



DIRECT DEMOCRATIC EURO-VISION NEWSLETTER

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WORLDWIDE DIRECT DEMOCRACY NEWSLETTER **DIRECTRACY**

Global Interests contra Group Interests (by Jiri Polak)

To pass party-political rule off as democracy is almost as big a deception as to pretend that medieval rulers had received their mandates from God or Heaven. Political parties emerged in late eighteenth and during the nineteenth centuries as an expression of emancipation and growing consciousness of the most important citizen categories within nation states. Their leaders relieved decadent hereditary aristocracy as new ruling elites. Attention was focused on domestic problems. Global interests of the whole society, such as preservation of healthy environment, overexploitation of limited natural resources, preservation of world peace, fair treatment of the developing world – to these and similar problems, hardly any attention was paid. And yet, in the twenty-first century, these problems are assuming increasing importance. By neglecting or downgrading them, in a longer perspective, the ruling elites are threatening the very survival of our civilization.

In a globalized world, supplying all sorts of immediately available information at everybody's disposal, rule by political parties is becoming increasingly dysfunctional and obsolete. Party politics is based on **conflicts** among citizen categories, among parties and among various factions and individuals inside parties. The motive force of the behavior of party bosses is the struggle for power. For to prevail in this struggle, in spite of all attractive slogans, speeches and promises, they are ready to sacrifice their subjects' health, life, well-being - anything and at any time.

Only very few people still believe that Marxism is the answer to this situation. Rule by a single – Communist – party turned out to be even worse than any rule exerted by several competing parties. Marx was mistaken in almost every respect. Then why was Marxism able to obtain such success during most of the twentieth century? There must have been a grain of truth in it. Yes: Marx was right in pointing out that in post-feudal societies, a never ending class struggle was in progress. Only, he wrongly attributed the root of the evil to private ownership of the means of production in the hands of the capitalist class.

Who is responsible?



This time it's war - Syntagma Square. Athens

Contemporary Greece is a classical example of the absurdity of party political rule: Politicians obtain their mandates thanks to unrealistic, exaggerated promises to assure for their voters various improvements of their living standards: Higher wages, better social insurance, higher pensions, right to old age pension at a lower age, and the like. The State has not the money necessary to finance all this, so the politicians borrow what is needed from international sources. The loans increase more and more. The creditors begin to require reimbursement. This proves impossible without raising taxes and reducing various social benefits. In other words: Grassroot citizens have to pay for party politicians' recklessness and embezzlement. Result: Riots, or even revolution. Remedy: Abolish party political rule and establish a system based on semi-direct deliberative e-democracy. Very simple in theory. More difficult, but not impossible in practice. The cradle of democracy might get inspired by its great tradition and show the way once more.....

In reality, the evil is **any** exaggerated concentration of power in the hands of any oligarchy, capitalist, party bureaucratic, religious, or whatever. Contemporary class struggle stands between oligarchic establishments and the vast majority of

grass root citizens who, however, do not yet fully understand the nature of their predicament.
(to be continued)

INTERNATIONAL

USA

Senator **Mike Gravel: NI4D Package**, Chapter 12
Who Stole the American Dream? (excerpt)

"The present state of things is the consequence of the past; and it is natural to inquire as to the sources of the good we enjoy or the evils we suffer."

Samuel Johnson

"All our efforts at improving public policy are rooted in the structure of representative government. Unfortunately, we continue to believe that electing the right people to public office will bring about beneficial change. So we repeat over and over again something that has been proven repeatedly not to work. I do not want to diminish the vital need to elect people of integrity to public office. The point I make is that such elections are not nearly enough to overcome the shortcomings of representative government.

ALL PEOPLES DREAM of freedom and happiness, particularly those who have experienced the inequities and repressions of autocratic governments. We Americans were blessed with the opportunity to realize our dream of freedom at the confluence of the Scottish, English, and French Ages of Enlightenment in the 18th Century, when ancient Greek concepts of democracy experienced a rebirth. Nevertheless, we had to struggle for our freedom with blood and sacrifice in a revolutionary war. It wasn't until 1787 that the structure of our government took permanent shape, the design of which became a beacon that would guide the peoples of the world toward a system of representative government."

