, which are legally established and controlled (e.g., the EU ORGANIC label). The Pirates want to strictly regulate the use of labels and ensure that uniform labels are developed for various product categories that are valid throughout Europe and can only be used based on strict criteria.

EFFECTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

Currently, many different national regulations in the field of environmental policy make collaboration more difficult and prevent good solutions. An example of this is recycling. All environmental laws must be reviewed every few years to see what they have achieved. Bureaucracy and paperwork must be reduced to a minimum. Rules at the EU level must be harmonized so that one does not have to start procedures anew in every single EU country, which hinders access to the EU internal market. In this sense, a central point of contact must be created for citizens as well as small and medium-sized businesses.

TRANSPARENT DATA IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The public must have easy and quick access to reliable environmental data and understand the policies decided with these data. It must also be clear to people how these data are collected and analyzed. Scientific studies must come from independent experts to allow for neutral political decisions. Participation in the decision-making process must also be provided.

SPACE DEBRIS

Unused satellites, rocket stages, and debris in orbit threaten space travel. The EU must work to ensure that international agreements are made that prescribe the removal of space debris and prevent new debris through controlled deorbiting of spent rocket stages and old satellites. Activities that generate space debris, such as tests of anti-satellite systems, must be prohibited.

STRENGTHEN ANIMAL PROTECTION

FUR-FREE ACROSS THE EU (IMPORT, PRODUCTION, AND SALE)

Many consumers in Europe are not aware of the suffering and cruelty involved in the production of fur. We, Pirates, would quickly implement an import ban on fur clothing and fur decorations in Europe. In the second phase, we aim to stop the production of fur products in Europe. The exception would be the sale of old furs that are already in circulation.

The Pirates also advocate for clear and visible EU labeling for the sale of products made from animals.

MODERNIZE HUNTING

Each EU country has different rules and requirements for hunting. The requirements to obtain a hunting license in some countries are much easier than in others, often to the detriment of the animals. For more professionalism in hunting, the national hunting license should be abolished and replaced by a new European hunting license with high common EU standards and regular controls, especially regarding the gun license.

BAN HUNTING TROPHIES

The Pirates believe that hunting should not be a hobby for fun. Hunting is a serious activity because it concerns the life and death of sentient beings. For this reason, we want to prohibit the import of hunting trophies into the EU. Recreational hunting trips and hunts in other countries should also no longer be allowed in Europe in the future.

NO BEATING HUNTS

For years, there has been talk of an overpopulation of wild animals in European forests. This is partly due to the absence of natural predators (such as wolves), intensive agriculture, human encroachment into forests, and milder climate due to global warming.

Traditional methods, such as beating hunts, result in humans further encroaching into the territories of wild animals and causing panic among the animals in the forest. This puts wild populations under more survival stress, impacting their reproductive rhythms.

The Pirates will campaign at the European level against beating hunts and advocate for alternatives to beating hunts that are more in line with our vision of animal protection.

PREVENT FACTORY FARMING

Factory farming brings much animal cruelty. We Pirates want to improve livestock breeding in Europe for the welfare of the animals. Therefore, we aim to move away from factory farming and large agricultural factories. We would draft an EU directive within the framework of animal protection that stops mass animal housing and financially rewards those companies and farmers who focus more on animal welfare. For slaughterhouses, we want more controls to ensure that no animal is killed without anesthesia.

LIMIT ANIMAL TRANSPORT

Every year, around 1.5 billion animals are transported around Europe. For economic reasons, transport companies try to reduce their costs to increase profits, to the detriment of the animals.

We Pirates call for stricter rules on animal transport. The transport distance should be limited from the farm to the nearest slaughterhouse. European subsidies for slaughtering should be abolished. We also need proper controls in all countries across Europe to ensure that animal welfare rules (breaks, feeding times, transport times) are finally respected, whether in Luxembourg, Portugal, Greece, or Bulgaria. It should not happen that animals are often transported without food or water, and in miserable conditions across Europe. This must end.

MORE CONTROL OVER ANIMAL BREEDING AND TRADE

All animal breeders, whether for dogs, cats, horses, or other permitted animals, should receive a tax number and be registered in a national veterinary inspection registry within the EU. This will prevent animals from being bred in backyards for commercial purposes and then sold tax-free. Traders caught in acts of animal cruelty should be clearly listed on a centralized European website.

NO SHOWS WITH ANIMALS

The Pirate Party fundamentally opposes all forms of keeping, training, and presenting animals for show purposes. There is no reason, other than human curiosity, to remove animals from their habitats and subject them to unnatural

presentations under stress. We therefore demand a complete ban on animal exhibitions, circuses, and dolphinariums. Existing zoos in Europe should not operate for profit but must prioritize animal welfare and be regulated accordingly.

