European Tech Champions Act Simulation: Role Handout

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

Parliament: Renew Europe

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

Renew Europe has 77 seats, fewer than after the previous election, but it is still the group that most often decides which centrist majority exists. Together with the EPP and S&D you form the "platform" majority of 401 seats that elected the Commission.

Your group believes in the single market, open trade and technological ambition. You support a European programme for scale-ups, but you want it to be credible: every euro should have a real source, public money should attract private money rather than replace it, and nothing should allow the biggest member states to subsidise their own champions at the expense of the single market. You are the Parliament's technical liberal voice, and you read the text more carefully than most.

Your group is divided on joint debt (French members are open to it, Dutch and Nordic members are not), so you prefer to talk about sources rather than about debt. You are also the group most willing to say openly that the main strategic competitor in technology is China.

Your needs, wants and pain points

Needs (+3 each if fully met)

1. **Every euro has a source (budget sheet, block B, Article 2).** Fully met: EU borrowing for grants is at most EUR 5 billion, and no article attributes amounts for 2028 to 2030 to the next long-term budget (a review or integration clause does not count). Partly met (+1): only one of the two.
2. **Private leverage (block A).** Fully met: the co-investment target is at least three times the public envelope. Partly met: at least twice (+2), at least equal (+1).
3. **No subsidy race (Article 5(4)).** Fully met: the state-aid wording is not loosened beyond the Commission proposal. Partly met (+1): accelerated assessment of national aid to selected projects, without a fixed deadline or presumption of compatibility.

Wants (+2 each if fully met)

1. **Talent (new article).** A European talent initiative that funds researchers and engineers and calls on member states to facilitate visas for them. Partly met (+1): a talent initiative without the visa element.
2. **Regulatory sandboxes (new article).** Sandboxes for testing new technologies under supervision. Partly met (+1): a call on member states to create them.
3. **Open standards (Article 4 or 7).** Infrastructure and results funded by the programme use open standards and interoperable interfaces where possible. Partly met (+1): a mention in the objectives.

Pain points (-5 each if they happen)

1. **A fragmented programme (block C).** National or regional envelopes above 40%. Partly (-2): above 30% up to 40%.
2. **Economic nationalism (Articles 4, 6 and 7).** A “Buy European” rule or an access rule that excludes companies from the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan or other trusted partners. Partly (-2): a preference that does not exclude them.

Confidential (for you alone)

Your group is more hawkish on China than its partners. You are willing to name China in the text (for example in Article 7 on acquisitions and high-risk vendors), which others avoid. Doing so may win you the Council hawks (Poland, the Netherlands if cast) and the EPP, and cost you nothing with your voters.

Who you need and who is in your way

- **Majority:** with the EPP and S&D you form the most comfortable centrist majority (401), although the Greens are a cheaper partner for them (377). If the EPP turns right, you may find yourself in a centrist minority; the Greens are your bridge.
- **Sources and leverage:** Germany, the Netherlands (if cast), the EPP and the Commission are allies. France, S&D and Spain want public money first.

- **No subsidy race:** the Commission and Italy are allies against France (and quietly Germany); Spain and Poland may join them.
- **Talent and sandboxes:** the EPP and Poland support sandboxes. The Patriots (if cast) and parts of the ECR oppose a talent visa. S&D and the Greens fear that sandboxes weaken existing rules; keep them under supervision.
- **Openness:** Poland, the Netherlands (if cast) and the EPP are allies against France.

What you can give away

A larger public envelope if its sources are credible; climate and social conditions with reasonable thresholds; national envelopes up to 30%; quantum and defence earmarks; Parliament oversight (you want it too).

If there is no deal

Your no-deal score is **0**. Renew loses nothing directly from failure, which makes you a credible kingmaker: you can walk away from a bad centrist deal, and both the EPP and S&D know it.

Scorecard: Renew Europe

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: every euro has a source (block B, Art. 2)	borrowing for grants at most 5 and no amounts attributed to the next long-term budget	one of the two (+1)	+3	
Need 2: leverage (block A)	co-investment target at least three times the envelope	at least twice (+2); at least equal (+1)	+3	
Need 3: no subsidy race (Art. 5(4))	state-aid wording not loosened	accelerated assessment without deadline or presumption (+1)	+3	
Want 1: talent (new article)	talent initiative with visa facilitation	talent initiative without visas (+1)	+2	
Want 2: sandboxes (new article)	regulatory sandboxes created	call on member states to create them (+1)	+2	
Want 3: open standards (Art. 4 or 7)	open standards and interoperability	a mention in the objectives (+1)	+2	
Pain 1: fragmented programme (block C)	envelopes above 40%	above 30% up to 40% (-2)	-5	
Pain 2: economic nationalism (Art. 4, 6, 7)	trusted partners' companies excluded	a preference that does not exclude them (-2)	-5	
Total				
No-deal score			0	