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7TH CONGRESS (51TH COSA)

16 Aug - 14 Sep, 2017

Txoteu Davinescu / Ian Plätschisch

PARTY ELECTIONS

Party Leader:

Lüc da Schir - 5 votes

MC CANDIDATES AND SENÄTS ENDORSEMENTS

MC CANDIDATES:

Plätschisch (1)

Marscheir (2)

Valtadestreça (3)

E. da Schir (5)

da Dhi (11)

Davinescu (12)

Soleighlfred (150)

Putnam (151)

SENÄTS ENDORSEMENTS:

Glüc da Dhi and **Txoteu Davinescu** are unanimously endorsed for the Senate seats of Cézembre and Maricopa, respectively.

50-WORD STATEMENTS

1. Party Statement

The MRPT has actively led a successful government, passed various important reforms in the Ziu and missed few votes compared to other major parties. However, Talossa still faces many challenges and we're not done solving them. We humbly ask your confidence to lead Talossa another term. Keep Course, vote MRPT!

2. PËR on The Senators are People, not Parties Amendment

Senators represent their province, not their party. They should campaign based on their own merits rather than depend on party endorsements to get elected. This provides more room for Senators to act independent of their party as well.

3. PĚR on The OrgLaw Amendment (Nonfeasance) Act

Currently, the only way to remove a monarch is if they are convicted of a crime or become medically incapacitated. This bill allows for the removal of a monarch if they are grossly negligent in performing their duties, letting Talossans have a monarch who will better serve them.

4. PĚR on The Advisory King Amendment

While the King works well as a non-partisan check on the Ziu, the will of one unelected man must not be allowed to stand in the way of the will of the people for an extended period. Vote to change the King's legislative veto into a suspensive veto.

5. PĚR on The ORGANIC LAW AMENDMENT (Amendments (I Can't Believe This Is Still Ambiguous But Apparently It Is)) BILL

This bill affirms that amendments which have passed referendum are part of the Organic Law even if they have not been proclaimed by the King. After three separate lawsuits and a previous amendment concerning the matter, all of which led to different results, we need clarity on this important issue.

6. PĚR on The Due Process Amendment

The current phrasing of the Covenant of Rights and Freedoms is unclear as to when protections concerning due process of law and prohibitions on double jeopardy apply. This amendment makes sure that these important aspects of our legal system always apply.

MANIFESTO

On micronations:

- No diplomatic relations with "bug-micronations".
- The Foreign Ministry should try to investigate what serious, "like minded" "micronations" are currently active and the potential risks and benefits associated with various forms of diplomatic contacts with such nations, within the limits of the Afaes Utphätseshti Act.
- The government should try to increase its visibility in the micronational world.

On the Senate:

- Provinces should be in charge of electing Senators, whenever possible.

- A small fee for accepting seats in the Senate might be introduced in the future, but only if necessary because webhosting consistently costs more than revenue generated by donations and stamp/coin/talossaaware sales.
- Votes in the Senate should be degressively proportional to the number of citizens of the province a senator represents.
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On the Cosa:

- On the long term Talossa needs a Real Cosâ, which will be achieved by a combination of population growth and a decrease in the size of the Cosâ to sixty seats.
- The Seneschal should be elected by the Cosa using a preferential ballot rather than be appointed by the King. On the long term, the MRPT will consider the possibility of a PM directly elected by the voters.
- The fee for participating in Cosa elections may only be raised if absolutely necessary for the purpose of webhosting and not before a fee for accepting seats in the Senate has been introduced.

On the secret ballot:

- The MRPT is happy with the current amendment to introduce a semi-secret ballot, but would like to go one step further and introduce a full automated secret ballot for Cosâ and Senatorial elections, under the condition that a diverse independent committee has access to the admin account to monitor the elections.

On separation of power:

- The MRPT believes that on the long term further separation of power is needed.
- Too many offices should not be held by too few people. This can however only be achieved alongside a growth of the population.
- When Talossa has more than 1000 citizens full separation of power between the judiciary, executive and legislative should, at least on a national level, be realistic.

On citizenship and privacy:

- The MRPT does not support plans to make immigration laws stricter in the sense that more activity or knowledge from the prospective citizen is required than under the current rules.
- Any contact information received from the prospective by the Interior Ministry or the Chancery is strictly private and may not be shared with third parties outside the Interior Ministry or the Chancery, with the exception of email addresses, which may be shared with the Electoral Commission, and provincial institutions that have tasks similar to that of the Chancery. Provinces may use the chancery database to maintain

their own email database for the purpose of holding elections. The list of email addresses should be regularly updated by the chancery.

- The MRPT believes that Talossan citizenship should not prevent Talossans from pursuing their own interests outside Talossa and will protect the right of Talossans to do so. This includes joining micronations.

On provincial assignment:

- Provincial assignment should remain based on actual geographical location.
- The default option for moving permanently across provincial assignment borders should be a change of province.
- Increasing provincial activity.
- The census should be used to identify citizens who are assigned to the "wrong" province and provide them with the option of changing province.

On Laws of the Kingdom:

- When a project can be completed without any new legislation, it should generally be completed without any new legislation.
- Many provisions of the Organic Law would be better suited as part of Statutory Law.
- Whenever the OrgLaw is reformed in its entirety, a midterm referendum should be held to allow additional legislation during that term.
- The MRPT supports the adoption of the Organic Law proposed by the Committee for Organic and Statutory Reform, but is willing to work with the proponents of other proposals if doing so would result in a new Organic Law which both rids the Organic Law of its many provisions which are better suited to statutory law, and either advances the ideals of the MRPT or retains most of the current features of Talossan Democracy and Monarchy.
- The MRPT does not believe that frequently amending the Organic Law is inherently bad, as doing so allows Talossa to experiment with and perfect government systems

On culture:

- Promoting and protecting Talossan culture, language and traditions. The CUG remains the institution responsible for protecting the Talossan language.
- The government should not try to do what Talossans can do themselves, but instead stimulate private initiative.
- In most cases, the Government should facilitate and support cultural projects, rather than lead or own them.

- The Ziu should in most cases refrain from endorsing cultural practices as being "Talossan" when there is no evidence the practice is in fact strongly related to Talossan culture.

On awards and recognition:

- The MRPT will continue and expand a nationwide dialogue on the creation a formal National Honours System for the purposes of providing a mechanism of recognition for civic contributions & service to our nation and will support the creation of such a system.

On judicial reform:

- The MRPT is committed to reforming the Royal Talossan Bar, in a way that allows competent and dedicated prospective barristers to be admitted to the Bar through a period of apprenticeship and an automated law exam. Unless the Royal Society can guarantee regular, scheduled law courses, attendance and graduation should not be compulsory to seek admission to the Bar. Measures will be sought to ensure that such a reform is reached with broad, nonpartisan consensus.

On the Monarchy and the Royal Household:

- The MRPT is fundamentally monarchist, and supports the hereditary Monarchy. However, we also believe in democratic values, which means the Kings political power should be limited. Additionally, there should be democratic way to remove the monarch if there is large public and parliamentary support for such a step.
- Officers currently part of the royal household should remain within the royal household.

On Talossan webpresence:

- The government should continue paying for Talossa.com and kingdomoftalossa.net.
- The ministry of STUFF should coordinate with the Talossan Web Registrant to find cheaper hosting options for Talossa.com and Kingdomoftalossa.net.
- The government should aim to archive the remaining content of Kingdomoftalossa.net and close the site by 2020.
- An MRPT minister of STUFF will continue making talossa.com both up to date and updateproof by removing unnecessary pages and transferring content to the wiki.
- Finalising the nationalisation of the Talossan database should be a priority for the next government.
- The MRPT is committed to allow both privately run fora and create a government run forum in the form of telecomuna in the future, but might choose to accept a further delay if Talossa is not ready for two separate fora yet.

Financial expectations (start 51st cosa term - start 52nd cosa term):

Election fees 52nd Cosa election: +50\$

Sales (Coins/Stamps/Talossaware): +100\$

Donations Kingdom: +75\$

Donations Talossaid +25\$

Talossaid -25\$

Webhosting reimbursements 50th Cosa: -91.48\$

Webhosting costs 51st Cosa -245.82\$

Additional expenses -30\$

Total -142.30\$

MOTIONS

1. The congress urges MCs not to vote in favour of a whole new orglaw until the proposal has been voted on and approved by the MRPT membership.
2. The Congress urges any member who may be involved in setting Cabinet policy in the next Government to treat the issue of participation apathy from old and newly immigrated Talossans alike as an absolute priority.

7th CONGRESS OPENING SPEECH

BY CONGRESS LEADER, TXOTEU É. DAVINESCU

Greetings,

This year marks my entry into a leadership role with our party as leader of the Seventh Congress of the MRPT. While I am a younger citizen of our beloved Kingdom, I am none the less passionate about seeing it develop, succeed and flourish! The last Cosa saw the MRPT rise to power with an impressive showing in the fall 2016 elections. My goal with this Congress is to position the Party to continue to make sweeping strides for bettering our nation while, hopefully, continuing to be the leading party in Talossa!

ModRad's have been rather effective this Ziu, with an impressive flurry of legislation that has help build the MRPT Brand on a national scale. We aren't just another party... we're a party that gets things done!

The Moderate Radical Party of Talossa... "Proud centrists, European liberals, moderate monarchists, firebrand progressives"... we bring balance to Talossan politics. We are the voice of both reason and sense; the voice a nation can trust and know the Special Interests are NOT the focus of our work. Proudly standing in the breach... the MRPT remains unafraid to fight for what we care about!

In a world split left and right, bring balance... Vote MRPT, the Reasonable Alternative

Now, it is my honor to officially open the 7th Congress of the Moderate Radicals Party of Talossa. May this Congress be an effective and solid foundation, setting a solid course for the term to come!

6TH CONGRESS (50TH COSA)

18 Oct - 15 Nov, 2016

Lüc da Schir / Ian Plätschisch

MC CANDIDATES AND SENÄTS ENDORSEMENTS

MC CANDIDATES:

Plätschisch (1) (Party Whip)

da Dhi (2)

Soleighlfred (3)

Davis (4)

E. da Schir (5)

Valtadestreça (6)

da Schir (11)

SENÄTS ENDORSEMENTS:

The MRPT endorses **Sevastáin Pinátsch** for Atatürk's Senate race 7-0

The MRPT endorses **Lüc da Schir** for Benito's Senate race 7-0

The MRPT does not endorse anybody for Fiova's Senate race, 6-1 with a write-in vote for Miestrâ Schivâ

The MRPT endorses **Ma la Mha** (provided he runs) for Florencia's Senate race 4-3 (the other votes being for not endorsing anyone)

The MRPT does not endorse anybody for Vuode's Senate race, 5-1-1 with one write-in vote each for Ben Putnam and Eđo Grischun

50-WORD STATEMENT

"The MRPT provides an alternative to uncompromising radicalism and boring conservatism. We want to reach across the aisle and work together with other parties to provide solutions. Our perfect voting record and tireless work in the legislature has led to much-needed democratic reform, a responsible monarchy, and individual freedom."

MANIFESTO

On micronations:

- No diplomatic relations with "bug-micronations". The government should not abuse its diplomatic powers.
- The Foreign Ministry should try to investigate what serious, "like minded" "micronations" are currently active and the potential risks and benefits associated with various forms of diplomatic contacts with such nations, within the limits of the Afaes Utphätseshti Act.

On the Senate:

- Party endorsement should not count in any way for Senatorial elections.
- Provinces should be in charge of electing Senators.
- Use of a preferential voting method for senatorial elections conducted by the Chancery.
- Introduce a small fee for accepting seats in the Senate.

On the Cosa:

- Introducing mandatory and binding candidate lists for the Cosâ.
- On the long term Talossa needs a Real Cosâ, which will be achieved by a combination of population growth and a decrease in the size of the Cosâ to sixty seats.
- The Seneschal should be elected by the Cosa rather than be appointed by the King. On the long term, the MRPT will consider the possibility of a PM directly elected by the voters.

On the secret ballot:

The MRPT is happy with the current amendment to introduce a semi-secret ballot, but would like to go one step further and introduce a full automated secret ballot for Cosâ and Senatorial elections, under the condition that a diverse independent committee has access to the admin account to monitor the elections.

On separation of power:

- The MRPT believes that on the long term further separation of power is needed.
- Too many offices should not be held by too few people. This can however only be achieved alongside a growth of the population.
- When Talossa has more than 1000 citizens full separation of power between the judiciary, executive and legislative should, at least on a national level, be realistic.