Quotes of the Founding Fathers endorsing Direct Democracy

The basis of our political system is the right of the people to make and to alter their constitutions of government. - **George Washington, 1787**

The people were, in fact, the fountain of all power, and by resorting to them, all difficulties were got over. They could alter constitutions as they pleased. - *James Madison, 1787*

All power is originally in the People and should be exercised by them in person, if that could be done with convenience, or even little difficulty. - *James Wilson*

Each generation has a right to choose for itself the form of government it believes is promotive of happiness. - *Thomas Jefferson, 1812*

Greece

13 December: A letter sent round by Mr. **George L.Kokkas** in the name of *N.G.O. Forum for Citizens' Democracy, Athens*

"Dear DD colleagues all over this world!

A dozen of years passed since we established WDDM (Worldwide Direct Democracy Movement, www.world-wide-democracy.net) in Athens and Delphi, Greece, and we don't

have any example of a modern functional Direct Democratic system in any country of the world yet, even if we had recently the "revolutions?" of Tunis, Egypt, Libya etc.

I think that Greece could offer such a chance of a great change of its political system in the coming, tomorrow New Year 2013 and the preparation of such a development here in my country was the cause of my relative absence internationally during the latest two years. I ask you to excuse the lack of information in English from the respective part of the Greek Direct Democratic Movement, as our struggle locally was tremendous during the horrible crisis the Greek people were hit by; we spent our time in preparations! Now is the time to ask for your assistance to make it happen!

We established a New Citizens-Parliament called DIMOVOULIO POLITON (The Citizens' Will) and we try to fulfill a citizens' Constitution next March, according to the ideas put forward in the speech I gave in San Francisco two years ago, in our International Forum

(<http://www.dimopolis.gr/dp1/ektos/pagosmio-kinims-amesis-dimokratias/istoria/170-globalforumdirdemsf2010>). Then we plan to submit this text to a Citizens' Referendum for approval, even if we will use an electronic voting of Greek people, independently of the current Constitutional provisions, and we need information from you about this practice, in the field of technological methods, as well as about the content of our new Constitutional text.

Therefore, we ask for your proposals, for a modern DD Constitution that could make Greece again the cradle of Modern Direct Democracy, overcoming the current crisis!

Please accept our **warmest wishes for the New Year 2521 (used after the Democratic Revolution of Cleisthenes in ancient Athens! 508 B.C.)**

UK

News from **I&Rgb**

15 November.

"QUOTE

The 10 initiatives and one referendum on the November ballot did more to drive Golden State voters to the polls than the presidential contest, which was never much of a contest in Democratic California, according to a new USC Dornsife/Los Angeles Times poll.

The survey found that 48% of Californians were more motivated to vote by one of the ballot measures than by the race between President Obama and Mitt Romney.

Just 39% of voters said they were most enthusiastic about casting their vote for president.

Among the measures, Proposition 30 was viewed by voters as the most important measure one on the ballot. A quarter of those surveyed said Gov. Jerry Brown's plan to temporarily boost taxes on sales and upper incomes was their primary reason for going to the polls.

"It dealt with two issues – schools and taxes – that are always at the front of voters minds", said Dan Schnur, director of the Jesse M.Unruh Institute of Politics at USC.

Proposition 30 passed with more than 54% of the vote in last week's election.

UNQUOTE"

source: Los Angeles Times

18 December (excerpt): "The Land Brandenburg and the city-state of Berlin are each federal states with their own government. In both Lands, citizen campaigns have exploited the RIGHT TO DIRECT DEMOCRACY in attempts to bring in law which would limit night flying.

In Brandenburg, early December 2012, a "Volksbegehren" (people's wish, a legal demand for a referendum like a citizens' initiative) to limit night flights jumped an important hurdle. To trigger a referendum, a citizens' proposal must be endorsed by at least eighty thousand voters. This hurdle was easily jumped after more than 106,000 people signed up. Brandenburg's population is about 2.5 million.

According to the law, the proposal (to limit night flights) must be debated in the Land's parliament in Potsdam. Parliament may agree to make the proposal into law. If parliament rejects the citizens' proposal then a ballot (referendum, Volksentscheid) of all Brandenburg's citizens must be held to decide the matter."