BETTER PROTECTION FOR PETS

We demand stricter controls for the protection of pets. We advocate for an EU standard for animal protection, specifically for pets. Owners should respect the welfare of the animal and animal cruelty should be punishable. Currently, there is no public centralized platform in Europe where chipped animals can be registered. This means that although animals must be chipped, the chip does not need to be assigned to an owner. We propose the creation of a federated platform to ensure that every chipped animal can be clearly assigned to an owner, making owners accountable for their pets.

ALTERNATIVES TO ANIMAL TESTING

The Pirates are against animal testing and do not want animals to be abused for commercial purposes. In research, alternative methods such as cell cultures or computer simulations should be prioritized and further developed.

SUSTAINABLE FISHING

The work of journalists and activists has highlighted how harmful industrial fishing is to our planet. Out in the open sea, there are no controls: poaching, environmental pollution, animal cruelty, and slavery are part of the business of large fishing companies. The fact that we in Europe consume fish from industrial fishing has disastrous effects on our nature and health. The fish often travel thousands of kilometers, and a significant portion of the plastic in the oceans comes from the massive fishing industry (nets and lines). This plastic eventually ends up on our plates. The Pirates want large fishing companies to be held accountable for their fish. The EU should expand its measures to combat illegal fishing. Fish from local and organic aquaculture should be sold without VAT.

GOOD LIVING & WELL-BEING IN THE EU

EUROPEAN PASS

We, Pirates, view ourselves as European citizens and want to introduce European citizenship. We believe that true European citizenship is essential to ensure that everyone in the EU has equal rights and opportunities, regardless of their country of origin. It is also an important step towards a more united Europe with stronger cohesion, where everyone feels like a valuable member of the community. With European citizenship, we can give all EU citizens a set of common rights.

We can create a European passport that allows all European citizens to feel like members of the EU and part of something bigger than their own country. It would be an additional passport that does not replace existing national documents. Building on the harmonization of conditions for EU citizens' travel to third countries, such as a European passport would facilitate travel, for example.

MOVING WITHOUT PROBLEMS

EU citizens who decide to leave their country to settle in another EU country are no longer an exception. However, each time one moves to another EU country, they face unnecessary obstacles: insurance cannot be transferred, cars must go through another inspection, diplomas are not recognized, or pensions must be recalculated. We Pirates firmly support the principle of free choice for citizens in Europe. The Pirate Party therefore demands an action plan to address these problems quickly and straightforwardly, so everyone can settle easily in any European country.

STRONG HEALTH IN THE EU

The Pirates demand equal access to healthcare for all EU inhabitants, regardless of the resources available to a state. Each member state should continue to design its healthcare sector as it sees fit. Here, balanced public finances and fair competition are important.

Therefore, we Pirates commit to:

- Ensure that everyone has access to healthcare services, medicines, and other services, regardless of the income of the individuals;

- Provide Europe-wide free access to prenatal and adequate perinatal care for all (pregnant) women, with special consideration for the physical and mental well-being of women across the EU;
- Establish Europe-wide free counseling centers for young families to strengthen the physical and mental health of parents and children;
- Develop specific policies aimed at preventing and combating poverty, as poverty contributes to poor health;
- A global EU health card: negotiations with third countries about the validity of such a European card must be consistently pursued;
- The project of a "Health Union" must be continued;
- The mobility of nurses in the EU should be increased. Therefore, it should be ensured that all countries have the same minimum academic standards;
- The Pirate Party also demands a Europe-wide blacklist of doctors who have been convicted of malpractice, to prevent these doctors from simply continuing to work in another country.

BETTER COORDINATION BETWEEN HEALTH INSURANCE IN THE EU

It must finally be easier to use a service abroad while still benefiting from CNS coverage. Example Portugal: Many people who have worked in Luxembourg and then moved to Portugal are forced to return to Luxembourg for treatments because the CNS only covers those prescribed by the Portuguese family doctor. This leads to unnecessary travel by car or plane and also causes, for example, longer waiting times at doctors here in the country. People insured in Luxembourg should be able to have their treatments near their current home in Europe and have these reimbursed at Luxembourg rates.

STRONG PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Every European should have access to fast, reliable, and environmentally friendly transport. We are committed to a Europe-wide initiative to expand public transportation and demand a clear investment drive to bring public transportation in all EU countries to a comparable level, whether it's bus, train, tram, monorail, maglev, cable cars, or funiculars. The Pirates also want to offer more night trains

between European cities (including Luxembourg) at attractive prices to encourage more people to travel by train instead of flying for vacations.

GUARANTEE BARRIER-FREE TRANSPORT

A wide range of buses, trains, and stations are now accessible to people with disabilities, but not all are yet. Public transport must be usable for everyone and therefore must be 100% accessible. The goal must be for every person to be able to move independently within the EU.