On citizenship and privacy:

- The MRPT does not support plans to make immigration laws stricter in the sense that more activity or knowledge from the prospective citizen is required than under the current rules.
- Any contact information received from the prospective by the Immigration Ministry or the Chancery is strictly private and may not be shared with third parties outside the Ministry of Immigration or the Chancery, with the exception of email addresses, which may be shared with the committee to monitor secret ballot elections, and provincial institutions that have tasks similar to that of the Chancery. The list of email addresses should be regularly updated by the chancery.

- The MRPT believes that Talossan citizenship should not prevent Talossans from pursuing their own interests outside Talossa and will protect the right of Talossans to do so. This includes joining micronations.

On culture and enterprise:

- Promoting and protecting Talossan culture, language and traditions.
- The government should not try to do what Talossans can do themselves, but instead stimulate private initiative.
- In most cases, the Government should facilitate and support cultural projects, rather than lead or own them.
- When a project can be completed without any new legislation, it should generally be completed without any new legislation.
- The Ziu should in most cases refrain from endorsing cultural practices as being "Talossan" when there is no evidence the practice is in fact strongly related to Talossan culture.

On judicial reform:

The MRPT is committed to reforming the Royal Talossan Bar, in a way that allows competent and dedicated prospective barristers to be admitted to the Bar through a period of apprenticeship and an automated law exam. Unless the Royal Society can guarantee regular, scheduled law courses, attendance and graduation should not be compulsory to seek admission to the Bar. Measures will be sought to ensure that such a reform is reached with broad, nonpartisan consensus.

On the Monarchy:

- The MRPT is fundamentally monarchist, and supports the hereditary Monarchy. However, we are also committed to taking measures to make the Monarchy more acceptable to the Republican segment of the population and make the Monarchy more accountable to all the people. These measures should include the introduction of a democratic option to remove a Monarch when there is a large public and parliamentary support for such a step.
- The veto power of the King over statutes should be converted to a suspensive veto which can be overridden by a supermajority of the Ziu during the same session as the veto was issued, or by a simple majority of the Ziu during the session following the veto subject to a vote of the people in a referendum.

On the provinces:

- Provincial assignment should remain based on actual geographical location.
- Moving permanently across provincial assignment borders should result in a change of province.
- Increasing provincial activity.

On other issues:

- Many provisions of the Organic Law would be better suited as part of Statutory Law.

- Promote the development and expansion of a formal National Honours System for the purposes of providing a mechanism of recognition for civic contributions & service to our nation.
- The Talossan government should start paying for its own web presence.

MOTIONS

Motion 1. The congress advises that the next government should make it a top priority that the Kingdom should start paying the web maintenance costs currently paid for by the King.

Motion 2. The congress moves that the next Prime Minister should advise their ministers to focus on a single important issue each and deliver on that before the end of their term in office, rather than attempting to do multiple things at once and failing to do so.

Motion 4. The congress moves to support RZ22 (The OrgLaw Standing Committee Bill No. 1 (Article 9)) with the following 50 words statement: "There are many small details currently in the Organic Law which would be better suited as statutes. This amendment moves many of these small details to el Lexhatx, making the Organic Law more concise and accessible."

Motion 5. The congress moves to support RZ23 (The Mandatory Cosa Lists Act and Amendment) with the following 50 words statement: "This amendment will make political parties more accountable to voters, as parties will now be required to provide voters with candidate lists for the Cosa. Voters deserve to know who will represent them, not just what party, and this amendment will ensure voters have access to this information."

Motion 6. The congress moves to support RZ26 (The Ranked Choice is the Best Choice Amendment) with the following 50 words statement: "This amendment improves the voting system used for Senate elections. The system currently in use, First-Past-the-Post, discourages races between more than two candidates and allows a candidate to win without earning a majority of the vote. Ranked Choice voting is more representative of voters and creates more competitive elections."

Motion 7. The congress moves to support RZ28 (Túischac'h Disentrenchment Amendment) with the following 50 words statement: "While well-meaning, the previous change to the process of electing a Túischac'h has served only to leave the Cosa perpetually without a Túischac'h. This amendment switches back to the old system of Túischac'h selection, while still mandating that the King consult party leaders before choosing a Túischac'h."

Motion 8. The congress moves to support RZ29 (The Joseph McCarthy Amendment) with the following 50 words statement: "This amendment rids the Organic Law of a vague clause allowing a person to be banished if he/she engages in "anti-Talossan" activities. As there is no clear definition as to what is "anti-Talossan," this clause is easy to abuse and could be used to infringe upon individual freedoms."

6th CONGRESS OPENING SPEECH

BY CONGRESS LEADER LÜC DA SCHIR

Fellow Moderate Radicals, dearest guests, it's a pleasure to welcome you to the

SIXTH CONGRESS OF THE MODERATE RADICAL PARTY OF TALOSSA!

It's been three years since I last led a Congress (I hope I haven't forgotten how to do so!). And what an eventful triplet of years they were! Our party's national relevance has grown and grown, to the point that a massive amount of ModRad legislation has been passed by our MZs in the Cosâ and in the Senäts, fulfilling a lot of promises we made in our Manifestoes. We have led two governments (coming within a vote of leading a third one) and held pluralities in the Senate thrice in the last three Cosas (including the entirety of the current one).

The conundrum is - how can we keep moving forward, how can we keep improving Talossa and our party at this point in time? Three years were enough for three centre-left coalitions to rise and fall, and for a new centre-right coalition to take their place. In all these years, a mostly bipolar political system (RUMP vs. non-RUMP) formed from a loose opposition and shattered, so that we find ourselves today in a radically different situation, despite the RUMP at the helm again as it did in October 2013. How do we move forward, as far as our position in the political scene of the Regipäts is concerned, from now onwards? With so much of our manifesto enshrined into law, will we find new motivations and goals to better Talossa?

The cornerstones of our politics are still firm. The Moderate Radicals as now as three years ago remain the Reasonable Alternative to the two main political blocks of right- and left- wingers. We call ourselves proud centrists, European liberals, moderate monarchists, firebrand progressives. We do not let coalition deals water down our tenets - we are pragmatic dealmakers that in the end Get Things Done in the Cosa and in the Senate. We leave partisan bickering to others: we prefer building bridges and collaborating. Talossa isn't made better by a stubborn MZ who refuses to bend his will to what in his opinion is an Evil Government/Opposition*. Does it mean we are not passionate about our beliefs? No. Look at the bills we passed: I'd argue that nowhere did we get any less than what we aimed for. We recently got called the "ultimate compromising, carefully reformist party" and that is true, but the fact that we care about what we stand for and are not afraid to fight for it is no less true as well.

*: Ask the Fortress Senate's four components for proof: three out of four were unseated at the first opportunity, two of them by Moderate Radical candidates. The fourth was the senator for Florencia, the only province that has returned conservative senators in every election since mid-2004.

Alright, I didn't really want to make my speech this long, but I think it was in order that we should set the theme for what I hope will be an eventful and successful Congress and electoral campaign. And before I leave, it's my pleasure to announce that the first confirmed Guest Speaker to this Congress is journalist and political pundit

INXHENÉU CROVÂ!

Inxhenéu marks the first time our party ever invites a guest speaker outside the sphere of partisan politics. I personally enjoy his pieces of journalism a lot and I'm sure he'll deliver an excellent speech, with his independent outlook on Talossan politics. While he prepares his written contribute to our Congress, members will find that I have created all threads necessary to the

submission of amendments and motions for consideration in the first round of voting (20-23 Oct for the Manifesto, 21-26 Oct for the statutes).

Threads have also been created for registering as a MC candidate on the MRPT's party list, and while I'm on it... may I close my opening remarks by, well, remarking that it may very well be that party lists will finally become mandatory in the coming days, and if they do, that's yet another MRPT victory in favour of electoral accountability and party transparency. Huzzah!

GUEST SPEECH

BY INXHENEU CROVÂ

Estimadâs és estimats cüncitaxhiêns,

Let me first thank Senator da Schir for his kind words of introduction, and for providing me the opportunity to address you today.

Permit me also to congratulate you on the launch of your Sixth Party Congress, a testament to your success in building a constituency for your ideas and also to your commitment to the Talossan project.

I would like to share with you some of my thoughts on the future direction of our country. Specifically, how we can get Talossa working better between elections, without losing the fun and spectacle of party politics.

Talossa has a stable constitutional order, and all things considered a fairly developed body of law (ephemera aside, and S:reu Platschisch will be taking care of those in due course, no doubt!) Our parliamentary institutions function fairly effectively, even at our present low level of enthusiasm. There are many recognised countries that would envy our political stability and civic freedom.

It is at the level of administration, that most essential dimension of nation-building, where in my opinion we fall down.

On paper we have Civil Service, but it remains a dead letter.

Our financial affairs are responsibly managed by the Burgermeister, S:reu Perponest, but he is alone in that task, as far as I know, and has had health issues.

S:reu Fuxheir continues to earn his soubriquet of "Resident Miracle Worker" despite his oft-repeated warnings about a lack of assistance in his vital role(s).

Language initiatives have also stalled, both due to a lack of supply but also unfortunately to a lack of public demand.

Our courts maintain a shuffling, fitful existence.

And I need not remind you of our most recent case of Vanishing Minister, that of S:reu Itravilatx.

Moralising about duty and promising to do the same, only with more intensity, is clearly not an answer. Neither is the problematising of politics, as if there is some great reservoir of labour waiting for a non-partisan government.

This is our national conundrum: that a gathering of process-oriented people such as ourselves can't seem to organise their way out of a paper bag between elections.

My suggestion would be to approach the issue as an economic problem.

Campaign clichés aside, most Talosans who show up are interested in the politics of it. So much so that until recently a considerable number of people were prepared to pay US\$40 each year for the privilege of participating in our elections.

This tax on democracy is thankfully now defunct. We don't really need the money, as the pile of unused dollars in our Treasury attests, and asking for hard cash online clearly discriminated against our younger and more financially marginal citizens.

However knowing the economic value that quite a few of our citizens put on the political process is an opportunity. We can use this understanding to further our country's prestige and to reach our national goals beyond the political dimension.

My proposal is this: let us replace the flat US dollar party registration fee with a levy proportionate to Cosa seats won, payable in an electronic version of our own national currency.

Each citizen would receive a minimum amount as a right, so that they can elect themselves to the Cosa if they wish.

Beyond this, the necessary fees could be collected from one's fellow citizens, either as donations or as the result of commerce. It could also be earned by working in the unglamorous fields of administration, the law or linguistics.

How would this help solve our national conundrum?

A functioning "pocket" economy would be a matter of considerable national prestige. It would make Talossa a leader among "nation-like communities", and would be an additional talking point when trying to attract new immigrants.

It would provide governments with an opportunity to prioritise among nation-building projects. It would allow them to offer a concrete incentive to people who cooperate in helping them achieve their aims, even if those people are not necessarily in sympathy with that government's ideology - since they could turn their "pay" into the basis of a political challenge later.

The old fee was a tax that discriminated against those without cash to spare, or those that didn't have credit cards or possibly even a bank account. Using our own money, the "wealth" of a participant is based on how much time and effort they are prepared to devote to serving the country, not on their particular life circumstances outside of Talossa.

This is not only more socially just but might actually encourage greater commitment (if nothing else due to a diabolical combination of the money illusion and the sunk cost fallacy!)

To take an example, if you had the competency to lead a foundation class in el ghlep, (or even successfully complete one as a student) you could get more of the means to fulfil your ambition to get elected, regardless of the political colour of the government that paid you. Of course even if the reason you started it is political, you might even find that you enjoy the "work" you engaged in.

And even if you don't personally care for politics, you can help your friends or show support to an admired public figure via your donations, helping to cement personal bonds and contributing to a healthy public life. Eventually, it might be possible to spend the money earned on goods or services offered by private enterprise.

There is an extensive literature on what is known as "complementary currency". The common thread is that these upstart means of payment are all conceived in mainly social and ethical rather than commercial terms. They are used to encourage local, community based mobilisation of resources that are otherwise marginal to the mainstream economy. They are often designed for use by people who are poorly served by the financial system, whether due to a specific economic crisis or long-term social exclusion.

The application in a Talossan context is obvious. We are a small, multicultural country with a widely scattered population, who primarily interact asynchronously. Anything that allows us to build better and deep community links can only be to the good.

The devil is in the detail of course, though I am convinced that there are enough people motivated politically to make such a scheme viable. It may also be there are alternative incentives we can offer either instead of or alongside a complementary currency, such as a more extensive honours system, to encourage socially useful activity. After all, as Napoleon Bonaparte is supposed to have said, "it is by baubles men are led", and for a tinpot constitutional monarchy we are rather parsimonious on the self-esteem building front.

