European Tech Champions Act Simulation: Role Handout

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

Parliament: Greens/EFA

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 Greens/European Free Alliance group has 53 seats after losing ground in the 2024 elections. It is a small group, but not a powerless one: its seats are exactly what the EPP and S&D need to reach a majority without Renew (377), and its votes can rescue any centrist majority that loses partners on its right.

Your group supports European investment in technology. It wants that technology to serve the climate transition and democracy, not to undermine them. Public money should not fund fossil-fuel uses, surveillance technologies or companies that keep the results of public research behind closed doors. You want transparency about who gets the money and a Parliament that can follow how it is spent.

You would like the programme financed by a digital levy on the largest platforms, which pay little tax in Europe. You also know that a programme which becomes a defence fund by the back door will lose much of your group's support.

Your needs, wants and pain points

Needs (+3 each if fully met)

1. **A climate programme (block D, Article 4).** Fully met: the climate tag is at least 30%, and Article 4 excludes funding for actions that do significant harm to climate objectives. Partly met: a tag of at least 20% without the exclusion, or the exclusion with a lower tag (+2); a tag of 10 to 19.5% without the exclusion (+1).
2. **Transparency and oversight (Article 8).** Fully met: a public register of all beneficiaries and amounts, and an annual report to the Parliament with a debate. Partly met (+1): one of the two.
3. **Rights safeguards (Article 4).** Fully met: no funding for biometric identification in publicly accessible spaces or other mass-surveillance technologies, and an independent ethics review of large projects. Partly met (+1): one of the two.

Wants (+2 each if fully met)

1. **A digital levy (block B).** Any amount in the line "new own resource", described as a contribution by large digital companies. No partial.
2. **Open science (Article 7 or 4).** Publicly funded research results are published in open access, and software is released as open source where security allows. Partly met (+1): open access only.
3. **Civil society at the table (Article 5).** Civil-society organisations have seats in the Board or in a forum of the programme. Partly met (+1): consultation only.

Pain points (-5 each if they happen)

1. **No climate conditions (block D, Article 4).** The climate tag is zero and there is no "do no significant harm" exclusion. Partly (-2): a climate tag above zero but below 10%, and no such exclusion.
2. **A defence fund by the back door (block D).** The defence and dual-use earmark is above 10%. Partly (-2): above 5% up to 10%.

Confidential (for you alone)

You are willing to trade the digital levy for strong transparency and Parliament oversight. Your group's leadership counts the levy as a negotiating card, not a red line: it will not survive a unanimous Council anyway.

Who you need and who is in your way

- **Majority:** you complete EPP + S&D (377). If Renew or the ECR walks away from a centrist deal, you are the cheapest way to 361. Make sure the EPP notices.
- **Climate:** Spain (30%), Germany (20%) and S&D are allies. ECR and the Patriots (if cast) are in your way.
- **Transparency and oversight:** the EPP, Spain and Renew want oversight too; the Commission and the Council will resist the strongest forms.

- **Rights:** S&D and Spain are allies; Poland, ECR and the Patriots (if cast) are against an exclusion.
- **Defence:** France and Poland want a defence earmark; Spain and S&D share your caution.

What you can give away

The digital levy (see above); quantum and HPC earmarks; the size of the co-investment target; a talent initiative and sandboxes, if existing rules apply.

If there is no deal

Your no-deal score is **0**. A failed act costs your group nothing directly, but you would lose the chance to write climate and rights conditions into a major European programme.

Scorecard: Greens/EFA

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: climate (block D, Art. 4)	climate tag at least 30% and significant-harm exclusion	tag at least 20% without exclusion, or exclusion with lower tag (+2); tag 10 to 19.5% (+1)	+3	
Need 2: transparency (Art. 8)	public register and annual report with debate	one of the two (+1)	+3	
Need 3: rights (Art. 4)	no mass-surveillance funding and ethics review	one of the two (+1)	+3	
Want 1: digital levy (block B)	any new own resource on large digital companies	no partial	+2	
Want 2: open science (Art. 7 or 4)	open access and open source	open access only (+1)	+2	
Want 3: civil society (Art. 5)	seats in the Board or a forum	consultation only (+1)	+2	
Pain 1: no climate conditions (block D, Art. 4)	tag zero and no exclusion	tag above zero but below 10%, no exclusion (-2)	-5	
Pain 2: defence by the back door (block D)	defence and dual-use above 10%	above 5% up to 10% (-2)	-5	
Total				
No-deal score			0	