

Due to the national assembly in Offenbach many of you saw Lola for the first time. This interview will give a small insight into what Lola is working on and what are her impressions of the pirate party movement here in Germany or in Russia.

Lola is working as Chief Administrative Officer of the Pirate Parties International. So she is helping to coordinate the international pirate party movement. German Flaschenpost editor Patrick Ratzmann asked her a few questions about her work, the pirates in Russia and her impressions of Offenbach.

Flaschenpost: Many pirates saw you in Offenbach where you held an inspiring speech about the pirate party movement. What are your impressions of the national assembly in Offenbach and its decisions?

Lola: It was an honor for me to be invited to speak at such a big and important event as the General Assembly of the German Pirate Party. And of course I didn't expect such a warm and sincere reaction of the audience. It was fantastic to be there and see this giant hall filled with people, sharing the same values and ideas. I would like to thank the organizers, the international coordinators of Piratenpartei - Gregory Engels and Thomas Gaul, and all the German and international Pirates. The decisions that have been made there will affect not only the future of the German Pirate Party but the future of the whole worldwide movement.

Flaschenpost: As a Chief Administrative Officer of the PPI, which of the decisions affect the whole movement of the Pirate Party?

Lola: Pirate Parties International is first of all a communication channel between the Pirate Parties of the world. Pirate Parties exchange the ideas between themselves; for example EU Pirates are now starting to prepare for the European Parliament elections in 2014 - they have already started mapping the common principles of the Pirate movement and share their ideas in order to have a common EU Pirate Party program and a Pirate group in the EU Parliament.

The PPI board itself doesn't need to take any political decisions. Our work is more about administration, maintaining this communication channel, helping the new Pirate Parties. The two main things we are working on at the moment are registering the official Headquarters in Brussels and organizing the next General Assembly, which will be held in April 2012 in Prague.

Flaschenpost: You also work a lot for the Russian Pirate Party. Unfortunately the Pirates in Russia have a lot of issues to handle. What are the main problems?

Lola: The main issue is, of course, our registration. We were not allowed to be registered with the name Pirate, because Russian law describes piracy as an attack on a sea or river vessels and is considered to be a crime. So we informed the Ministry of Justice of our intention to create a "No Name" party, and it was accepted. But we continued calling ourselves Pirates. Our principles, ideas and our website remained unchanged. Now, due to the revolutionary situation in Russia, the government is announcing that they are going to make election laws more liberal, and we will insist on our registration as the "Pirate Party of Russia". So we hope that very soon (during 2012) we will be registered and begin to participate in regional elections.

Flaschenpost: Since the last elections for the duma, there were a lot of rumors. Please describe your impressions about the protests in Russia.

Lola: All the Russian nation wants at the moment is normal democratic elections and their results. We don't need any revolution. People went on the streets not because they don't like United Russia. No. Other parties, that had the possibility to participate in the elections, are not any better. People took to the streets because their voices were stolen. We know that we didn't vote for United Russia, our friends didn't vote for United Russia and friends of friends didn't vote for United Russia. But they show us 50% of voices for them. Normal result for the United Russia would be around 34% according to the polls. Many, many election frauds were reported, but the electoral commission still accepted the results as valid. That is why people went protesting.

It was a peaceful protest. People do not need the blood. Not only in Russia but all over the world people went on the streets. Moscow, St.Petersburg, Berlin, Hamburg, Hannover, London, Prague, Lyon, Oslo, Washington, Almaty... Everybody was participating in the competition "Who will make the funniest poster?" - "We are 146%", "In Russia Putin chose you", "Put in trash" and so on. It was a protest of creative people.

Flaschenpost: Many people are not satisfied with the way the Putin's Regime handles protests of opposition parties. What are their main complains?

Lola: There was no dialogue with the protesters. On the first 2 demonstrations hundreds were arrested. On the demonstration on December 10th noone was arrested but freedom of speech was restrained; for example opposition TV channels and websites were 'DDoS'ed and Internet access was shut down on the square where the demonstration took place.

Afterwards Putin held a live Q&A session with citizens, where he stated that the protesters were paid by US Department of State. He also said that the white ribbons on the jackets of the protesters looked like condoms to him. That's why people went on the streets again - on December 24th.

Flaschenpost: Such protests can be very powerful, we saw this during the arabic spring. What kind of impact do you expect of the protests in Russia?

Lola: Unfortunately election law in Russia is made in a way that there is no possibility for re-elections to take place. All we can do is to show them that we are together, that we are the nation, that we hate them. And to thank Putin, for he finally made Russia United:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wxg_BaBvnEE

Flaschenpost: Another big problem seems to be, that the media in Russia is very close to Putin and reports do not seem to be very neutral. What are your concern about the freedom of speech and press?

Lola: There are no such things as freedom of speech and press in Russia. Many journalists and even chief editors have lost their positions after writing about the protests. There are however a lot of independent and free blogs all over RuNet. Twitter, Facebook and Livejournal are the new media.

Flaschenpost: What can the pirates in Germany do to help the PPI and the pirates in Russia?

Lola: You already did a lot for the whole Pirate movement! The work on policy which is done inside the German Pirate Party provides all the less-developed parties with blueprints for their own policy statements, as well as tools like the various e-democracy software. Your success in Berlin was something every Pirate Party in the world benefited from. You do a

great job and you inspire us! Keep showing to the world the great results of your work so we can follow you and share your success!

Flaschenpost: The last statement is up to you. Do you have something to say to the Pirates in Germany?

Lola: Happy New Year, fellow Pirates!

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