Whatever the case, I hope in this 50th Cosa campaign, and in the Clarks to follow, you and your counterparts in our other political parties will take inspiration from the spirit, if not necessarily the detail, of these remarks. Please don't just suggest "cookbooks" or a TalossaFest as the answer to our problems!

Present and future Talossans are counting on you to keep the dream alive, and I personally can't wait to see what you come up with!

Meirci

GUEST SPEECH

BY MARTÍ-PAIR FURXHEIR

Azul and good morning, MRPT members. It is with nonpartisan pleasure that I open your congress. Please wait until I will have left the building before talking about partisan politics, because as you know, as Secretary of State, I am bound to be neutral toward political parties.

But neutral isn't apolitical, and it doesn't mean that I have to hold my tongue and remain silent.

Let's be honest, this is the 50th Cosa election. The 50th. It is a tremendous milestone and I remember with excitement when the 30th Cosa election occurred.... Twice!

Indeed, for those that don't know, the Cosa numbering scandal meant that we all thought we were in the 31st Cosa when in reality, we were in the 28th.

Initially met with disappointment, we realized that the situation gave us a second chance. A second chance to celebrate the 30th Cosa which initially had been met with apathy and indifference.

We had the chance to fully celebrate a major milestone as the Cosa could celebrate its 30th Cosa election!

You are surely wondering why I am talking about this and are thinking that it is with excitement that I am awaiting the 50th Cosa election, so that we can celebrate once again a "decade" of cosa elections.

But it's not. I have a quiz for you guys. I have 3 questions which I want you to answer in your mind before we move forward with my speech.

The first is easy, who discovered the Cosa Numbering Scandal? If you've followed me since my return to Talossa, you know that I did, when I was building the database.

The second isn't that simple, but it's not a major mystery either. Why did the Cosa Number Scandal even occur? The answer, if you've followed me, is that former SoS Charles Sauls mistakenly increased the Cosa number for 3 Clarks instead of the Clark number, without anyone noticing.

That leads me to my third and final question, what did the Kingdom of Talossa do to celebrate the 30th Cosa? The answer will come at the end of the speech, so hold on for a few minutes.

But regardless of the actual answer, there is a deeper question I want to ask from all of you.

The question is where is Talossa going? We've gone thru 49 Cosas already, and we are starting the 50th. I feel like its a major crossroad.

What did we learn in those 49 Cosas? What did we achieve? What failed?

This series of questioning isn't futile. I believe that major anniversaries are perfect occasions for reevaluating our past, and possibly choosing a new road for the future.

When I joined Talossa as a prospective in 2000, there was a written history exam that you had to study for by reading Ar Pats.

That history book were subjectively written by our founder and former King and eventually, the practice justly disappeared as many pages of our history books were filled with propaganda to bite back at old forgotten enemies.

But what did we replace Ar Pats with? An hard to navigate Wiki that is omitting a lot of data, and provides no linear narrative.

I do love the wiki, but it's not enough to get the full story.

So, at the crossroad where we are now, do we know where we're from? Do we have a clear sense of our past? I do not feel like its the case.

I have my cross to bear on this, I could have spent more time on my own book so that it could be unveiled for the 50th. I could have imported more data into the database from the years I was absent.

I'd love for more documentation on our rich history.

But at the same time, it would be an error to only look back. We have the present, and the future to tackle.

So let's talk about the present, the now. How many truly active citizens do we have? How can we recruit new citizens and keep them active?

In the past, before Facebook and Twitter, Talossa was more than a micronation, more than a political arena, more than a linguistic brotherhood.

Talossa was a social media network spanning the globe! It felt good to go to a place where everyone knows your name. It felt great to share your triumph to cheer with friends or to express your tragedies to receive empathy with people who understood what you went thru.

Today, we have Facebook for that..

In 2000, I was trying to get my friends to join Talossa to get the opportunity to learn about people from different countries.

Today we have Twitter for that.

In the early 2000, I got to hear about stories not-mentioned in my local newspaper or sites like CNN from other corners of the world from Wittenberg, from the eye witness account of many Talossans spread across the globe.

Today we have Reddit for that.

So, when I talk to friends, I see no reason to get them in Talossa, unless they love politics or linguistics and guess what?

I don't have that many friends interested enough in either..

But not all is hopeless! There are solutions! The Talossan Risk game was interesting and I spoke to friends about possibly playing online boardgames with people from Talossa. They at least raised an eyebrow in curiosity.

I honestly think that to get people interested in Talossan politics or the Talossan language, we should first get them interested in Talossa itself. In being a Talossan.

In 2003, Ron and I were swapping CDs full of songs by mail and talking hours on the phone about our kids, our careers, exchanging jokes, etc..

But in Talossa, we were tireless rivals who bickered and fought over trivial issues, accusing each other of being various obscene things. People turned up to see how far we would go, without realizing that it was all in good fun and we often planned these outbursts over a phone call.

It was also a period during which I hired no less than 4 different Talossans to work for my company, part time.

We were more than a online social community like Facebook. We were friends, we were a gang, we were more than political parties or people interested in a language.

We had found common grounds.

Can we find a way, in the world of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Skype, to make social interactions in Talossa special enough to create social bonds outside of politics?

Can we get a way to engage socially not only existing Talossans but also prospectives, and even friends of Talossans?

Which projects can we do in the 50th Cosa that could bring a new dawn of social activity both on and off Wittenberg?

Sadly, I am not here to provide answers, it's your congress after all.

But that leads me to my final subject. The future of Talossa.

Talossa evolved a lot, from the changes in the Cosa composition, the creation of the Senate, to the various changes in the Courts, multiple immigration reforms and more recently, the de-politicization of the Chancery.

It's unclear how Talossa will be in 50 Cosas, but that future is being built, act by act. I personally tried to set fixed election dates in the last Clark, but unless every party gets on board, we can't prepare Talossa for its future, whatever is in stores.

So, perhaps, just perhaps, political parties should start planning for the future, and by future, I do not mean the next Cosa, or even the next year. I mean starting to build a multi-year plan to ensure the future and the prosperity of our great nation.

Perhaps it's time to stop thinking of the next 3 months, and instead, set long-term goals and plans over years and perhaps even decades.

Again, I do not have those answers. It's your congress after all.

But I hope I set a tone which will inspire you to greatness. I hope I opened your mind to new ideas.

I hope I managed to start a conversation which will help steer Talossa toward a brighter future.

Oh, and the celebrations for the 30th Cosa you wonder? As far as know, they are lost to history... A far as I know, they are forgotten after almost 15 years of progress.

Please, don't let our 50th Cosa pass by uncelebrated, and don't let those celebrations be forgotten to the ides of time.

Have a good congress, and good luck at the 50th Cosa election.

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE UPCOMING CAMPAIGN

BY GLÜC DA DHI

Azul everyone,

Lüc told me it was ok to use the podium to say a couple of things about the upcoming campaign, so I'd like to thank him for that. I wrote this in a bit of a hurry (ok, to be fair, it took me three days, but it still felt like a hurry to me), so I hope there's not too many mistakes in here :P

Wednesday, even though it was my birthday, I woke up nauseous after only a few hours of sleep. It was not a good day. What happened in the US is terrifying to me. It's not OK.

Don't worry, I know there are people in Talossa and in the MRPT who preferred Trump over Clinton and I get that people are sick of hearing about the US, so I'm not going to go on a rant about why I think that. In Talossa the party lines are drawn quite differently from the rest of the world. Each party has its unique Talossan ideology that doesn't match one on one with the politics of the rest of the world and that's cool.

The point I was trying to make is that in the rest of the world there is a divide going on that will not be easily healed. A divide that concerns the deepest of our personal convictions about right and wrong. Thinking about this made me put some of the problems in Talossa in a different perspective.

In the past years we have gotten into personal and emotional arguments in Talossa about politics. How should we change the orglaw be changed, who should lead the cabinet, who is responsible for what, etc. Questions that are relevant but never needed to become so personal. Sometimes it got to the point where people left or had to take a break because they no longer felt part of the community.

For me it also got to the point that I actually felt that it would be a problem for Talossa if Citaxhien Miestra or Sir AD became PM. I also am afraid to admit that occasionally I have felt relief about Miestra not being here for a while to confront us with our flaws...

Like I said, since then I've gained some perspective. Because the issues that people got into arguments about weren't, as far as I could see, about the core of our moral identities, they were about personalities and about our different ideas on how to make Talossa better and the flaws in each other.

In fact, Miestra is very active on facebook and while I'm not, I do occasionally read her posts and they only make me respect her and remind me that to me, her ideas are much more sensible than those of many others. And this reminds how wrong I was to feel threatened by her. And how we all as Talossans have been wrong occasionally in letting things get personal.

I know there is still hurt out there, a lot of which we are not responsible for, and it would be foolish to think we're going to solve it all with some fancy speeches. The best we can do I guess is look at ourselves and try to not let politics get more important than our sense of community.

The truth is that we all want Talossa to be active, and democratic, and diverse. We just disagree on how to get there. And many of our political opponents have put a lot of time and effort in building Talossa, and not always do people get the recognition they deserve for this.

The truth is also that Talossa is a community that lets people from all across the world, with different ideas and a completely different worldview get in touch with each other and discuss all kinds of stuff, language, music, world politics, whatever. People with similar ideas about the world can disagree vehemently about Talossan affairs. However, the opposite is also true. For example, two people with a completely different worldview can agree on the way forward for Talossa, and even found a Talossan party together. That's kind of cool right?

Another truth is that negative activity was a problem last election, but this election we are faced with a completely opposite problem: it's awfully quiet in Talossa. When we had something to fight about, it motivated people to be active and challenge each other. Now it looks like people aren't motivated to be active at all. Another reminder that some sense of conflict isn't really that bad, we just need to find a balance in which we can disagree vehemently about politics, but not let things get too personal. And we need to find ways to engage Talossans in Talossan activities without having to be active in partisan politics.

For those who haven't done so yet, I would recommend reading the speeches of Inxheneu Crova and Marti-Pair Furxheir. I like the idea of s;reu Crova to introduce some sort of reward system beyond what we have now, even though I'm still unsure about the implementation. Particularly, who decides what kind of actions get rewarded, the government? I do see some objections to that, but that shouldn't stop us from trying to find a system that works. Mpf raises some very good questions that aren't very easy to answer and makes an important point about planning for the long term future of Talossa. I hope that despite the current calm in Talossa, we do manage to find a way to honour the big moment for Talossa that is the 50th Cosa.

Anyway, back to what I was trying to say. Don't get me wrong, I hope we do well this election. We have the best, ideologically consistent platform, with concrete, realisable goals for Talossa. We have a great Cosa team with both experienced legislators and ambitious new citizens. Last term we proved again that we are the party that best represents its voters, by being the only major party not to miss a vote (not the first time we achieved this feat), and by working together with other parties to pass legislation on important planks of our platform, such as a major step towards mandatory party lists. Ian Plätschisch in particular deserves credit for this. We also have the best leader, Lüc da Schir, guiding us through good times and difficult times with steady hand. I look forward to hearing his closing speech (assuming there is one).

But don't just get obsessed with politics. Improving Talossa can be done in many ways, through legislation, but also by taking up non-partisan administrative functions, like helping to update the website, building a civil service or joining the college of arms, and by just doing something fun, organise a game, discuss recipes, talk with Talossan friends online. If you just focus on winning elections, you lose part of the Talossan experience.

And like I said, I hope we do well, but remember that our opponents want the best for Talossa as well. If they get personal, part of that is because they too care about Talossa. And if people criticise us, it helps us do better next time. If another party wins, it IS ok. If the RUMP wins, that IS ok. This government may not have been as successful as we hoped it would be, but my impression was that bipartisan cooperation with the RUMP went pretty well. Sir Cresti is a good PM, a good person and a great Talossan. If the FreeDems win, that IS ok. The FreeDems and before them the ZRT have brought diversity and renewed activity in Talossan politics and their attack on flawed institutions is healthy for Talossa. Dien too, is a great Talossan who stands for his principles and would make a good PM. If some other party rises and competes with us for the centrist vote, that IS ok too. New ideas help Talossa move forward. And lastly, if Sir AD or Sir Mick or Lord Hooligan or Carlüs Xheraltescu or Dame Miestra became more active again, even though we might lose some seats as a result of it, it would still be great news. In fact, what should worry us these particular elections is that we may be getting too little competition from the other parties. As a result of this we are about to

gain seats this election, I have no doubt about that. What we should hope for is that other parties do well too.

I wish everyone a positive and succesful campaign.

