



# PIRATE PARTY INTERNATIONAL

<http://www.pp-international.net>

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## **Global Pirate Parties Decline Censorship in the Fight Against Terrorism**

PRESS RELEASE OF THE PIRATE PARTIES OF Germany, Spain, UK, Sweden, Austria, Poland, Chili the Netherlands, and the United States.

EU Justice and Security Commissioner Franco Frattini's recently released plans to enact censorship in the name of counter-terrorism. Using or searching for dangerous words like "bomb, kill, genocide and terrorism" would be filtered. Circumvention would be made punishable offences. For many European nations this is would be the biggest change in laws regarding freedom of expression and freedom of information. This is something that the members of Pirate Party International (PPI) strenuously object to.

*“As experience shows, Internet filtering, blocking and censoring is easily circumvented by those that wish to do so,”* says Florian Hufsky, Chairman of the Piratenpartei Österreich. *“The filters Frattini warmly advocate will not have the intended effect. Instead, it's a tyrannical attempt to curtail useful knowledge from the general public on par with policies of China, Saudi Arabia and North Korea. Thus, whilst ineffective as a measure, it is a strong deviation from the principles of the open society.”*  
**The Pirate Parties of the world strongly oppose this threat to freedom and democratic foundations.**

### A Global Reaction

Pirate Parties have formed in many nations across the world over the past two years. Fighting for civil rights online, they have gained support among the younger generation.

*“The instructions that Frattini wishes civilians be barred from are lessons of basic chemistry,”* says Jens Seipenbusch, leader of Piratenpartei Deutschland. *“An average university student will have enough knowledge to make a bomb after the first semester, in some countries even earlier. As recent arrests in Germany have made clear, this appalling anti-terrorism frenzy does not only strike against people who are harmful but also students, researchers, and protesters.”* Is Frattini willing to sacrifice our well-earned democracy?

Commissioner Frantini has stated that the citizens' rights are fundamental, but in some cases they have to be weighed against each other. But the Pirate Parties are not satisfied.

*“Either it is fundamental or it isn't!”* States Błażej Kaczorowski, founder of Partia Piratów in Poland. *“You can not both have the cake and eat it! This is just Orwellian doublespeak, this is something you would have expected here in the 80's. But we have a democracy now, and we demand to be treated like citizens!”*

## The Values of Open Society are Our Best Weapon

According to Europol statistics as of spring 2007, there was one confirmed islamist terrorist attack in Europe last year. With arrests at more than 200 islamist terrorist suspects in 2006 alone, the European police forces has proved to treat this seriously. Is this not just proof that the hard line is working?

*“It is proof of something, but not that we need censorship,”* Leon Burg from Piratenpartij Nederland adds. *“From this, we can hardly deduce that we would currently have too little efficiency. In the past, openly thinking about possible attacks has been proven as an efficient strategy to prevent - only the unthinkable can not be fought.”*

*“Has not the recent success of German police forces to completely stop the recently uncovered bomb group proven that old fashioned police work is the best way?”* Jens Seipenbusch, chairman of Piratenpartei Deutschland asks. He continues, *“the open society and its values of freedom and tolerance is our best weapon against violent groups. We disagree with the call for a stronger police state, and urge to keep in mind the low rates of crime, which are decreasing over the last decades. Instead we request refocusing on the values of freedom and equality and strengthened citizens' rights. The values of open society tore down the Berlin wall and united my country, to yield them now would be insane.”*

*“The European Pirate Parties will not tolerate the destruction of European values dating back to the Enlightenment, for which generations have fought and bled,”* says Rick Falkvinge, leader of the Swedish Piratpartiet. *“We also urge the media and serious journalists to not be a part of the spin campaign. Terror is being construed as the major threat of the 21st century, blinding us to the true problems. The current direction of the Commission requires us, as citizens of Europe and of the world, to stand up and raise our voice. We disagree with the decay of our law culture. We disagree with the dismantling of democracy. We disagree with the culture of fear getting precedence over the open society, and we urge as many as possible to join their voices in this dissent.”*

*“Finally, we demand that politicians stop associating terrorism with bombs and attacks,”* says Andrew Norton, interim Chairman of the Pirate Party of the US. *“Such actions are a means to an end, they are not the end itself. The point of terrorism isn't to explode bombs, it's to create fear, undermine public confidence and narrow the way of life for the ordinary citizen. Plans such as the commissioner's are not preventing terrorism, they are helping terrorists to achieve their real objectives. In effect, by these actions, the commissioner becomes the terrorist.”*

As dictatorships around the world are finding out, censorship does not work on the internet. The very design principle behind it was that large sections can not be roped off, or blocked from access easily.

Back in 1993, John Gilmore, a noted computer science innovator, said “The Internet interprets censorship as damage and routes around it.” and yet fourteen years later, people still do not understand this.

## Signatories

Jens Seipenbusch, Chairman of Piratenpartei Deutschland (Germany)  
Błażej Kaczorowski, Founder and Program Writing Coordinator of Partia Piratów (Poland)  
Leon Burg, Coordinator, Piratenpartij Nederland (Netherlands)  
Andrew Norton, Interim Chairman of The Pirate Party of the United States (USA)  
Rick Falkvinge, Party Leader, Piratpartiet (Sweden)  
Carlos Ayala, Chairman of the Partido Pirata National Board (Spain)  
Florian Hufsky, Chairman, Piratenpartei Österreichs (Austria)  
Enrique Herrera Noya, National Coordinator, Partido Pirata Chile (Chile)  
Peter Lidell, Central Committee, Pirate Party of the United Kingdom (UK)

## About the PPI

The PPI is composed of members of the various Pirate Parties around the world. Its aim is to encourage information sharing, and solidarity, as well as foster international communication and friendship. Additionally, it also acts as a starting ground for potential Pirate Parties in countries currently without one. Currently, 27 countries have some sort of representation in PPI, with the number expected to grow.

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For More Information please visit  
The PPI

<http://www.pp-international.net>

Piratenpartei Deutschland  
Partia Piratów  
Piratenpartij Nederland  
The Pirate Party of the United States  
Piratpartiet  
Partido Pirata (España)  
Piratenpartei Österreichs  
Partido Pirata Chile  
Pirate Party of the United Kingdom

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