8 January: **Government makes false claim about key reform of Local Democracy**

The 2010 Con/Libdem coalition agreement contains the following broken promise:

"We will give residents the power to instigate local referendums on any local issue."

This item was thrown out of the Localism Bill by Liberal Democrat (!) peers in cahoots with lobbyists such as local government associations and large building companies and with the agreement of Eric Pickles' communities ministry.

So, it is amazing to read (Jan. 2013) in the coalition's widely publicised mid-term review that this much flaunted "flagship" reform has been saved (The Coalition: together in the national interest). To quote, "We have granted residents the power to instigate local referendums and to block excessive council tax increases,"

Is this a stupid error or a deliberate lie aimed to bolster their weak record of success? At best it is "economical with the truth".

Or have they sneaked through the introduction of our right to local referendum on any issue in another parliamentary bill (... if pigs could fly)?

Campaign for direct democracy in Britain

13 January: "We received the following message about Iceland, New Zealand and Hordur Torfason, from Sian Clement. Any comments?

Thought you might be interested in the following and helping us spread the word ...

We are coordinating a nationwide tour by Hordur Torfason – an Icelandic activist who initiated the recent 'cutlery revolution' in that country. This resulted in:

1. Resignation of the whole government.
2. Nationalization of the bank.
3. Referendum so that the people can make economic decisions
4. Incarcerating the responsible parties.
5. Rewriting of the constitution by its people via Twitter and Facebook etc

All of this was accomplished **Peacefully**.

Interestingly, the Icelandic economy is now doing well and the IMF and other heavyweight economics agree that Iceland did the right thing <http://www.washingtonsblog.com/2012/08/top-economists-iceland-did-it-right-everyone-else-is-doing-it-wrong.html>

25 January: "More than eight voters out of ten want the right to sack their own MP (excerpts)

"Radical changes to the political system are overwhelmingly

backed by voters after an expenses scandal that has damaged all parties"

"Eighty-two per cent (want) a system of "recalling" MPs (...) if they have broken the rules" Source: Survey for The Times

27 January: "A proposal made in Parliament, January 2011

"This proposal is worthy of revival and support. Contact your MP about this, the "Recall of Elected Representatives Bill".

QUOTE (Parliamentary web site)

Early day motion 1253

Session 2010-11 Date tabled: 11.01.2011

Primary sponsor: Goldsmith, Zac

Sponsors: (5 names)

Supporters: (13 names)

Interesting site, promoting citizen participation: <http://www.involve.org.uk>

Czech Republic

22 January: Information from **Foundation Anti-Corruption Fund** :

9.1.2013, "At its today's session, the Government rejected the establishment of an independent authority entrusted with the control of the political parties' economy, in spite of the fact that this is the most important component of the currently proposed bill. Without control of the obedience to the rules, the proposed changes are worthless, the Anti-Corruption organization says. (excerpt) "An independent and active control is indispensable. It is not enough to publish information, the public has no possibility to acquire the materials necessary to verify the authenticity of the data submitted. To criticise the alleged expensiveness of the office proposed is only a pretext – the expenses would be relatively low and the results would be worth the price...."

Transparency International, Czech Republic

Germany

Zeitschrift für Direkte Demokratie 4/2012

Editorial by Mrs. **Claudine Nierth**

Bundesweiter Volksentscheid

Der beste Gesetzentwurf von allen! Wahlkampf für den Volksentscheid

Europa

Österreich: Durchbruch für direkte Demokratie? Demokratieexperiment Island

Interview

"Ausgewogen Informieren!" Interview mit dem Politikwissenschaftler Dr.Nico van der Heiden

Bundesländer

Können sich Bürgerbeteiligung und -entscheide sinnvoll ergänzen?

Mutlos? - Baden-Württemberg kan mehr! Ländertelegramm

International

Die Nichtabschaffung der Todesstrafe in Kalifornien

Rezension

Bürgerhaushalte als Hoffnung?

Omnibus für direkte Demokratie

Volksinitiative "Schule in Freiheit" sucht Helfer

Kurz notiert

Bürgerrechts-Abstimmungen, kein konstruktives Referendum in Zürich, AKW-Entscheide

MD Intern

Switzerland

Europa-Magazin 2/2012

Edited by Mr. **Paul Ruppen**: Kontinentale Grossstrukturen lösen keine Probleme

Regelung der "institutionellen

Frage" mit der EU

Michael Burkard: Freies Saatgut auf der Anklagebank
Kurzinfos

Umweltschädliche Subventionen: Kaputtgeförderte Natur
Europa über alles

Buchbesprechungen

Föderalismus – zukunftstauglich?!