5TH CONGRESS (49TH COSA)

15 Dec 2015 - 15 Feb, 2016

Ian Plätschisch / Lüc da Schir

PARTY ELECTIONS RESULTS

PARTY LEADER:

Lüc da Dhi - 4 votes

Ian Plätschisch - 2 votes

MC CANDIDATES AND SENÄTS ENDORSEMENTS

MC CANDIDATES:

Plätschisch (1)

da Dhi (2)

E. da Schir (3)

Vataldestreça (4)

da Lhiun (11)

SENÄTS ENDORSEMENTS:

[no info]

50-WORD STATEMENT

1. Party Statement

The MRPT provides an alternative to uncompromising radicalism and boring conservatism. We want to reach across the aisle and work together with other parties to provide solutions. We don't make changes for the sake of change, but only when changes will lead to democratic reform, constitutional monarchy and individual freedom.

2. 3/4 Majority Amendment Statement IN FAVOR

The King currently has an absolute power to block any amendment to the Organic Law that he pleases. This is an unacceptable situation for any democracy. The $\frac{3}{4}$ Majority Amendment removes that absolute veto, while still allowing the King a reduced, constitutional role in the amendment process.

3. Automatic Voting Validation Amendment Statement IN FAVOR

The Automatic Voting Validation Amendment dramatically reduces the time it takes to certify elections without reducing the validity of elections, and will thus decrease the likelihood of a delay in the commencement of a succeeding government session due to waiting for an election to be certified.

MANIFESTO

On micronations:

- No diplomatic relations with "bug-micronations". The government should not abuse its diplomatic powers.
- The Foreign Ministry should try to investigate what serious, "like minded" "micronations" are currently active and the potential risks and benefits associated with various forms of diplomatic contacts with such nations, within the limits of the Afaes Utphätseshti Act.

On political reform:

- Party endorsement should not count in any way for Senatorial elections.
- Provinces should be in charge of electing Senators.
- Use of a preferential voting method for senatorial elections conducted by the Chancery.
- Introducing mandatory and binding candidate lists for the Cosâ.
- An elected Seneschal, either direct or indirect (via the Cosâ) is an option the MRPT will on the long term consider.

On separation of power:

- The MRPT believes that on the long term further separation of power is needed.
- Too many offices should not be held by too few people. This can however only be achieved alongside a growth of the population.
- When Talossa has more than 1000 citizens full separation of power between the judiciary, executive and legislative should, at least on a national level, be realistic.
- On the long term Talossa needs a Real Cosâ, which will be achieved by a combination of population growth and a decrease in the size of the Cosâ to sixty seats.

On the secret ballot:

- The MRPT is happy with the current amendment to introduce a semi-secret ballot, but would like to go one step further and introduce a full automated secret ballot for Cosâ and Senatorial elections, under the condition that a diverse independent committee has access to the admin account to monitor the elections.

On citizenship and privacy:

- The MRPT does not support plans to make immigration laws stricter in the sense that more activity or knowledge from the prospective citizen is required than under the current rules.
- Any contact information received from the prospective by the Immigration Ministry or the Chancery is strictly private and may not be shared with third parties outside the Ministry of Immigration or the Chancery, with the exception of email addresses, which may be shared with the committee to monitor secret ballot elections, and provincial institutions that have tasks similar to that of the Chancery. The list of email addresses should be regularly updated by the chancery.
- The MRPT believes that Talossan citizenship should not prevent Talossans from pursuing their own interests outside Talossa and will protect the right of Talossans to do so. This includes joining micronations.

On the role of the government:

- The government should not try to do what Talossans can do themselves, but instead stimulate private initiative.
- In most cases, the Government should facilitate and support cultural projects, rather than lead or own them.
- When a project can be completed without any new legislation, it should generally be completed without any new legislation.
- The Ziu should in most cases refrain from endorsing cultural practices as being "Talossan" when there is no evidence the practice is in fact strongly related to Talossan culture.

On the Monarchy:

- The MRPT is fundamentally monarchist, and supports the hereditary Monarchy. However, we are also committed to taking measures to make the Monarchy more acceptable to the Republican segment of the population if a compromise can be reached with broad support. These measures may on the long term include reducing the political powers of the Monarch and making it possible to remove a Monarch in a democratic way when there is broad support in the Ziu and the populace.

On finance:

- Introduce a small fee for accepting seats in the Senate.
- The Talossan government should start paying for its own web presence.

On provincial assignment:

- Provincial assignment should remain based on actual geographical location.
- Moving permanently across provincial assignment borders should result in a change of province.
- The MRPT is committed to keep pushing forward its own already Hoppered proposals regarding province catchment area reform.

On other issues:

- Promoting and protecting Talossan culture, language and traditions.
- Increasing provincial activity.

MOTIONS

[no info]

5th CONGRESS OPENING SPEECH

BY CONGRESS LEADER IAN PLÄTSCHISCH

It is my honor and pleasure to open the 5th MRPT Congress. We certainly have had an interesting eight months since the last Congress, an eight months in which I, personally, have learned a lot about Talossa and it's workings. Over the last term, our ministers have served soundly, our legislators have advanced our progressive, yet prudent and thoughtful, agenda, and our members have worked to make Talossa a better and happier place. Our course from here is a little uncertain (indeed, that is one reason the Congress is held!), though, wherever we end up, I trust the MRPT will continue on it's path to advance the moderate, practical, and realistic ideals we have always stood for and will stand for.

Roaring applause

The MRPT bridges the gap between Talossa's conservatives and liberals. As such, we are in the position to ensure compromises can be reached, to ensure Talossa doesn't mire in the past while also ensuring Talossa doesn't crash and burn into the future. This is the necessity of moderatism, and why the moderate movement will always be a driving force in our politics.

Thus, welcome to the 5th MRPT Congress. I encourage everyone to help shape the party's, and by extension the nation's, future.

GUEST SPEECH

BY ÉOVART GRISCHUN, SENATOR FOR VUODE

Delegates and ordinary members, guests and observers,

It is my pleasure and an absolute honour to be invited here to address you all at your party conference. My gratitude is genuine, so, thank you. Thank you all.

Let me take an opportunity to congratulate Senator Da Schir on his re-election as leader of the MRPT. I wish him all the very best of fortune for his tenure as leader and I wish the MRPT, as a whole, all the very best of luck in the coming general election.

I have always been fond of the MRPT, despite my political differences with the party, and I have been pleased to see how the party has conducted itself over the past years with integrity, dignity and the upmost professionalism. I applaud you all.

As I come here to make this guest speaker appearance, I am reminded of a time, not so long ago, where the Talossan Press noted that I had a "Stacatto" approach to public speaking. I warn you all just now, this will probably go much the same way. You see, I never went to University (or College) and, so, I didn't learn the skills of essay writing or argument making past a high school level. I only learned what an oxford comma was via Google Search at some point in my mid-twenties. I don't sit and plan the paragraph structure of my writings in advance. I pretty much have a spark of a thought and run with it and a short bit of time later, well, my brain dump is floating around on the internet for all to see. I am certainly not an "Ian Tameron" with my words. So, in advance, please forgive me if I go all stacatto or venture off on mild to major tangents.

That said, I'm not just appearing here, at your convention, to flap my gums (or rattle my keyboard, lol). I do have a message, and I'll try my very best to convey it in a manner that makes some sense.

I am hopeful for an "Era of Cooperation" in Talossa.

I don't just mean that I'd like to see Miestra and AD give it a rest for a while. I don't say it in the "let's build a City on a Hill, shining beacon of light style" kind of way. Rather, I say it because I think our nation needs it.

There are things needing done, that can only be done, by working together. Hence, why I am hopeful for an era of cooperation.

Okay, "era" is probably a stupidly strong word. However, in our tiny country, two or three election cycles can feel epic in duration. Plus, "Era of Cooperation" sounds a heck of a lot better than "I am hopeful we can all get along for at least eight or nine months". Wait, hold on. Yep, let's laugh out loud. A snowball has more of a chance surviving in the big bad fire than there being a chance that the entire Talossan political spectrum can get along with each other for more than twenty seven minutes. But, I can hope.

Again, why do I hope for an era of cooperation? Again, because, I think we need it.

I truly believe our Organic Law, while being a friggin' awesome constitution, has reached it's date of expiration. I don't think it "fits" with what our Nation has become today. The Kingdom has changed in volume and flavour dramatically over the past five years, and the Organic Law, I feel, just does not mesh well with today's Talossa.

Recently, we have had "CRISIS". Wow, strong word. But, yeah, it's a crisis. The constitution of this country has elements that simply do not fit, at the most fundamental level, with the democratic will of the citizenry of this country.

It's goes deeper than just the Proclamation crisis though. A few years back, for example, an entire re-write of Article XIX took place due to multiple mismatches between the tenants of the constitution and the tenants of the people.

We have a document that has swathes of text that should be Statute. We have a set of principles that don't actually match the principles of the majority anymore. We have spelling errors, We have grammar errors, We have syntax errors. We have sections that we are not actually all that sure are recorded properly because they might have been changed a while back, but we're not really sure either way.

The constitution has reached the end of its life. It used to fit what Talossa once was. But, that's not Talossa anymore.

We've had reunision since then. We've had mass immigration from outside of the GTA since then. The fundamental composition of our country has simply changed since then.

And, along the way, the document has had so many amendments that it's been twised and contorted to the point that it doesn't even resemble the original document anyway. If the Organic Law, as it reads today, were a vehicle .. It would be a scrapyard ringer.

Let's look at it this way. Name any other country that has daily raging political battles over it's constitution. Name any other country that constantly needs to ammend it's constitution.

Talossa has multiple constitutional amendments EVERY. SINGLE. CYCLE.

Talossa has a political spectrum that is, in whole, divided and fractured over the constitutional elements of the Nation's Laws. Now, while it is normal to have political parties that disagree with the constitutional status quo, anywhere else on the planet, those sorts of parties are in the fringe. Not here. It is mainstay and somewhat fashionable to hold a contrary view over major articles of the constitution. MAJOR ARTICLES. This is not a sign of a healthy nation.

Let's look to our neighbour state. The USA has a constitution that is so difficult to ammend, that the very thought of tinkering would probably end in an impeachment hearing. The citizens of the USA stand by their constitution so steadfast that they would shoot you if you try to take it away from them.

Sure, there are the strange and extreme groups that want to chip away at it. And heck, there are no doubt multiple interpretations of particular Articles. And yes, there is gross division on agreement on a particular section in regards to guns. But, in whole, the country stands by that constitution, is proud of that constitution and would fight hard and die harder in defence of that constitution.

That's the way it should be.

A country should be proud of its constitution. A country should love and cherish its constitution. The citizens of a country should be able to stand shoulder to shoulder and, together, no matter their day-to-day differences, say "We fuckin' dare ye" to any outside influence that threatens the smallest ink blot on that document.

Talossa used to be like that.

We used to love our Organic Law. Without difference. Without reservation.

It's not like that anymore.

I am hopeful for an Era of Cooperation. For, a job needs doing. We all need to sit down in our chambers and round our tables and get that job done. Not just for the betterment of a tatty piece of paper. But, rather, to build the foundations of the long lasting future of our nation and endurance of the constitution of this country.

We need more than a commission.

We need more than a convention.

We NEED a national conversation.

And, we need it now.

I thank you, warmly, and most kindly.

With love for my neighbours, and yours, for Talossa.

God bless us all and God save the King.

GUEST SPEECH

BY MUDITENENS TRESPLET, LEADER OF THE FREE DEMOCRATS, SENATOR FOR MARICOPA

My apologies for waiting until mere hours before voting begins to post this speech. As everyone is no doubt aware, I resigned my position as President of the Free Democrats a couple months ago due to a situation that is consuming much of my time. Indeed, I wish I could have more time to devote to Talossa, and hopefully after the next government takes office (meaning I am no longer the Interior Minister), I will be able to devote more time to both journalism and my passion for the frozen land to the south.

In any event, I've come to speak without any particular agenda in mind. Though I have considered trying to stick to a certain thought or focal point to the speech, and some have suggested to me that I speak on a certain topic, I figured I'd do what I do best and wing it.

Tensions between our parties are greater than they ever have been. When you enter university, one often given piece of advice is never to choose to room with your best friend, as the two of you will inevitably have disagreements that could leave your relationship in shambles. Indeed, something similar seems to have happened to our two parties. What was once a strong alliance between the former opposition parties under RUMP rule, one that was built before I even joined the Liberal Congress, has now turned into some sort of juvenile game of pointing fingers, with neither of our parties really taking responsibility for what may have went wrong during this last administration. The more one party is accused, the stronger that party returns the favor, and both parties wind up losing in the end as a result.

