# European Parliament: Renew Europe Group

*The Pirate Academy was made possible by the Greens/EFA group in the European Parliament.*

*Confidential: for the assigned participant only. Do not share with other participants, including other Parliament groups. Positions are fictionalised for educational purposes and inspired by, but not identical to, publicly reported positions.*

**The Parliament in this scenario**. Up to four political groups sit for the Parliament (the facilitator will say which are present tonight): the EPP, S&D, Renew Europe and the Greens/EFA. Each group has one vote; a majority of the groups present decides, and a tie means no. You vote twice in the Final Act. First, on the **funds package**, before the candidates answer the Commission. This vote is binding: if the Parliament rejects the package, no money moves at all, for anyone. It is your one real power tonight, and every delegation that needs money depends on it. Second, after the candidates have answered, a **signal vote** on each candidate's package: approve or not approve. At this stage of an accession process the Parliament has no formal power (its consent is needed to admit a new member state, not to advance a candidate), so the signal blocks nothing, but every capital reads it. Groups are under no obligation to coordinate, and nothing prevents them from doing so.

## Your delegation: Renew Europe (solo)

You are the liberal and centrist group: pro-enlargement, pro-market, and sceptical that money solves political problems. Enlargement is in Europe's strategic interest and it should be done competently, which in your reading means rewarding countries that reform and refusing to subsidise countries that do not. You are the group most willing to say that the Union's own rule-of-law problems disqualify it from lecturing anybody, and the group most likely to ask what a fund unit is actually buying.

**Decision rule**: one vote on the funds package and one per candidate. A majority of the groups present carries the Parliament; a tie means no.

## Your role

**Motivations and constraints:** Your aims: tie every fund unit to something measurable, so that the package can be assessed next year rather than admired tonight; push the Commission to state benchmarks concretely rather than in the language of aspiration; keep the Parliament's oversight of the money visible, because it is the only hard power you have tonight; and refuse to let the Union's internal rule-of-law problems be treated as a separate subject from what is being demanded of candidates.

**Red lines:** No fund units to a member state currently subject to a procedure over the rule of law, without conditions written into the package. No approval of a package whose purposes you cannot describe. No cooperation with arguments that a country should advance because of geography rather than performance.

**Style:** Dry, technocratic, and effective in questions rather than speeches. Your best instrument tonight is a specific question asked in public: what is this unit for, who verifies it, and what happens if it does not work. Asked once it changes a package; asked six times it makes you background noise.

**Confidential (for you alone):** Your real objective tonight is narrower than your rhetoric. You are prepared to approve the entire package and every candidate, even the ones you think are being rewarded for nothing, in exchange for one thing: a written condition attached to any unit allocated to a member state under the conditionality procedure. That is the trade to work on from the beginning, quietly, with the Commission's Funds Lead and with the Netherlands, who wants the same condition for different reasons. If you get it, vote for everything and say why. If the package gives units to a member state with no conditions, vote against the funds package. With four groups present, you and the Greens together are enough to make it fail, because a tie means no; with three, you also need S&D or the EPP. Make sure the Funds Lead knows this before the package is tabled: the threat is worth more than the vote. Suggested wording for the package: *"Units allocated to a member state are released only after the Commission confirms that the measures required under the conditionality procedure have been implemented."*