Cybersecurity Act 2 Simulation: Role Handout

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

Council: Ireland (presidency)

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

Your team in this scenario

Five or six member states sit in the Council: Ireland (presidency), France, Germany, Finland and Czechia, plus Poland if cast (the facilitator will say who is present). Each state has one vote. A text is adopted if **no more than one member state present votes against** (4 of 5, 5 of 6 with Poland, or 3 of 4 with a reduced cast), so two states together can block. If the Commission opposes the final text, the Council must be unanimous. The presidency chairs the Council and speaks for it in the trilogue. Your team shares three public goals, listed below and in the general factsheet. If no act is adopted, your team scores -5. The rules in full are in the general factsheet.

Your position in November 2026

Ireland holds the presidency of the Council from July to December 2026. You chair the Council, speak for it in the trilogue and propose compromises among the member states. A presidency is judged by the files it closes, and your government has said publicly that the Cybersecurity Act 2 is one of them.

Ireland hosts the European headquarters of the largest American technology companies, and data centres used 23% of the country's metered electricity in 2025. Your economy depends on those companies

staying. You support action against high-risk vendors, but you watch every word that could reach American cloud providers: some lawyers argue that US law, which can oblige US companies to hand over data, could fall under ground (a).

As presidency, you are expected to be neutral. In practice, you have to hide how much you need a deal, or the others will use it.

Your team's public goals

Every player of your team shares these goals. Everyone in the room knows them.

1. **Keep the costs down (Articles 7 and 10).** 1 point if the phase-out period for most equipment is at least 36 months. 1 point if the maximum penalty is below 7% of turnover.

2. **A proportionate scope (Article 3).** 2 points if Annex I is limited to energy, drinking water, health and electronic communications networks, or fewer. 1 point for a middle solution: those core sectors plus up to three others, or a broader list where the phase-out applies only to the core sectors or only above a size threshold.

3. **Member states stay in control (Articles 6 and 8).** 1 point if designation requires the agreement of the member states (a Council or committee vote) before it takes final effect; a provisional designation that the member states must confirm counts. 1 point if member states may keep their own certification on national security grounds.

Confidential (for you alone): your secret goals

Never show this part before the reveal. You may lie about it. Each goal scores all or nothing. Goals that test the text score only if an act is adopted, unless the goal says otherwise.

US-proof (1 point)

Ground (a) of Article 6 is deleted or cannot justify a designation on its own, **or** the final text protects suppliers from countries with an EU adequacy decision, a security agreement or a digital partnership against designation on ground (a).

Keep the cloud open (2 points)

Cloud computing and data centre services are not subject to the phase-out obligation: they are outside Annex I, explicitly excluded from Article 7, or given a phase-out period of at least 48 months.

A presidency that unites (3 points)

The act is adopted, and no member state votes against it in the Council's final vote.

Who you need and who is in your way

- **Renew** shares your interest in protecting allied suppliers.
- **The Commission's Legal Service** (if cast) has its own reasons to weaken ground (a).
- **Germany and France** want a longer phase-out, which helps you.
- **In your way:** Finland and the EPP on ground (a); the rapporteur and the Commission on cloud services.

What you can give away

- almost anything else, as long as the Council stays together;
- a role for the Parliament, if it closes the file;
- a broader scope, if cloud services are outside the phase-out.

If there is no deal

If no act is adopted, your team scores -5 and all your secret goals are lost. For a presidency, a dead file is the worst result.

Scorecard: Ireland (presidency)

At the reveal, hand this page to your verifier (a player from another team). The verifier checks each secret goal against the final text, the inject log, the vote record and the reputation results, and marks it. You may contest one item; the lead facilitator rules on disputes.

Secret goal	**Scores if**	**Points**	**Verified**
US-proof	ground (a) neutralised or allied suppliers protected	1	
Keep the cloud open	cloud and data centres outside the phase-out (or at least 48 months)	2	

Secret goal	**Scores if**	**Points**	**Verified**
A presidency that unites	act adopted with no Council member voting against	3	
Secret goals total		0 to 6	

Personal score	**Points**
Team score (lead facilitator; -5 if no act)	
Secret goals (verifier)	
Reputation (second facilitator; -2 to 2)	
Total	