European Tech Champions Act Simulation: Role Handout

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

Parliament: S&D

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 Socialists and Democrats are the second-largest group in the Parliament with 136 seats. Every centrist majority needs you, and in 2025 you have watched the EPP build majorities without you on several files. You do not want this act to be one of them.

For your group, the Draghi report was a call for public investment, and this act is a test of whether Europe means it. A programme of EUR 10 billion over five years for five technologies is, in your view, far too small: the United States and China spend far more. You want a large public envelope, financed in common, and you would like large digital companies to contribute through a digital levy.

But public money should come with public conditions. Companies that receive large grants should respect collective agreements, consult workers before introducing AI in the workplace, and keep the technology they develop in Europe. Trade unions should have a voice in how the programme is run. And nothing in this act should weaken the AI Act or the data protection rules the Parliament fought for.

Your needs, wants and pain points

Needs (+3 each if fully met)

1. **Real public investment (budget sheet, block A).** Fully met: public envelope at least EUR 20 billion. Partly met: 15 to 19.5 (+2), 12 to 14.5 (+1).
2. **Labour and social conditions (Article 4 or a new article).** Fully met: beneficiaries above a threshold of at most EUR 50 million apply collective agreements or equivalent conditions and consult workers on the introduction of AI. Partly met: binding conditions with a higher threshold or without the AI consultation (+2); a non-binding "shall take into account" (+1).
3. **Social partners at the table (Article 5).** Fully met: trade unions and employers have seats in the Board or in a governance forum of the programme. Partly met (+1): consultation of social partners on the work programmes.

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. **Technology stays in Europe (Article 7).** Intellectual property developed with programme money cannot be transferred outside the Union for at least five years without Commission consent. Partly met (+1): the Commission's original Article 7(2) kept unchanged.
3. **Green conditions (block D).** The climate tag is at least 20%. Partly met (+1): 10 to 19.5%.

Pain points (-5 each if they happen)

1. **A symbolic programme (block A).** Public envelope below EUR 10 billion. No partial.
2. **Weakening the rulebook (Article 4 or new articles).** Beneficiaries or sandboxes are exempted from obligations under the AI Act or the GDPR. Partly (-2): sandboxes with limited derogations under supervision.

Confidential (for you alone)

Your group can accept a text without a digital levy if the labour and social conditions are binding. Your leadership knows that the levy will not survive a unanimous Council. Use it to buy conditions, not as a red line.

Who you need and who is in your way

- **Majority:** you need the EPP for any majority. The Greens and Renew are your natural partners; together with the EPP, either gives a majority (377 or 401).
- **Envelope:** France and Spain share your ambition in the Council; Italy too, if the money reaches its regions. Germany and the Netherlands (if cast) are in your way.

- **Social conditions:** Spain and the Greens are allies. The EPP, Renew, ECR and the Patriots (if cast) will resist.
- **Digital levy:** the Greens support it. The EPP, Renew, ECR, Poland and Germany are against.
- **Technology stays in Europe:** France is your ally.

What you can give away

The digital levy (see above); quantum and HPC earmarks; a co-investment target of any size; sandboxes that keep existing obligations; a moderate defence earmark.

If there is no deal

Your no-deal score is **-1**. Your voters expect visible public investment, and a failed act gives them none. You lose a little more than most if nothing is adopted.

Scorecard: S&D

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: public investment (block A)	public envelope at least 20	15 to 19.5 (+2); 12 to 14.5 (+1)	+3	
Need 2: labour conditions (Art. 4 or new)	binding conditions from at most EUR 50 million, with AI consultation	binding with higher threshold or without AI consultation (+2); non-binding (+1)	+3	
Need 3: social partners (Art. 5)	seats in the Board or a governance forum	consultation on work programmes (+1)	+3	
Want 1: digital levy (block B)	any new own resource on large digital companies	no partial	+2	
Want 2: technology stays (Art. 7)	IP transfer outside the Union barred for five years without consent	original Art. 7(2) unchanged (+1)	+2	
Want 3: green conditions (block D)	climate tag at least 20%	10 to 19.5% (+1)	+2	
Pain 1: symbolic programme (block A)	public envelope below 10	no partial	-5	
Pain 2: weakening the rulebook (Art. 4 or new)	exemptions from the AI Act or GDPR	sandboxes with limited, supervised derogations (-2)	-5	
Total				
No-deal score			-1	