I campaigned for President of the Free Democrats on a promise to lead a government that welcomed individuals from any party who were well qualified to do their job, and not just appointed as part of the typical coalition process. We're all well aware how it has worked in the past, Party A is getting this cabinet position and that cabinet position, so Party B has to get their fair share of the cabinet as well. Why is that? Why must we horse trade for cabinet positions, as if some positions carry more weight than the other?

The fact is, a government works best when everyone is eager and able to do the job that they are appointed to do, and most of the time politics need not play a role. When a government has individuals who are not able to do their job, the rest of the cabinet may not be able to fulfill their job descriptions either. As I've learned in my only term serving as a Cabinet member (thus far), it is truly a team effort that requires everyone's attention and participation.

I'll be the first to admit that I dropped the ball on a few things. One thing in particular that I wasn't able to completely accomplish was setting

everything up for a potential TalossaFest in the next six months; between other Talossan duties I was taking on, and some Immigration related problems, I wasn't able to get done what I had planned to. While I'm leaving the Interior Ministry in good shape for whomever takes the office after me, I regret that I wasn't able to give my successor the tools he or she would need to easily and quickly implement a plan for a TalossaFest during their term. I could easily blame me dropping the ball on someone else, whether that be another minister or one of my subordinates, but as the Interior Minister, the responsibility ultimately lies on my shoulders.

At the risk of this becoming me going off on several different tangents, I'll try to steer the speech back onto some kind of track. My cabinet of talents promise was one that was similarly shared by both of my opponents, and one that I'm happy to say was continued by my successor. Unfortunately it seems that the cabinet of talents became a controversial issue, as if it wasn't the idea so much as it was the person who was advertising it.

There may be valid concerns about the cabinet of talents idea; for instance, some may not feel as though the Free Democrats can judge a individual's ability to do their job, which is just one possible concern that I thought of off the top of my head right now. Instead the main concern was regarding the Vote of Confidence, something that was initially required of those joining the cabinet of talents to always vote in the affirmative on...which, honestly, isn't much of a concern at all. First and foremost, this concern assumes the worst of the cabinet, in that from the outset, it assumes the government (like always) will ultimately fail. The concern should be a nonstarter on that point alone, as the cabinet of talents is designed specifically not to fail-- everyone does their job or gets replaced, period. Second, voting in the affirmative on the VoC is something that has been required as either a stated or unstated rule of every coalition that has been put together thus far--but for some reason, we shouldn't stipulate a vote in the affirmative on the VoC by members of our own cabinet? I just don't get it.

My point of bringing up the cabinet of talents is thus: we need to start thinking about a Talossa that has risen past partisan politics. Now I get that, for a lot of people, legislating in Talossa is one of the main draws to becoming a citizen. I'll be the first to admit that, yes, having some outlet for my political interests was the main reason I joined. It isn't as if I'm advocating for an abandonment of politics or for completely non-partisan elections, but I hope that we can all be in agreement that the current system of campaigning on the failures of other parties isn't ideal. Obviously this type of campaign strategy is a healthy part of politics, and it's necessary to point out the flaws in other parties' past histories. But in Talossa, this is all we do.

Our entire political landscape thrives on the next big scandal, on the next big faux pas, and it has become such an engrained part of our entire country that we just act as if there is no other alternative. Honestly, in some ways, it's great that the King decided to not proclaim the now infamous amendment, because otherwise we'd be scrambling to figure out something else to talk about and rehash for the next few months. (Though no doubt we'd figure out something to argue about pretty quickly.)

There can be an alternative, if we accept that the alternative being presented is not one presented to bolster any kind of partisan interests. Rather than point out failures, we could introduce new ideas into the political spectrum. Maybe we've taken the coins idea as far as we can over the last decade or so that Talossan citizens have been looking forward to them, and it's time now to

stop campaigning on the notion that "Our party will mint coins, guaranteed-- Not like those other guys, who had less than six months of a term to do it!" I personally feel that a cabinet of talents would be a first step towards moving past failures in government. I'd like to see all of the parties have similar ideas, so that the voters aren't choosing a party based on which party they think will put together a somewhat functioning government (that will abide by its statutory duties), or choosing a party based on the prior actions of another party, but rather, choosing on policy, on new ideas, on what they are passionate about, as they should be. The voter can rest easy knowing that whatever party they choose, the government that comes into power following an election will be made up of those who will do the jobs that are required of them best.

Maybe this is just another pipe dream, another rant from someone who claims to be fed up with Talossan politics yet willfully continues to participate in the process. Feel free to throw tomatoes if you'd like. But, if you can take away anything from my speech, take away this: at the end of the day, we are all citizens of Talossa no matter which party we are affiliated with, and we should all expect something more from our government, regardless of who leads it.

4TH CONGRESS (48TH COSA)

11 Apr - 13 May, 2015

Glüc da Dhi / Lüc da Schir

MC CANDIDATES AND SENÄTS ENDORSEMENTS

MC CANDIDATES:

Itravilatx (1)

Plätschisch (2)

da Fhöglha (3)

E. da Schir (4)

Pinátsch (11)

da Dhi (101)

SENÄTS ENDORSEMENTS:

The MRPT endorses **Txosuè Éiric Rôibeardescù** for the position of Senator of Cézembre.

The MRPT endorses **Sevastáin Pinátsch** for the position of Senator of Atatürk

The MRPT endorses **Pôl d'Aurìbuérg** for the position of Senator of Florencia

50-WORD STATEMENT

The MRPT has proven to be a reliable party, proudly standing by its Manifesto all through the last term in government and delivering what it promised. Our mandate is clear and our ethics are sound. A vote for us is a vote for democratic reform, constitutional monarchism and individual freedom.

MANIFESTO

On micronations:

- No diplomatic relations with "bug-micronations". The government should not abuse its diplomatic powers.
- The Foreign Ministry should try to investigate what serious, "like minded" "micronations" are currently active and the potential risks and benefits associated with various forms of diplomatic contacts with such nations, within the limits of the Afaes Utphätseshti Act.
-

On political reform:

- Party endorsement should not count in any way for Senatorial elections.
- Provinces should be in charge of electing Senators.
- Use of a preferential voting method for senatorial elections conducted by the Chancery.
- Only 50% of the votes in the Senäts is needed for approval of an act or amendment to the OrgLaw.
- Introducing mandatory and binding candidate lists for the Cosâ.
- An elected Seneschal, either direct or indirect (via the Cosâ) is an option the MRPT will on the long term consider.

On separation of power:

- The MRPT believes that on the long term further separation of power is needed.
- Too many offices should not be held by too few people. This can however only be achieved alongside a growth of the population.
- When Talossa has more than 1000 citizens full separation of power between the judiciary, executive and legislative should, at least on a national level, be realistic.
- On the long term Talossa needs a Real Cosâ, which will be achieved by a combination of population growth and a decrease in the size of the Cosâ to sixty seats.

On the secret ballot:

- The MRPT is happy with the current amendment to introduce a semi-secret ballot, but would like to go one step further and introduce a full automated secret ballot for Cosâ and Senatorial elections, under the condition that a diverse independent committee has access to the admin account to monitor the elections.

On citizenship and privacy:

- The MRPT does not support plans to make immigration laws stricter in the sense that more activity or knowledge from the prospective citizen is required than under the current rules.
- Any contact information received from the prospective by the Immigration Ministry or the Chancery is strictly private and may not be shared with third parties outside the Ministry of Immigration or the Chancery, with the exception of email addresses, which may be shared with the committee to monitor secret ballot elections, and provincial institutions that have tasks similar to that of the Chancery. The list of email addresses should be regularly updated by the chancery.

- The MRPT believes that Talossan citizenship should not prevent Talossans from pursuing their own interests outside Talossa and will protect the right of Talossans to do so. This includes joining micronations.

On the role of the government:

- The government should not try to do what Talossans can do themselves, but instead stimulate private initiative.
- In most cases, the Government should facilitate and support cultural projects, rather than lead or own them.
- The Ziu should in most cases refrain from endorsing cultural practices as being "Talossan" when there is no evidence the practice is in fact strongly related to Talossan culture.

On the Monarchy:

- The MRPT is fundamentally monarchist, and supports the hereditary Monarchy. However, we are also committed to taking measures to make the Monarchy more acceptable to the Republican segment of the population if a compromise can be reached with broad support. These measures may on the long term include reducing the political powers of the Monarch and making it easier to remove a Monarch in a democratic way.

On finance:

- Reduce the registration fee for the Cosa and introduce a small fee for accepting seats in the Senate.
- The Talossan government should start paying for its own web presence.

On provincial assignment:

- Provincial assignment should remain based on actual geographical location.
- Closure of provinces to immigration should be abolished.
- Citizens currently assigned to the "wrong" province will be given the choice to change province.
- Moving permanently across provincial assignment borders should result in a change of province.
- The MRPT is committed to keep pushing forward its own already Hoppered proposals regarding province catchment area reform.

On other issues:

- Promoting and protecting Talossan culture, language and traditions.
- Increasing provincial activity.

MOTIONS

[no info]

GUEST SPEECH

BY DR. TXEC DAL NORDSELVÁ

The last coalition government saw tremendous accomplishments that led to fulfilling one of the fondest goals of my colleagues in the MRPT - abolition of the Semi-Permeable Wall. When I was Seneschal, during the 45th Cosa, I had as a personal goal the idea of abolishing the wall, but timing and political mood were not in my favor and so I never pursued it.

There is much in common between the MRPT and the Progressives and we have many things to work together on in the future. I believe if we worked together, as the only non-RUMP monarchists in Talossa, we can see positive changes in our kingdom. Our kingdom has much to do still if we are to see the goals of both our parties accomplished. The coalition governments have been a great success in as much as we have seen true reforms to many areas of Talossan life put forward by members of the coalition, including my own personal project, reform of the Judiciary.

I look forward to our bright futures together!

GUEST SPEECH

BY FRANÇAL IAN LUX, PARTY SECRETARY FOR THE LIBERAL CONGRESS

You know, my first encounter with Talossa was through YouTube. I was watching a list show and it mentioned the beautiful Talossan language we all hope to learn one day. it didn't take me long to realize I wanted to be part of such an interesting community. Now I've involved myself in as many aspect of Talossa as I can.

I may come from a different political leaning as you, but I'd like to think we're all aspiring to accomplish a common goal. Strengthen Talossa, recruit more likeminded people to our kingdom, and foster our culture as any nation would. It's not difficult to find ourselves embroiled in politics and partisanship, but we always have to remember that we are doing what we do for the benefit of our commonalities.

As a member of an alliance party, I'd like to ask you ModRads to find our commonalities so that we may accomplish the things we wish to accomplish. If we can't be allies in paper, let us be allies in courtesy and honour!

Again, thank you for inviting me to speak in such a joyous occasion. I wish you a great and productive event! LONG LIVE TALOSSA!

3RD CONGRESS (47TH COSA)

24 Jul - 14 Aug, 2014

Sevastáin Pinátsch / Glüc da Dhi

PARTY ELECTIONS

Party Leader:

Lüc da Schir (5.05 IRNR)

Glüc da Dhi (2.09 IRNR)

Sevastain Pinatsch (0.24 IRNR)

MC CANDIDATES AND SENÄTS ENDORSEMENTS

MC CANDIDATES:

Pinátsch (1)

Carschaleir (2)

da Fhöglha (3)

da Fhamul (4)

da Schir (11)

da Lhiun (12)

SENÄTS ENDORSEMENTS:

[no info]

50-WORD STATEMENT

The Moderate Radical Party of Talossa embraces principles over popularity. Our mandate is clear and our ethics are sound. We won't make change for the sake of it, but only to build a better, happier tomorrow. We are united for a free, active, and diverse Talossa. Please support MRPT today.

MANIFESTO

On micronations:

- Repeal of the Semi-Permeable Wall.

- No diplomatic relations with "bug-micronations."
- Maintain friendly relations with nations that are similar to Talossa.

On political reform:

- Party endorsement should not count in any way for Senatorial elections. Provinces should be in charge of electing Senators. Use of a preferential voting method, like Ranked Pairs for senatorial elections conducted by the chancery. Only 50% of the votes in the Senäts is needed for approval of an act or amendment to the OrgLaw. Introducing mandatory and binding candidate lists for the Cosâ. An elected Seneschal, either direct or indirect (via the Cosâ) is an option the MRPT will on the long term consider.