Interessendifferenzen und Interesssekongruenzen in den
Beziehungen zur EU

Kurzinfos: Endgültig: Trennt euch! EU-Friedensnobelpreis
Tiefstwerte Europäische AKWs

fallen durch Stresstest EU bremst Deutschland EU-
Emissionshandel: Staatliche Beihilfen für
atomintensive Industrie

Roman Huber: L'Europe a besoin de plus de démocratie

Annette Groth: Sicherheitsforschung jenseits rechtlicher
Kontrolle

Kurzinfos: EU-Sonderbeauftragter für Menschenrechte
Quellen der Kurzinfos GV des Forums

für direkte Demokratie Sitzung des Vorstands Zürcher
Polizisten an EU-Grenze Altbundesrätin

Micheline Calmy-Rey zum EWR

Sweden

26 November: **Aktiv Demokrati's Activity Report**

Background: Iceland's crisis, Arab spring, USA's Occupy
Movement. Aktiv Demokrati joined the umbrella organization
Electronic Direct Democracy International; reports about many
new E2D parties emerging round the world etc.

Portugal

29 January: Information from Mr. **Rui Martins**: "We are organizing
a participatory multi-platform and already are in touch with
some parties and movements that advocate the development of
various forms of direct and participatory democracy. We asked
if they would be interested in joining this project. National
Coordination: <http://www.maisdemocracia.org>

New Zealand/Iceland

12 January: Letter from Mr. **Sian Clement**: "Hordur Torfason is
currently lecturing on meta modern democracy in Europe. The
time is right for New Zealanders to hear what he has to say.
He will be visiting here in March 2013 and we are raising funds
for this in the most democratic way – through www.PledgeMe.co.nz/691 People give their credit card details and only if we
reach our target, the funds are deducted. This way, all New
Zealanders can see this inspiring man talk for free. Please help
us spread the word. Further information can be found at
www.facebook.com/HordurTorfasonNZTour"

India

1 January: A letter from Mr. **Vijayaraghavan Padmanabhan**: "Hello
Friends in WDDM! There have been recurring arguments on
which is the best system – the Swiss or some other system. The
Representative Democracy (as in Greece and other countries)
is based on the intuition of the voters. The Swiss system of
Initiative and Referendum is based on logic of the voters. For
a voter to make the right choice, both logic and intuition need
to be used. Present system of political parties uses mainly the
intuition. Direct Democracy (as per present definition as Initiative
and Referendum) uses mainly logic.

Using only intuition to the exclusion of logic as well as logic to
the exclusion of intuition is bad. It implies fighting with one arm,
the other tied behind. Ushering in true democracy requires a
balanced use of both human faculties. This is the theme behind
the proposal for 'Association of Independents web platform,
posted on the 'voting system' of the WDDM website:

<http://independentnetworkfordemocracy.blogspot.in>

(The above standpoint is a distortion and misrepresentation of
reality, simply rubbish. JP)

Spain

28 December: A letter to the WWDD from Mr. **Joám Evans
Pim**: "Dear friends, we would like to join the WWDD Forum on
behalf of the pro-direct democracy Partido da Terra. More info
in the following links: www.partidodatterra.net facebook.com/
ptgaliza http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land_Party

Latin America

Please note: *Centre for Research on Direct Democracy (C2D) –
Democracia Directa en Latinoamérica* <http://dd-la.ch>

Italy

27 February **I&R**gb comment:

*Italy's election result has caused quite a stir. A new election
soon? Despair. Predictions of chaos. We argue that some
positive results can be expected:*

Beppe Grillo, unlike Berlusconi, has never claimed to offer
Italy an easy route out of its difficulties and his message has
been consistent. One part of his message is to suggest that
people should start to help themselves and to take charge
of public affairs. How? For instance he recommends more
direct democracy, with which the people can decide on some
public issues, not only electing politicians. The Italians already
have one sort of direct democracy, namely the "abrogative"
referendum, with which (by striking out laws) they introduced
the right to abortion and divorce (earlier they had rejected the
monarchy in a referendum). Recently they voted to ban nuclear
power. In order to strengthen democracy, Italy could introduce
the "proposition", enabling a large number of voters to put
forward a proposal of law or public policy, and the ability to take
the proposition to a ballot of the whole electorate. With this type
of "citizens' initiative", some proposals about public finance,
"fat cat" salaries, and austerity measures could be developed."