FREE WIFI

The digital transformation and progress should leave no one behind. Everyone should have access to high-speed internet under affordable conditions. The quality of internet access should meet today's standards and thus enable adapted participation in the digital reality. Access should be possible without unnecessary difficulties, burdens, or costs. In public places across Europe, everyone should be able to surf the internet via free hotspots without surveillance.

EU CHARGE - A CHARGING CARD FOR ALL OF EUROPE

To advance electromobility, the system for charging cars must be made as simple and comfortable as possible for users. We want to introduce a Europe-wide charging card as a uniform standard so that every owner of an electric car can charge their car at all charging stations in Europe. Every owner should automatically receive such a card with the purchase of the car. This card must be accepted at all charging stations in the EU and can be loaded either anonymously with cash or linked to a bank account or credit card. This prevents the need for multiple cards to charge cars in Europe. Currently, there are different rates for the same charging station depending on the provider. With this uniform system, we want every user of this card to benefit from the best possible rate at each station. It is also currently the case that some providers offer different rates to clients than to non-clients at their stations. We demand that all providers offer electricity at a single rate to all users of their stations, without discriminating against non-clients with higher prices. In the next step, the Plug&Charge system should become the new standard at charging stations. Plug&Charge refers to the ability to charge an electric car without an RFID card. Specifically, one can drive up to a station, plug and unplug the cable, and continue driving without further intervention.

ACCESS TO ELECTRIC CHARGING FOR PEOPLE WITH LIMITED MOBILITY

In the future, in our opinion, all cars should be electric, including those used by people with disabilities. Currently, however, there are no specific guidelines on the installation of charging stations in public spaces to ensure access for people with disabilities. There are also no such guidelines at the European level yet. We, the Pirates, want to change this at the European level and set accessible charging stations as the standard.

EUROPEAN RULES FOR VIGNETTES

The various toll and vignette systems in different EU countries should be abolished and the possibility of a common vignette system for the entire European road network should be explored. Such a harmonized EU vignette would allow users to easily purchase it over the Internet or at gas stations throughout Europe. Individual European countries can maintain their national rates, but tolls would be completely abolished. To protect drivers' data, the QR codes used in such a vignette should be encrypted and deleted once the vignette expires.

HONEST AUTO CONSUMPTION

The consumption data for many vehicles are calculated using the WLTP system. However, these data are often unreliable and consumers are frequently misled. With electric vehicles, the discrepancy between the paper figures and reality is often particularly large and the manufacturers are not always honest about the actual consumption. This is likely because public subsidies depend on these figures. We, Pirates, want the figures on paper to be closer to the actual consumption values and not just represent so-called wishful numbers.

If it turns out that the consumption of vehicles deviates from the WLTP figures in reality, consumers should receive compensation from the manufacturers that is proportional to the difference in consumption and also based on the sale price.

EUROPEAN YOUTH PROGRAM

Nothing connects the EU more than the friendships that emerge among its citizens. The Pirates support the idea of a European Youth Program, where every EU citizen under 30 years old can participate in at least 4 weeks of an intercultural program with other young people from the EU for free. We would establish and finance this program together with various European youth organizations. This program would

take place at least twice a year in different locations across the EU. Such a program would allow all young Europeans to travel, break down prejudices, and promote intercultural exchange. We would also introduce a European cultural pass for children and young people, allowing them discounted access to a variety of cultural events throughout the EU and thus develop their cultural interests.

MORE COLLABORATION IN THE GREATER REGION

Europe and Schengen are beloved in the Greater Region. Every day, German, French, and Belgian neighbors commute across the borders. Many Luxembourgers have found a new home or spend their leisure time outside the borders in the Greater Region, for example, in Trier, Metz, Nancy, Namur, or even Bastogne. Many students also venture into the neighboring regions around Luxembourg.

The Pirates also advocate for a strong Europe in Luxembourg, which ensures a high quality of life in the Greater Region. We aim to achieve this with the following proposals:

- Introducing new possibilities for the right to a higher number of home office days for our cross-border commuters;
- Establishing a cross-border regional fund for joint projects in the border areas that aim to improve the quality of life on both sides of the border and setting clear criteria for a joint territorial approach;
- Introducing fiscal redistribution based on models such as the one between Switzerland and France for the past 50 years or the current one Luxembourg has with the Reynders Fund in Belgium;
- More investments in security and the development of a unified strategy for fighting crime throughout the border region;
- Improved utilization of medical infrastructure and personnel throughout the Greater Region;
- More joint projects for the residents of the Greater Region, whether in the cultural field, infrastructure, or housing construction.



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Reference to the joint European program (CEEP2024) → eu.piraten.lu