On separation of power:

- The MRPT believes that on the long term further separation of power is needed. Too many offices should not be held by too few people. This can however only be achieved alongside a growth of the population. When Talossa has more than 1000 citizens full separation of power between the judiciary, executive and legislative should, at least on a national level, be realistic. On the long term Talossa needs a real Cosâ, which will be achieved by a combination of population growth and a decrease in the size of the Cosâ to sixty seats.

On the secret ballot:

- The MRPT is happy with the current amendment to introduce a semi-secret ballot, but would like to go one step further and introduce a full automated secret ballot for Cosâ and Senatorial elections, under the condition that a diverse independent committee has access to the admin account to monitor the elections.

On citizenship and privacy:

- The MRPT does not support plans to make immigration laws stricter in the sense that more activity or knowledge from the prospective citizen is required than under the current rules. Any contact information received from the prospective by the immigration ministry or the chancery is strictly private and may not be shared with third parties outside the ministry of immigration or the chancery, with the exception of email addresses, which may be shared with the committee to monitor secret ballot elections, and provincial institutions that have tasks similar to that of the chancery. Exceptions can be made when the information is used as evidence in court cases. The list of email addresses should be regularly updated by the chancery. The MRPT believes that Talossan citizenship should not prevent Talossans from pursuing their own interests outside Talossa and will protect the right of Talossans to do so. This includes joining micronations.

On the role of the government:

- The government should not try to do what Talossans can do themselves, but instead stimulate private initiative. In most cases, the Government should facilitate and support cultural projects, rather than lead or own them. The Ziu should in most cases refrain from endorsing cultural practices as being "Talossan" when there is no evidence the practice is in fact strongly related to Talossan culture.

On the Monarchy:

- The MRPT is committed to preserving the hereditary Monarchy. However we also commit ourselves to considering possible measures to make the Monarchy more acceptable to the Republican segment of the population if a compromise can be reached with broad support. These measures may on the long term include reducing the political powers of the Monarch and making it easier to remove a Monarch in a democratic way.

On finance:

- Reduce the registration fee for the Cosa and introduce a small fee for accepting seats in the Senate.
- The Talossan government should start paying for its own web presence.

On provincial assignment:

- Provincial assignment should remain based on actual geographical location.
- Closure of provinces to immigration should be abolished.
- Citizens currently assigned to the "wrong" province will be given the choice to change province.
- Moving permanently across provincial assignment borders should result in a change of province."
- Passing the "Small Step Towards Real Provinces Act" would be a good first step towards achieving these goals.

On other issues:

- Promoting and protecting Talossan culture, language and traditions.
- Increasing provincial activity.
- As long as Talossa does not have a lot of apolitical citizens, requiring the SoS to be completely apolitical is not realistic.

MOTIONS

Considering that the only candidate for spot 2 on the candidate list has been appointed Cosa List Leader and there isn't any other candidate for the same spot, the congress hereby determines that unless there are any further changes to the Cosa list nominations, and provided all three candidates approve, all candidates for spot 3 to 5 are hereby moved up one spot.

3rd CONGRESS OPENING SPEECH

BY SEVASTÁIN PINÁTSCH, CONGRESS LEADER

Greetings Friends and Fellow Moderate Radicals,

It's my privilege to welcome you to this, our Third Congress.

While the end to the 46th Cosa is unexpected and unfortunate, our experience this term has been valuable nonetheless. We've endured some growing pains this year in our first turn at-bat, with changes to our coalition and internal membership. All told, we have the basis for an engaging discussion.

Quoting some rules from our previous congresses:

We are very pleased to have as many Talossans as possible participating here, but of course some structure and rules are necessary. Most rules of Wittiquette apply here as well (specifically, Wittiquette 1, 2, 3!, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15 and 16).

Creating threads on the main podium is for those who are invited to speak their by the congress leadership. Everyone is, of course, free to comment on these threads. The ballot box is strictly for voting by MRPT members. Everyone is free to post on all the other boards, but please consider what board best suits the purpose of your post.

Talossans who aren't members of the MRPT are more than welcome to create an account here or use a guest account to make comments.

Once again, welcome to the Third MRPT congress. We hope you all have a great time here.

GUEST SPEECH

BY C. CARLÜS XHERALTESCÚ, LEADER OF THE LIBERAL CONGRESS

Friends, Talossans, countrymen, lend me your ears...

I come to bury the past, not to repeat it.

I feel as though both our parties rather got off to a bad start. I'm certain this is why I was given an opportunity to speak here today, just as it forms part of the reason why I accepted the invitation. The past is behind us, both my own party and yours will be pleased to note. We should proceed to concentrate on what the future holds for us.

Before I turn my attention to the future, however, please allow me to ramble a little on the performance of the last government. I can sense a few faces contorting slightly as they hear this, but I'll press on regardless...

The last government was flawed. There's no denying this. There were problems when it came to communication, and there were problems in terms of the activity of the leadership. You mustn't be too quick to jump on what I've just said though. Recently in Talossa's leading paper, it was noted that the government retained my 3 seats worth of support right to the end, and you had it. Despite the flaws and the fall-outs, this government retained my support; it was groundbreaking in that it proved us all that a non-RUMP government was possible. It's possible for all of us other parties in Talossa to form a government. It's true, not everything that the reformist wing of Talossa could have hoped for was achieved, but it was a competent government once it had found its feet. The flaws it suffered from were no more significant than the flaws of previous governments, and were FAR less significant than the flaws of the government of the 45th Cosa.

So my message to you is this: keep going.

Keep fighting hard for the votes you can reap. Stand firm on the platform that you're developing because in several weeks' time, it is entirely possible that a liberal/centrist bloc of legislators in the Cosa will be the dominant legislative force. And, if we can begin ushering in likeminded Senators, then the possibilities for the liberal, democratic, moderate and radical reforms that we seek are endless.

So let's bury the past. Let's offer each other a hand to shake, because by working together we CAN achieve our goals.

Whether we see each other in government when the 47th Cosa is in session or not, I'm excited by the prospect of working with you to promote some of the common ideals I believe we share, especially in reinvigorating our languishing provinces; liberating them from the clutches of the apathetic, or in promoting democratic reform in Talossa.

I hope you'll all join me in liberating Talossa from some of its more worryingly illiberal features too, such as its unnecessary espionage laws and its military governors. Try as I might, I can't do this alone, and it would be good to have you on my side.

Thank you for your time, and thank you even more so for listening.

GUEST SPEECH

BY OWEN EDWARDS, LEADER OF THE PROGRESSIVE PARTY

Sorry for the delay in delivering my speech. You know the deal – life crashes in and you realize how much work there is to do. And the living room needs reorganizing. And you've got some Government-assigned paperwork to complete. And you really want – just once – to sit down and read your book without being aware there's higher priorities. So thanks for your forbearance.

And this short address is really about that. About forbearance. About courtesy. About decency. Talossa can often feel like it lacks those things. Our country lacks civility – and therefore civilization – so often. There are multiple ways that work. We fail to recognize the difficulties of other people's lives – stuck as we are behind screens – and so fail to give them

charity when they're slow or make mistakes. We outright insult people – who ought to be our close brothers and sisters but are in fact perfect strangers (neither group being one we should outright insult!). We even pretend to be courteous whilst actually snidely undermining or patronizing those we see as our opponents. Every party does it. It's not just one or two. It's not just the King's Men or the Capitan's Women. It's all of us. We mimic macronational politics in one way most excellently – the level of our national discourse is lousy.

So let me propose to you just one thing – something utterly radical. Be moderate. Not just in your policies or in your whimsical “consider voting for us” tag line – but in your speech and in your thought. The greatest service Talossan centrists can do their nations is not – perhaps obviously – via their detailed policies. It is by enacting their ideology of moderation in their daily lives.

Do not pursue political strife. Prefer to consider your own behaviour or emotional responses wrong before accusing another – if that's at all possible in a situation. Step away from the screen when tempted to type in anger. Relentlessly pursue justice but never vengeance. There is too much point scoring in our public arena. There are too many snide remarks masquerading as cordial discourse. There is too much noise. We have a selection of less mentally stable citizens – very well. But whilst their erratic behaviour may be excused, ours may not. An insult may be personal – very well. But we may choose to ignore it.

Talossa will not live or die based on its politic. Becoming a republic would be most sad but it would not kill Talossa. What will kill Talossa is a surrender to the futility of darkened minds that is macronational politics. Moderate Radicals – I ask you to make a stand for true moderation. In 7 years of being a Talossan I have seen public nastiness destroy activity time after time. However successful you are in the current election I truly believe your chief parliamentary mission will be this – to seek to heal the fissures of the Talossan community.

2ND CONGRESS (46TH COSA)

3 Nov - 30 Nov, 2013

Lüc da Schir / Glüc da Dhi

MC CANDIDATES AND SENÄTS ENDORSEMENTS

MC CANDIDATES:

da Schir (1)
Soleighfred (2)
Andrinescu (3) (later pull out)
da Simeon (4) (later pull out)
da Lhiun (5)
da Dhi (11)

SENÄTS ENDORSEMENTS:

The MRPT endorses **Tric'hard Carschaleir** for the position of Senator of Benito.

50-WORD STATEMENT

The Moderate Radical Party of Talossa is the party that doesn't want changes for the sake of change, but for the sake of its citizens when it is needed to lead to a better, happier tomorrow. We are united for a free, active, and diverse Talossa. Please vote MRPT today.

MANIFESTO

On micronations:

- Repeal of the semi-permeable wall. No "diplomatic" relations with "bug-micronations" . Maintain friendly relations with nations that are similar to Talossa.

On political reform:

- Party endorsement should not count in any way for Senatorial elections. Provinces should be in charge of electing Senators. Use of a preferential voting method, like Ranked Pairs for senatorial elections conducted by the chancery. Only 50% of the votes in the Senäts is needed for approval of an act or amendment to the orglaw. Introducing mandatory and binding candidate lists for the Cosâ. An elected Seneschal, either direct or

indirect (via the Cosâ) is an option the MRPT will on the long term consider.

On separation of power:

- The MRPT believes that on the long term further separation of power is needed. Too many offices should not be held by too few people. This can however only be achieved alongside a growth of the population. When Talossa has more than 1000 citizens full separation of power between the judiciary, executive and legislative should, at least on a national level, be realistic. On the long term Talossa needs a real Cosâ, which will be achieved by a combination of population growth and a decrease in the size of the Cosâ to sixty seats.

On the secret ballot:

- The MRPT is happy with the current amendment to introduce a semi-secret ballot, but would like to go one step further and introduce a full automated secret ballot for Cosâ and Senatorial elections, under the condition that a diverse independent committee has access to the admin account to monitor the elections.

On citizenship and privacy:

- The MRPT does not support plans to make immigration laws stricter in the sense that more activity or knowledge from the prospective citizen is required than under the current rules. Any contact information received from the prospective by the immigration ministry or the chancery is strictly private and may not be shared with third parties outside the ministry of immigration or the chancery, with the exception of email addresses, which may be shared with the committee to monitor secret ballot elections, and provincial institutions that have tasks similar to that of the chancery. Exceptions can be made when the information is used as evidence in court cases. The list of email addresses should be regularly updated by the chancery. The MRPT believes that Talossan citizenship should not prevent Talossans from pursuing their own interests outside Talossa and will protect the right of Talossans to do so. This includes joining micronations.

On the role of the government:

- The government should not try to do what Talossans can do themselves. Instead the government should try to stimulate private initiative. In most cases, the Government should facilitate and support cultural projects, rather than lead or own them. The Ziu should in most cases refrain from endorsing cultural practices as being "Talossan" when there is no evidence the practice is in fact strongly related to Talossan culture. The bureau of provincial affairs should be abolished, as it is defunct and provinces are capable of running their own affairs.

On the Monarchy:

- The MRPT is committed to preserving the hereditary Monarchy. However we also commit ourselves to considering possible measures to make the Monarchy more acceptable to the Republican segment of the population if a compromise can be reached with broad support. These measures may on the long term include reducing the political powers of the Monarch and making it easier to remove a Monarch in a democratic way.

On finance:

- If Talossan expenses can be fully paid for by voluntary donations, then the party registration fee will be abolished. Otherwise the MRPT will reduce the registration fee for the Cosa and introduce a small fee for accepting seats in the Senate. The Talossan government should start paying for its own webpresence.

On provincial assignment:

- Provincial assignment should remain based on actual geographical location and not become a matter of free choice. The growth limit on Provinces larger than 3 times the size of the smallest province should be removed. Citizens currently assigned to the "wrong" province, based on geographical assignment will be given the choice to change province. Moving permanently across provincial assignment borders should result in a change of province. Ideally, the number of provinces should be reduced, but the MRPT will only support this when there is sufficient local support.