Want to comment or reply? See

[http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/editorials/editorial-italy-
shows-how-the-tide-has-turned-against-elites-8512058.html](http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/editorials/editorial-italy-shows-how-the-tide-has-turned-against-elites-8512058.html)

South Africa

29 December: A letter from Mr. **Jim Powell**. Please view www.directdemocracy.org.za

Your comments will be appreciated. Regards, Jim Powell

Comment from Prof. **Ted Becker**, USA: "Thank you, Jim. You are to be congratulated and are definitely on the right track. Two things. First, I don't think you are right that your system is a "dictatorship". I think you'd be closer to the truth that it is a "Single Party Oligarchy". Second, why not link to my book's website at <http://www.last-lost-empire.com> and particularly its current blog pages. I think you'll find some new ideas there that might intrigue you."

(Perhaps that blog might, at least partially, be a substitute or complement for the, regrettably, partially closed WDDM discussion channel? JP)

3 January: A letter from Mr. **Jim Powell** to the WDDM Discussion Channel:

"Before the last (local government) election in South Africa, I approached candidates to sign the contracts. All but the top 2 parties signed as individuals. One political party (COPE) committed all of their 3000 candidates to sign the document. Consider that the candidate wants to be voted in and in power. The candidate is told by a sizable portion of the electorate that he will not get the vote without the contract (below). Some or one of the candidate sign and gets elected.

You now have a candidate under the control of the electorate. As the knowledge of the electorate grows, DD grows.

The contract:

1.(name of politician or political party), acknowledge that I am effectively an employee of the voters because the voters decided who would be employed by voting and the voters who, through payment of their taxes and rates, pay my salary and I recognise that the current system does not put the voters in control.

- I commit to regular and effective consultation with the voting public through public meetings and continuous communication via the press, radio stations or in person.
- I agree to vote in accordance to the best interest of the voters who elected me, who may be polled by means of a referendum similar in format to that used for petitions.
- I am committed to ensure that the wishes of my constituency are effectively communicated and advocated for in at all levels of government.
- I am also committed in doing everything within my power to ensuring that the laws are upheld and that service delivery is efficient and effective.
- I commit to being held accountable for my performance by the voters.
- I further agree that the registered voters will be able to remove me from office when 25% of the number of registered voters who voted in the last election within my ward or designated constituency sign a petition for my removal. This will mean that 2.500 signatures will be required if 10.000 voted in the last election. All registered voters will be able to sign, including those who did not vote in the last election. The recall petition may not be initiated until 6 months has elapsed since the last election and when an election has been called. Should an election be called, the recall process will be cancelled.
- I will promote legislation at all levels of government and changes in the South African Constitution to bring about a system of constituency with top up proportional representation, recall, referendum and Direct Democracy.

THE WORLD

Information from **Democracy International**: www.democracy-international.org

Newsletter 8 November 2012:

Content:

1. Pro or Anti "Prop"? 176 popular votes in the United States
2. Digital decision-making: "3D" in the spotlight
3. Interview with AndreasGross, mastermind of moder direct democracy
4. Lithuanians opt anti nuclear energy in non-binding referendums
5. New ECI demands Sunshine Rules on Mass Media
6. Obituary: Death of Franck Biancheri

Newsletter 7 December 2012:

Content:

1. Impressions from South America – Interview with Dr. Klaus Hoffmann
2. Speech: "Citoyens indignés, réclamez la démocratie directe!"
3. Montevideo Declaration on Modern Direct Democracy
4. Book Review: "Intelligent Governance for the 21st Century"

2012: 366 Days Democracy International

Dear members and friends of Democracy International,

2012 was a special year – and this not only because it was a leap year that counted 366 days.

