

Freedom Pact

Considering that:

Access to software determines who may participate in a society where most interactions rely on digital technologies;

Free Software, which everyone may use, study, share and improve, enables political, economic, and cultural participation for everyone;

The use of Open Standards¹ is critical to achieve interoperability between different IT systems in Europe, and ensure the long-term accessibility of information;

Software patents are incompatible with Free Software and are a menace to society and economy, because they restrict innovation, damage businesses and put collaborative creativity in great danger;

Free Software helps to boost European economy by enabling small and medium sized companies to compete on a local and regional level against existing software monopolies;

Free Software is essential for public bodies to break free from vendor lock-in, obtain value for money, and promote the growth of European businesses;

I pledge to:

- promote the use of Free Software in all areas of public life, in particular in the educational sector, so that students can learn in freedom
- promote legislation to make Free Software the first choice in public procurement throughout Europe
- promote policies in favour of Free Software and oppose policies that discriminate against it.
- promote the widest possible use of Open Standards¹ in the public sector, as well as the publication and archiving of all public data and documents in formats based on Open Standards
- ensure that all software developed with public funds is released as Free Software, so other administrations and the public can benefit from it
- strengthen consumers' rights so as to promote users control over their own devices and oppose any measures endangering it
- oppose any provision that aims at establishing software patents in Europe and work to end the European Patent Office's practice of granting patents on computer-implemented inventions

¹ For a definition of Open Standards, see: <http://fsfe.org/activities/os/def.en.html>

Freedom Pact

I am (your name)
I am a member of (name of your political party)
from (name of your country)
and I am a candidate in the European elections 2014.

By signing the Freedom Pact, your name will be publicly visible on our campaigns page
<http://fsfe.org/campaigns/askyourcandidates/ep2014/ayc-ep2014>

With this, you can show all European voters that you actually care about Free Software and Open Standards to build a Free Society. To do so, please print and fill out this Freedom Pact and send it to the address given in the imprint on the bottom of this page.

I hereby sign the Freedom Pact

....., on
(your signature) (date)

Imprint:

The “Freedom Pact” is an initiative of the Free Software Foundation Europe (FSFE) – a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting Free Software and working to build a free digital society.

Free Software Foundation Europe e.V. (FSFE)
Schönhauser Allee 6/7
10119 Berlin
Germany