On other issues:

- Promoting and protecting Talossan culture, language and traditions. Increasing provincial activity. On the long term maybe fewer provinces. No need to get rid of the 3-strikes law. Amend the cabinet refinishing act to allow for more variation in the number of ministries between different governments. As long as Talossa does not have a lot of apolitical citizens, requiring the sos to be completely apolitical is not realistic.

MOTIONS

Motion 1: The congress upholds motion 7 from the previous congress, which reads: "The congress demands that the MRPT should under no circumstances allow a government supported by the MRPT to take steps leading to the end of the Monarchy."

Motion 2: The congress upholds motion 8 from the previous congress, which reads: "The congress demands that the MRPT should under no circumstances allow a government supported by the MPRT to take steps that are in conflict with, or lead to the end of, the separation between church and state in talossa."

Motion 3: Since there are no candidates for the Florencian Senate Election yet, the congress believes another party wide vote to determine our endorsement should be held during the week before the elections.

Motion 4: The congress recognises that the first preference of the party regarding the formation of a government, if possible, should be to form a coalition with the ZRT, NPW and CSPP.

Motion 6: Since one of the candidates for the Maricopan Senate race has suddenly dropped out, the congress declares the result of the current vote on the MRPT senate endorsement for Maricopa invalid and proposes another partywide vote be held during the week before the elections, unless another candidate than Sir Iusti Canun gets the endorsement.

Motion 7: Since one of the candidates for the Fiovan Senate race has suddenly dropped out, the congress declares the result of the current vote on the MRPT senate endorsement for Fiova invalid and proposes another partywide vote be held during the week before the elections, unless another candidate than Ian Txaglh gets the endorsement.

GUEST SPEECH

BY C. CARLÜS XHERALTESCÚ, LEADER OF ZRT

Firstly, I'd like to offer thanks for the invitation to write a short little speech for your congress. It's incredibly gratifying to see other parties adopting similar internally democratic processes as we have in the ZRT, and even more so to see these processes happening publicly, openly and with transparency. So, on to the bulk of the speech...

Senator da Dhi was right, when he exclaimed that time is up. Time is indeed up. We've seen this government drive Talossa into further apathy, and has met the issue not with active governance, but with apathy itself. Countless Terpelaziuns have gone unanswered, and the trickle of immigration has ground to a halt. Talossa has ceased its population growth, it's creativity has stalled, and no longer do I and many others see Talossa as being the bastion of fun expressions of politics and culture that it used to be. In short, I am at the end of my tether with RUMP rule in Talossa. Time is up - we need change in Talossa or years down the line I suspect there won't even be a Talossa for us to change.

I don't think anyone here will see this as being a particularly controversial assertion. However, not only is it time for a change of government in Talossa, but I'm a firm believer that if this is to happen, we're going to need a change in the way by which we as statecrafters govern. You aren't going to win a majority this election, friends. Neither will the peculiarists of the NPW, the monarcho-progressives of the CSPP, or the republicans of my own ZRT. So how then can we ensure that the RUMP doesn't further drive Talossa into the ground? The answer to this one shouldn't be particularly controversial either: co-operation. Through compromise, co-operation, the Rawlsian idea of overlapping consensus, we can change the face of politics in Talossa. To do so, however, means that all of us need to prepare for the limitations of a Rainbow Coalition, and to prepare for the limitations on the discourse we will have to conduct as parties in a coalition which I'm certain will prove to be groundbreaking in Talossan politics.

It's a bold and brave move for us to work towards this goal. It won't be painless, and it won't be easy for any of the parties involved. But if we're willing to commit to this now, it is testament to the love and passion with which we regard Talossa. It's testament to the lengths we are willing to go,

irrespective of our parties' policies and inter-party relations. If this idea enthuses you even half as much as it enthuses me, then I look forward to the discussions we'll be having after the election, because there is no way we can allow another term of RUMP government to blight the landscape of Talossan politics.

Time's up for the current government. Time's up on majority rule. The time for change is nigh, so man your stations; prepare for battle, and for government - I'll see you in the government halls in no time at all, I'm sure.

1ST CONGRESS (45TH COSA)

5 Feb - 5 Mar, 2013

Glüc da Dhi / Lüc da Schir

PARTY ELECTIONS

Party Leader:

Glüc da Dhi

MC CANDIDATES AND SENÄTS ENDORSEMENTS

MC CANDIDATES:

Soleighfred (1)

da Schir (2)

Putnam (3)

SENÄTS ENDORSEMENTS:

[no info]

50-WORD STATEMENT

We are not the party of getting stuck in the present, protecting the status quo at any cost. We are not the party of the past, trying to just recreate the Republic (or Kingdom) that was. We are the party of a united future for a growing Kingdom of Talossa.

MANIFESTO

On micronations:

- Repeal of the semi-permeable wall. No "diplomatic" relations with "bug-micronations" . Maintain friendly relations with nations that are similar to Talossa. The ban on dual citizenship limits personal freedom and might, like all unnecessary government restrictions, drive Talossans away from Talossan society. Therefore it should be repealed.

On political reform:

- Party endorsement should not count in any way for Senatorial elections. Provinces should be in charge of electing Senators. Use of a preferential voting method, like Ranked Pairs for senatorial elections conducted by the chancery. The introduction of a small fee for accepting seats in the senäts. Only 50% of the votes in the Senäts is needed for approval of an act or amendment to the orglaw. Making the activity of parties in the Cosâ more clear with the introduction of mandatory candidate lists, and therefore studying and proposing reforms about the General Elections and the number of MCs. An elected Seneschal, either direct or indirect (via the cosa) is an option the MRPT will on the long term consider.

On separation of power:

- The MRPT believes that on the long term further separation of power is needed. Too many offices should not be held by too few people. This can however only be achieved alongside a growth of the population. When Talossa has more than 1000 citizens full separation of power between the judiciary, executive and legislative should, at least on a national level, be realistic. On the long term Talossa needs a real cosa, which will be achieved by a combination of population growth and a small decrease in size of the cosa.

On the secret ballot:

- The MRPT is happy with the current amendment to introduce a semi-secret ballot, but would like to go one step further and introduce a full automated secret ballot for Cosa and Senatorial elections, under the condition that a diverse independent committee has access to the admin account to monitor the elections.

On citizenship and privacy:

- The MRPT does not support plans to make immigration laws stricter in the sense that more activity or knowledge from the prospective citizen is required than under the current rules. Any contact information received from the prospective by the immigration ministry or the chancery is strictly private and may not be shared with third parties outside the ministry of immigration or the chancery, with the exception of email addresses, which may be shared with the committee to monitor secret ballot elections, and provincial institutions that have tasks similar to that of the chancery. Exceptions can be made when the information is used as evidence in court cases. The list of email addresses should be regularly updated by the chancery.

On other issues:

- Stimulating and protecting Talossan culture, language and traditions. Increasing provincial activity. On the long term maybe fewer provinces. No need to get rid of the 3-strikes law. Amend the cabinet refinishing act to allow for more variation in the number of ministries between different governments. As long as Talossa does not have a lot of

apolitical citizens, requiring the sos to be completely apolitical is not realistic. Protecting the monarchy.

MOTIONS

1. The congress strongly encourages all MRPT MC's to take part in the Talossan Snap Stein, organised by M.T. Patritz da Biondeu.
2. The congress encourages all MRPT MC's to chose the entire Kingdom of Talossa as their constituency rather than a smaller geographical area.
3. The congress proposes that the party leader will be in charge of coalition negotiations assisted by the cosa list leader and advices the party leadership to propose amendments to the key statutes to this effect during the next cosa term.
4. The congress charges Lüc da Schir of making the video campaign for the General Election.
5. The congress charges Lüc da Schir of making the PDF files with the manifesto for the General Elections.
6. The congress demands that any government coalition agreement needs support of at least a majority of MC's as well as the support of the majority of the members voting in a referendum on the matter and advices the party leadership to propose amendments to the key statutes to this effect during the next cosa term.
7. The congress demands that the MRPT should under no circumstances allow a government supported by the MRPT to take steps leading to the end of the Monarchy.
8. The congress demands that the MRPT should under no circumstances allow a government supported by the MPRT to take steps that are in conflict with, or lead to the end of, the separation between church and state in talossa.
9. The congress suggests that the provincial members of the MRPT in a province with an indirect partisan democracy are responsible for drafting a candidate list in that province and that the party leader is responsible for drafting a candidate list in provinces with an indirect partisan democracy in which there are no MRPT members.
- 10 The congress advices the party leadership to propose amendments to the key statute next cosa term to create statutory guidelines for provincial departments of the party.
11. The congress strongly encourages MRPT MC's to not become minister in a cabinet unless the MRPT is part of the governing coalition.
13. The congress proposes that the MRPT will enter the next election using the motto: "MRPT, the reasonable alternative."

1st CONGRESS OPENING SPEECH

BY CONGRESS LEADERS GLÜC DA DHI AND LÜC DA SCHIR

Fellow Moderate Radicals, guest speakers, supporters of the MRPT and other guests,

we are very happy to welcome you here, on our cozy own forum to attend the first ever meeting of the MRPT congress! The next month the MRPT will be deciding on the way we present ourselves during the next election, and as a democratic party should, we will do so by giving our members the chance to vote on important party decisions, most notably, the MRPT manifesto for the 45th cosa.

The MRPT has grown in the last two years. Not too long ago, we only had two members, now we have seven. This still means that we're a small party though and like all other parties we are struggling with apathy and inactivity. This congress is our chance to show Talossa that we are here, that we are active and that we are ready to be a part of a serious government coalition, but more than that, this congress is a chance to determine where we stand and what we want, so we can strengthen our ideological foundation.

This congress is hereby opened, which means the deadline amendments to the party regulations, the first round of amendments to the manifesto and announcing your candidacy for the party leadership election has theoretically expired. We will allow until 23:59 GMT for late submissions though.

6 out of 7 members have already registered for voting rights. If you're not one of those 6 or you want to become a member of the party during the congress you can still register at any time though.

For secret voting we already have the email addresses of 4 of the registered members. We hope to be able to get the other addresses on time for the first elections, so we can have full secret ballot elections.

GUEST SPEECH

BY ALEXANDREU DAVINESCU, MC FOR RUMP

Greetings, Moderate Radicals of Talossa, and thank you for inviting me to address your first Congress. I am honoured and grateful for the opportunity, both on my own behalf and for the RUMP.

Today, I will write of the ship of state and our future course.

As I write, we have begun a new era of the nation. For the first time in a very long time, there is only a single and united Talossa. The clique based around former King Ben - the "Madison Kingdom" - has descended into silence and stillness, and in time Robert Ben Madison may grow to appreciate that it is a good thing that the nation he envisioned has outgrown him, even if that means that it has surpassed his grasp. And it seems like mere moments since those who once belonged to the Republic of Talossa have reached an accord with us and with themselves and rejoined the nation - yet even now I cannot imagine how we ever managed without them. There is a single, united, glorious Talossa... and that is our challenge.

We are the stewards of that tradition, now - the captains of that ship. All of us: old-growthers, cybercits, former Republicans, Dandelions, peculiarists, derivativists, republicans, royalists, heralds, legislators, and all the other sorts of Talossan that are found in our nation: it is our responsibility to man the sails of our ship of state. We have been a trio of boats, racing each other in small waters. Now there is only one vessel, and the wide ocean

stretches before us. We can set whatever course we please - or we could sink, if we make poor choices.

We have a wide range of political parties that are active and working for the betterment of the nation. Even when I have found the disagreements frustrating, I have reveled in the fact that they are a sign of a healthy Talossa. But as we discuss the heading of this ship, I believe that both the Moderate Radicals and the RUMP can agree on some important principles by which we can make our course.

One of these principles is democracy. Both parties - and all parties, I think! - strive towards ensuring a continuance of stable and secure elections. With recent malfeasance along those lines, as electoral fraud swelled the Cosa and party rolls, all parties should be able to come together and pledge to work to establish immigration laws that will ensure we have no more such long-running frauds, while also avoiding any barriers that might discourage otherwise enthusiastic new immigrants. Ultimately, I believe that this will be resolved not by some middling combination of paperwork requirements, but by a human touch. And that touch can only ever help our country, by evolving our discourse past Wittenberg. With such measures in place, we will grow closer as a community and we will help ensure that every citizen gets one vote.