2012 was also special for the board and staff of Democracy International because 2012 meant 366 days in operation as registered association: 18 months ago, on 30 June 2011, 70 people from all over the world had met close to Brussels, Belgium. At our founding meeting "Deepening Roots, Reaching Out" at the picturesque Kortenbergh Abbey we developed Democracy International's official statute and we elected Democracy International's first permanent executive board.

Campaigning for a transnational voting rule

With this official set-up in place we geared up for our campaign to reform the European voting rule. Our goal was to make the voting lists of the European Parliament transnational through creating a single EU-wide constituency for 25 Members of European Parliament. 2100 people signed up to our pledge for a transnational voting rule. However, in March 2012, just a few days before the decisive vote in the European Parliament, the European People's Party decided to reject the reform. Regrettably this showed us that there are still many hearts and minds that need to be convinced of our idea of a truly European democracy. We will continue with our work to reach this goal!

Lobbying for 12 months-time for any ECI

First April 2012 was the date the European Commission had chosen to introduce the European Citizens' initiative (ECI) and this was not a fool's day joke: The first transnational tool of direct democracy legally entered into force on this day and soon the very first ECIs were registered. However, the software to collect signatures online did not work, which the European Commission was supposed to deliver. Therefore, our Chairman Gerald Häfner, Green Member of European Parliament and rapporteur of the ECI, addressed the European Commission. He insisted on extending the deadline of those ECIs that already were registered. And he succeeded: the European Commission accepted to prolong the one-year deadline. This means that 1st November 2013 is the new deadline for the first ECI that had registered while the problems with the software were still apparent.

Holding a summer academy to learn more about democracy

In Mid-July democracy activists, researchers, journalists and politicians travelled to Burgas, Bulgaria to attend our summer academy that we had organized with the help of our Bulgarian board member Daniela Bozhinova. In Burgas we were shocked to learn about the deteriorating state of democracy in European countries such as Hungary, Romania and Greece. Also, we discussed ways to make the EU more democratic while the ongoing EU financial crisis is undermining democracy at EU level. To stop these undemocratic trends in Europe we decided to start campaigning for a European Convention and EU-wide

referenda to let citizens decide about the future of the EU. This campaign for a more democratic European Union will be at the heart of our activities in 2013.

After all

We – the board and staff of Democracy International – cordially thank you for your work, support and interest in our work. 365 days lie ahead of us in 2013 – 365 days to strengthen direct democracy at all political levels and to build an effective membership organization of democracy activists around the world.



E2D-international - recent discussions (excerpts)

14 December, Mr. **Paul Nolen** wrote, "Here in Belgium we joined the Pirates. We did not get sufficient response for our E2D initiative for the local elections and the Pirates seemed the best chance to promote direct democracy."

Answer: from Mr. **Sven Mason**, "Hi Paul, interesting news, will you be keeping your website going? If you are not progressing as a standalone party I would suggest we move the "E2D Signatory Parties" forum: <http://e2d-international.org/forum/viewforum.php?f=104>

into the "Direct Democracy Political Movements by Country" <http://e2d-international.org/forum/viewforum.php?f=120> ... creating a Belgium entry, with a note about the merging. We could then perhaps create a new Pirate Party subforum in the Belgium area and if you wanted to, you could post about your DD actions there."

Answer from Mr. **Paul Nolen**, "Hi Sven, when more E2D members are working together with other political developments it is maybe better to make a separate group of those who cooperate with another party?"

17 December, Mr. **Paul Nolen** wrote to Mr. Sven Mason, answering his letter of 15 December: "Hi Sven, thanks for opening a forum entry on that. I answer in between, Paul"

15 December, Mr. **Sven Mason** wrote, "I made a quick forum entry from your notes:

<http://e2d-international.org/forum/viewtopic.php?f=104&t=3209>
I was not involved in the founding of the E2D collective and the concept of signatories and have not focused much on it. I understand your point about having a distinction of Signatory Parties, and organizations developing DD, creating a pure DD political party is not the only path to DD, but believe the idea of E2D as a collective is to have per country parties that are committed in writing to DD and DD only.

Yes, that was the idea. No program, only direct decisions by the citizens. The only choice left is representation by "liquid democracy" or not.

