European Tech Champions Act Simulation: Role Handout

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

Parliament: ECR

Confidential: for the assigned participant only. Do not share with other participants, including members of your own institution. Positions are fictionalised for educational purposes and inspired by, but not identical to, publicly reported positions. Roles are institutional functions, never named living individuals.

The Parliament in this scenario

Five or six political groups sit in the Parliament: EPP (188 seats), S&D (136), ECR (78), Renew Europe (77) and Greens/EFA (53), and Patriots for Europe (84, voting together with the 25 seats of Europe of Sovereign Nations) if cast. A text is adopted if the groups voting in favour hold at least **361 seats**. Each group votes as one bloc. The Left, the non-attached members and, if the Patriots are not cast, Europe of Sovereign Nations are not played and count as not voting in favour. Count before you argue: with the core cast, there is no majority without the EPP. On day 1 you build a Parliament mandate with the other groups; on day 2 you defend and trade it in the trilogue against the Council. The rules in full are in the general factsheet.

Your position in October 2025

The European Conservatives and Reformists have 78 seats. Your group includes the party of Italy's prime minister and the main opposition party in Poland, among others. Since the 2024 elections you have helped the EPP build majorities on its right, for example in November 2024 to delay the EU deforestation regulation, and you expect to do so again.

Your group supports a strong, secure Europe of nations. You are sceptical of new EU spending programmes run from Brussels, and opposed to new EU debt and taxes. If there is to be a technology programme, it should be run with and through the member states, it should strengthen Europe's defence and security, and it should not come with green and social conditions that make

European companies less competitive. Some of your members also hold firm ethical views on biotechnology.

You can afford to see this act fail. A failed Brussels programme confirms what you tell your voters. But you would rather shape a programme that serves your priorities than leave the field to the centre.

Your needs, wants and pain points

Needs (+3 each if fully met)

1. **National control (Article 5).** Fully met: the Board, composed of the member states, approves the work programmes, and no new EU agency is created. Partly met (+1): the Board's opinion is binding on the Commission.
2. **Defence and security (block D).** Fully met: the defence and dual-use earmark is at least 10%. Partly met (+1): 5 to 9.5%.
3. **Ethical limits on biotech (Article 3 or 4).** Fully met: the text excludes funding for research that destroys human embryos and for modifications of the human germline. Partly met (+1): a reference to respecting national ethical rules.

Wants (+2 each if fully met)

1. **Money managed by the nations (block C).** National envelopes get at least 50%. Partly met (+1): 25 to 49.5%.
2. **Cooperation with the United Kingdom (Article 6).** The text names the United Kingdom among the countries that can participate. Partly met (+1): general association rules as in the Commission proposal.
3. **Less red tape (new article).** The act obliges the Commission to review and reduce regulatory burdens on beneficiaries within two years. Partly met (+1): a general simplification commitment.

Pain points (-5 each if they happen)

1. **New EU debt (block B).** Total EU borrowing (grants and loans) above EUR 5 billion. Partly (-2): any EU borrowing for grants, while total borrowing is 5 or less.
2. **A green and social straitjacket (block D, Article 4).** A climate tag above 30%, or binding labour conditions for beneficiaries. Partly (-2): a climate tag of 20 to 30%, or labour conditions only above EUR 50 million.

Confidential (for you alone)

Your group is not united on China and Russia. Some delegations are hawkish and close to Washington, others prefer not to antagonise anyone. You can sign tough language on high-risk vendors and acquisitions, or avoid it; nobody in your group will punish you either way. More useful: the Italian government's party sits in your group. Italy's representative in the Council is a natural channel, and through Italy you can influence the Council's mandate.

Who you need and who is in your way

- **Majority:** EPP + S&D + ECR (402) is a majority; so is EPP + Renew + ECR + Greens (396). With the Patriots cast, EPP + ECR + Patriots (375) is a majority to the right,

without the centre-left. You are useful to the EPP as soon as Renew or the Greens walk away.

- **National control and envelopes:** Italy, Poland and the Patriots (if cast) are allies. The Commission, Renew and the Netherlands (if cast) are in your way.
- **Defence:** France and Poland are allies. The Greens and Spain are against.
- **No debt:** Germany, the Netherlands (if cast) and the Patriots (if cast) are allies. France, Spain and S&D are in your way.
- **Conditions:** the EPP and Renew share your dislike of red tape; S&D, the Greens and Spain want conditions.

What you can give away

The size of the envelope, if it comes from reprogramming or voluntary national money; quantum and AI earmarks; audit and transparency (as long as audit goes through governments); a co-investment target of any size.

If there is no deal

Your no-deal score is **+1**. A failed Brussels programme confirms your message. You can play hard, and everyone at the table should understand that. But a group that only blocks has no influence on the text.

Scorecard: ECR

For the peer scorer. Score the final text, or record the no-deal score if no act is adopted. Each item scores once, at the highest level reached.

Item	Fully met if	Partly met if	Points	Score
Need 1: national control (Art. 5)	Board approves work programmes; no new agency	Board opinion binding on the Commission (+1)	+3	
Need 2: defence (block D)	defence and dual-use at least 10%	5 to 9.5% (+1)	+3	
Need 3: biotech ethics (Art. 3 or 4)	embryo destruction and germline modification excluded	reference to national ethical rules (+1)	+3	
Want 1: national envelopes (block C)	envelopes at least 50%	25 to 49.5% (+1)	+2	
Want 2: United Kingdom (Art. 6)	UK named as participant	general association rules as proposed (+1)	+2	
Want 3: less red tape (new article)	binding review to reduce burdens within two years	general simplification commitment (+1)	+2	
Pain 1: new EU debt (block B)	total EU borrowing above 5	any borrowing for grants with total 5 or less (-2)	-5	
Pain 2: green and social straitjacket (block D, Art. 4)	climate tag above 30%, or binding labour conditions from EUR 50 million or less	tag 20 to 30%, or labour conditions only above EUR 50 million (-2)	-5	
Total				
No-deal score			+1	