Another principle is monarchy, working side-by-side with democracy. This principle is rather more contentious in some quarters, as there are Talossans who wish to see the monarchy either eradicated or reduced to a ceremonial figurehead. Yet I think both the RUMP and the Moderate Radicals can agree on the wisdom of the monarchy. It's not just a matter of tradition. Tradition is important, as it helps provide a sense of longevity and gravitas to our delicately small country, but it's not the most important factor. We know that we retain the monarchy, though, not just because we've always had one, but because it works for Talossa. It helps ensure that even during the rough times, there is a person to stand up and take responsibility beyond doubt, and to say, "This is Talossa." The King is not and should not be the whole choir, but he is someone who can sing the strong solo - if we need it. We have needed it before, and we may need it again.

Another principle goes hand-in-hand with the other two, and that is the Organic Law. It guides the will of the people and helps give it shape; it empowers and limits the King and helps require a serious monarch. In our ship of state, these three principles stand strong and stable. If we rely on them, and rig our sails from them, as though they were our reliable masts, we can power our nation forward out to destinations we might never have imagined.

We live in perilous and exciting times. The water is wide before us. Our ship is strong and tight. Our crew argues and disagrees, but only in pursuit of common goals. Let us keep our masts tall: democracy, monarchy, and law. And if we do, it will be clear sailing, over the horizon.

SPEECH

BY ALÈXANDREU SOLEIGHLFRED, CO-LEADER OF MRPT

Azul, fellow Moderate Radicals. I'm honoured to address you while our first Congress fades out.

First of all, I want to express my satisfaction with the fact we have the united Talossan Kingdom after a while. We're living the exciting time. The

2012 and the start of the 2013 year were overall good periods for Talossa. Though, lately, the government wasn't active enough. We don't vote "Non" on the VoC just for the sake of doing so, as being a part of opposition doesn't strike the cooperation out, but we've found enough reasons to do that last month or two.

On a personal note, I'm happy to see the dual citizenship act pass the Cosa, and I want to thank everyone who was supportive. It's a significant change, but we have to work at it to make it pass both houses next term.

Our party has faced some significant changes recently. The most important factor to me is that we, probably, are the most efficiently organized party in the Kingdom. We started working on the most important documents and statutes way before the Congress, to have them ready in time for it, and now we have needed changes approved. So, we have all the needed basis to improve and develop.

We have some good people with us, too. Glüc, who is a great example of a proper politician, Lüc, who is just great at being active and living the things – everyone we have is crucial as we're small. I personally look forward to spreading of MRPT.

We're working well to present our ideas to Talossans. We're voting the clarks steadily, probably on the most consistent basis possible, and we're voting pretty similarly, with the highest voting stats, which is a good sign. I can't know what the next General Elections result will be, but I hope we gain some more coverage and support in the country.

I wish everyone to enjoy the remains of the Congress. Let's move together forward to the constantly developing, growing Talossa, becoming a better and better place to reside and act in.

CLOSING STATEMENT

BY DEPUTY CONGRESS LEADER LÜC DA SCHIR

Esteemed Congress Leader, MRPT Members, honourables Guest Speakers, friends from other parties and supporters of the MRPT, dear guests:

I ask you to join me while closing this first Congress. It was a very interesting month: for the first time in its story, the MRPT was so active while improving itself, democratically electing its leaders and prospective MCs. We had a great time with the speeches of both Alexandreu Davinescu and Bisquinc. Obviously, I'd like to call for an applause to our Party Leader, Glüc da Dhi, who is the true brain of our party. Congratulations to the newly endorsed prospective Senators, S:r Ursüm, S:r da Dhi, S:da d'Auribuérg and S:r Marcianüs; best wishes to be elected to them.

On a final note, I'd like to let you know that we (I, actually) have made a really nice PDF summary of the key things regarding the MRPT, such as manifesto, 50 words statement, candidacies and endorsements, speeches... You can download it from the attachments of this post.

And, with the powers that have been assigned to me, I hereby declare closed the First Congress of the Moderate Radicals!

We are now ready for the General Elections!

SPEECH

BY GLÜC DA DHI, LEADER OF MRPT

Azul Fellow Moderate Radicals, supporters and other guests. The first congress has been a wonderful end of a very good term for us and I would like to thank all who participated and all who helped made it possible, especially deputy congress leader Lüc da Schir. 2012 has been a great year for us, we gained 10 seats during the last elections, which is a very good result for such a small party and we put ourselves on the map as a serious political force in Talossa. During the last term MRPT voters were represented by a great team of MC's. One of them, Niclau Patíci, will not be returning to the cosa after the elections. He leads a busy life, with important exams coming up, so he decided that it would be best for him to take a break from Talossan politics for a while. Niclau has served the MRPT and this nation very well during his first term in cosa and has certainly contributed to the great performance of the MRPT during the last cosa. We are all very grateful for this. Thanks Niclau, take care.

In the coming elections, the MRPT might win a few seats, or we might lose a few seats. For us as a party the result of the elections will not be the most important thing. What's more important is our growth as a party on other fronts. We have doubled in membership since the last elections, we have become much more organized, much more active and much more able to represent our voters. We have developed to become one of the most open, democratic and organized parties in this Kingdom. Yes this cost us energy that we could have spent in campaigning for a short term victory in the elections. We chose to spend it instead on building a more resistant, futureproof and stabile party and I'm sure that this will on the long term lead to even better election results in the future.

For Talossa however, the results will matter. Because if the next cosa continues to be the same as the previous cosa, and the one before that, and the one before that, and the one before that, dominated by one and only one party, this will not bring us the necessary democratic reform, it will not bring us a more open and tolerant society for all Talossans and it will not bring us the more dynamic and active Talossa that we prefer. At least not in the tempo the MRPT would like to see.

During our first congress we came up with a manifesto that clearly shows what the MRPT wants to achieve in the cosa. Mostly in clear measures, rather than vague sentences. (There are a few exceptions, but compare our manifesto to that of most other parties and you'll hopefully understand what I mean.) We show our voters where we stand on the issues before the elections rather than letting the voters find out after. Still, when you want to know what Moderate Radicalism means, it might also be an idea to look at our statutes. Amidst all the bureaucratic mess two lines in the statutes mention some of the bigger ideals of the MRPT:

“5.3. To promote activity, individual freedom, diversity, democracy and other moderate-radical values in Talossa.

5.4. To stand for the protection of both Talossan democracy and the Talossan monarchy.”

The MRPT is a monarchist party. I am a monarchist and this is not just because King John is a great king. It's good to see that unlike our previous monarch, King John is very much respected by all Talossans, monarchists and republicans and for some this may be a very good argument to keep the monarchy has dominated the history of our Kingdom for a long time and I dare say it's an

important part of our national identity. The role of the King is of course mostly symbolic. I don't think the value of a symbol increases if we change it every time the political wind in Talossa changes. We know the monarchy makes us interesting and attracts new citizens and that's a good thing.

Apart from the traditional and cultural value there are more good arguments for protecting the monarchy; it is not a bad thing for us to have someone who stands above the parties who does not have a democratic mandate, which can be used as an excuse to limit the rights of majorities or to destruct long lasting Talossan values. Democracy is an important right and one of the core values of the MRPT and of course the MRPT will be critical when the monarchy takes too much power for itself. But exactly because the King has less mandate than an elected president, there is less incentive for the King to abuse his powers using democracy as an excuse, which makes the monarchy perfectly suited for a role as a last resort against the dictatorship of a majority.

Monarchists, btw, are not always very effective in promoting the monarchy. The King for example, stated that he would have no problem repealing the rather divisive oath of citizenship, which does not encourage diversity but rather requires all citizens to "humbly appreciate the benefits granted unto me by my King" and "support [...] the organic law". Certain fellow monarchist however, thought differently about this and decided to keep the oath (though slightly modified) alive. Something I personally feel was a bad decision, not because there is anything wrong with humbly appreciating benefits granted by the king or supporting the organic law or swearing loyalty to the King, but because citizens should be free to decide for themselves.

So, yes, the MRPT will be critical of the role of the monarchy and yes, I personally do believe that when the King consistently abuses its powers (which is not very likely, especially not as long as King John is King) , there should be a way to replace him, but only in order to elect a new monarch, because the monarchy is crucial to Talossa and the MRPT will stand to protect it, because we believe in it. The MRPT will stand for the monarchy!

Another important Moderate Radical value is democracy and one of the crucial ingredients for democracy is transparency. There is a correlation between what parties get votes and what proposals pass the ziu and voters need to be able to see that correlation. But how can they, when parties decide not to tell who will be representing them, even when there is so much difference in the ideals of the representatives? How can they see what will happen if parties don't stand for their programs and manifestos once the election is over? How can they when manifestos and candidate lists are more like guidelines and in reality parties will appoint whoever they feel like and MCs can vote whatever they want anyway? A vote for the MRPT is a vote for our candidates and a vote for our manifesto.

Some believe this means there is no flexibility, no pragmatic way for us to come to compromises. This is, of course, not true. Of course the MRPT is ready to cooperate and make compromises with other parties as we have done last year in the cosa. Not everything we ideally want to see is politically realistic in a multiparty democracy so sometimes changes have to be made. Still the manifesto shows the perspective from which we enter these discussions. That is still something entirely different from MC's opposing our own ideas, from a completely lack of internal discipline, from not representing our voters based on the ideas we released before the elections.

Some believe an actual transparent correlation between the way people vote and the way the ziu votes is just a form of opportunistic populism. I disagree. Populism in that form is when parties adapt their views to gain votes, when

politicians are followers instead of leaders. That is not the way the MRPT works. We stand for our own ideals, the ideals of our members, because we believe in them, not because they help us gain voters. That doesn't mean however that we feel we shouldn't explain how we are going to vote on the important issues BEFORE the elections, rather than afterwards, because we do believe that voters have the right to know where we stand and who are going to represent them when they vote MRPT.

In the current situation it is often beneficial for parties to let their representatives represent only themselves rather than the party, it is easier to give seats to new people without letting the voters know. It helps bind them to a party and in a country where many voters are politicians or good friends with politicians, politics can be quite easy for a party that chooses the interests of politicians over those of the voters who actually vote based on the issues. The MRPT is not the party that chooses the easy way though, we chose the right way and I am convinced that someday we will be rewarded for this, because voters know that the MRPT stands for democracy!

Activity, both nationally and provincially is another important issue for the MRPT. Higher provincial participation rates will bring many things of value to this country. That is one of the reasons MRPT members have been actively involved in the provinces where the MRPT is active and we will continue to do so.

For citizens to be actively involved there needs to be diversity. Competition between different cultures and different political ideas will hopefully increase cultural and political participation rates. Talossa needs to be an inclusive and diverse country and it is, but things could be better. For diversity to thrive Talossans need to be free and tolerant of other ideas and Talossa doesn't need to be too exclusive. Stricter immigration laws, banning citizens because of their participation in bug-micronations, controversial oaths of citizenship that require support for existing institutions are signs of intolerance and do not promote freedom and diversity.

We need to trust in the cultural strength of Talossa to do without these laws. Allowing people to be involved in micronational hobbyism will not make us a bug micronation and accepting people who don't want to swear loyalty to the King will not make us a republic, because our culture is stronger than that (though I guess republicanism is part of our cultural heritage anyway). We don't need to isolate ourselves from all outside influences, but use those influences to grow and become an even more diverse nation.

The citizens of Talossa have many different religions and so do the members of the MRPT. This government doesn't have to make a choice between these religions, but should be tolerant towards all of them without preferring one over the other. The MRPT is not a Christian or an Islamic or an atheist party, but a secular party, respecting the many different religions in this country.

Talossans are republicans, monarchists, socialists, liberals, conservatives, christians, atheists, partisans, independents, moderates, radicals, peculiarists and derivativists. That's good, because all those ideas and beliefs are part of our heritage and make us who we are. In any case we are all Talossans, united in our diversity. All Talossans should be encouraged to actively participate in this society and the MRPT wants to promote this. The MRPT stands for activity, freedom and diversity!

I think the MRPT is a relatively optimistic party. The current situation is not all that bad. The government is not corrupt, John isn't Ben and the organic law is not broken. The MRPT is not nostalgic to a past where everything was

better, but we are not afraid of the future either. We are reformers rather than revolutionaries. We are moderate radicals.

We are not afraid of change, because we have a vision of a better Talossa. This doesn't mean we believe in tearing down the organic law, we should amend it rather than replace it. We do believe that Talossa should be a multiparty democracy where no party holds an absolute majority for such a long, but that doesn't mean we are the party of sitting in a corner, throwing rocks at the government. Rather we try to give the government a fair chance and work together to make this Kingdom a better place. The MRPT deals in dreams we want to achieve rather than nightmares we want to prevent. We are not afraid of the future, we are the future and we are the reasonable alternative.

You may want to vote for a more active, democratic and diverse Kingdom of Talossa.

You don't necessarily have to though.