The Pirate Party, although an interesting alternative, seems a bit fractured and some offshoots in danger of becoming hierarchical. Many PP members probably believe in pure DD but it seems to me not to be a clarified commitment of the movement, there is a promise of more democracy but also a specific agenda being pushed – at what point does the DD stop and the party politics begin?

The Pirates are fractioned because they wish it that way, as far as I can see. That avoids that too much power gets concentrated at the top. Anyway, that is their aim. I know that that remains a struggle in every organization. And the more rebellion the better as far as democracy is concerned. Of course this is in contradiction to a "strong party" and that is the weak point where "natural leaders" take over, or try to do so. It is also not an obligation to replace representative democracy with direct democracy. We only want to give the opportunity to do so if the people want to. We notice that in Switzerland French speaking cantons are less using the direct democratic tools compared to German speaking cantons. That is their choice and there is nothing wrong with that. It has probably a cultural background. That being said they may be a practical path to implementing elements of DD and offer a more "voter exciting" platform to discuss and develop DD ideas.

Yes, at the moment I think it is.

It is up to the E2D group to decide what constitutes an E2D signatory party, I think it is a good idea to wait a few months to see how your decision/s to join the Pirate parties fan out, the E2D community has not really set in stone how to become and maintain being an E2D signatory but merging into a Pirate party would mean no longer being a political party committed in writing to DD, in our forum I would suggest that means listed

and discussed in the "Direct Democracy Political Movements by Country" section rather than "E2D Signatory Parties"? Unless the argument could be made that although promoting and supporting the PP you are maintaining a commitment to break away from them if they go against developing DD, or something like that.

Well, I certainly break away from them if I come to the conclusion that "democracy" is only window dressing. But that is my personal opinion. In the mean time I am sure that I can perform a number of workshops where I can at least mention the different forms of democracy and recent developments. For one, the Egyptian referendum will give a lot of opportunity to explain that a plebiscite (government induced referendum) has nothing to do with "democracy". Sven Paul

WDDM

16 January. Mr. **Miroslav Kolar** wrote, "For now I have modified the WDDM site so that it does not require any attention at all. It looks the same as before at the first glance, but all the dynamical features are removed. Basically it is frozen in time, archived (no log-in, new posts, new member registration). I'd be happy to hand over the saved mySQL databases if somebody else wanted to continue a dynamical site. I promised to maintain the domain name registration in the meantime (or "forever", i.e., as long as I am mentally capable to take care of such things).

The most used feature of the site proved to be the e-mail exchange. The mailing list had its problems too, and is gone.

I would like to send you all the e-mail addresses of all the remaining 92 subscribers. You can put them all in a separate WDDM Contact List in the address Book of your e-mail program. Then by typing the single name of this WDDM Contact List in the "To:" field of a new e-mail, you can simply send an e-mail to all the WDDM "members". And thus have a decentralized mail group without any single administrator. New members can be added by invitation ...

If somebody does not want their e-mail address be given away to all others, please let me know as soon as possible. I'll wait for a few days before sending the address list out.

As for the archive of the old mailing list (since 2005, almost 3000 messages), I am almost done with it. It's actually interesting reading ...

31 January. Mr. **Miroslav Kolar** wrote, "By the way, the first ever WDDM mailing list at Yahoo!groups (started apparently when they were still called eGroups) is still somewhat active, and all its messages (starting from July 2000) are again available.

See: Post message: wddm-list@yahoo.com etc.

Mirek, thank you very much for your outstanding contribution to the movement!!!! (JP)

SIMPOL

Simpol International – News Update 12 November
Headlines:

Simpol on Huffington Post

Simpol at TEDx Berlin - 23rd November

"Pledge Drives" in Germany and the UK – Please join in!

Globalisation seems to be causing politicians, NGOs, economists and trade unions such a lot of angst these days. We just can't stand to see them in such torment!

That's it for now folks.

Many thanks for your continued support for Simpol. The only way is together!

Simpol International – News Update 10 December

Headlines:

John Bunzl's TEDx presentation, The Political Prisoner's Dilemma, is now online!

First German Political Party signs the Simpol Pledge

Simpol gets exposure with top German International news broadcaster

New Video offers great intro to Simpol

Up-coming events in 2013

Simpol Newswatch – send us your newsclips!

Simpol's News page is updated regularly



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