

bemep_mod: Dear participants of the chat you may start asking questions in a while. Remember that the chat is to be conducted in English.

bemep_mod: This chat is to enable all the participants of the game to ask the administrators of the game questions. so that any of your doubts may be clarified

bemep_mod: You may start asking questions in 5 minutes

Maban: Dear admin, please display our comments in Polish ☺

Maban: Who will answer for our questions?

Bemep_admin: Answers will be given by administrators of the BeMEP.eu

Admin: welcome all

Bemep_mod: Dear participants, as long as there are only Polish people, for now questions in Polish will be displayed as well

Bemep_admin: Welcome

Maban: Thanks, admin

Bemep_admin: We await your questions

Maban: Are there any prizes prepared for the winners of this "game"??

Bemep_admin: Of course there will be prizes – both monthly, and the grand prizes – trips to the European Parliament at the Eurodeputies' invitation.

Karotka: How will the monthly prizes be awarded, since there are 30 people ex aequo in 1st place – will they be drawn for, or awarded based on usernames?

Bemep_admin: the prizes will be drawn for – each of the persons in the 1st place of the scoreboard has an equal chance of winning.

Mariuszstr: I have a question – following the legalization of a faction, how long until the election for the board of directors begins?

Admin: theoretically immediately following the legalization of the party.

Admin: however, there are often doubts as to the honesty of the people applying for faction membership

Admin: before we initialize the election, we like to verify the faction's members – hence the delays

Mariuszstr: in reality, in Na-Kons for example, there hasn't been an election yet. Or perhaps I just can't see it, because I already cast my vote in a different faction, so I can't cast it in Na-Kons? What's the status specifically in that faction, election-wise?

Admin: the election will be initiated tonight, as for votes cast in a different faction – they're irrelevant, only the vote cast in the faction of which you are a member at the end of the election is counted.

Frodo: Would it be possible to create a 'search' function for the forums?

admin: search function - what do you mean exactly? there is a search function on each forum so i don't understand the question.

Frodo: A global search function would still be handy. I was looking for all posts from one particular user.

admin: Frodo, it's a good idea, we too were thinking about a "per user" search, I think it's possible to implement such a function.

Karotka: Admin, will there be any actions taken to "split" the ranking, i.e. to make it so that so many people don't occupy the first place simultaneously, and so on, by way of multiple votes a day and, for example, several questions?

Admin: it was similar in the previous edition, in a couple dozen days the situation will take care of itself.

Bemep_admin: the situation changes with each question and vote, furthermore, soon resolutions drafted by the participants will be factored in, which should additionally influence the ranking.

Karotka: ☺ I remember that in the previous edition once you dropped in the ranking, there was no way to get back up again ☺

Bemep_admin: the game mechanisms requires some activity on your behalf as well – the more effort you put into it (for example by drafting resolutions), the bigger your chances are of climbing up the scoreboard.

Karotka: and was my proposal taken into consideration, that is for the questions to be open until 3-5 p.m., to be open for a longer period of time, but for the points to be awarded instantly?

Admin: They are never closed before 3 p.m., and the results are given later only in case of any doubts.

Karotka: Admin, if the points are already being counted, perhaps you could tell us the correct answer to the previous question – which treaty was it?

Karotka: ☺

Bemep_admin: It was the Treaty of Maastricht, the answer appears after you click on the name of a closed question.

Admin: You can take a look yourself ☺ the element of suspense and uncertainty adds flavor to the game.

Karotka: I see... so what about private messages, and when will the game be purged of inactive players?.

Admin: they're on the agenda, and we will be purging the game of inactive players by the end of each month.

Adicracus: How can you dismiss the board of a faction?

Admin: Due to the problems with inactive players, we are introducing the option of the board's self-dismissal – that option should be implemented any day now, additionally, following each inactive player purge, changes in the board are possible, or even – in extreme circumstances - a new election.

Brutu: how many winners do you anticipate? How many people will be sent to the Parliament? In the 1st edition it was 9 persons.

Bemep_admin: at this point we have received confirmation for a group of about 30 persons.

Karotka: What is the basis of withdrawing a question?

Bemep_admin: a factual error or an obvious possibility of multiple interpretations, as well as contradictory information given at the official EU websites (EP, EU, EC, and so on...)

Karotka: I take it that if many people taking part in the game have contradictory information, you can withdraw the question, but is a single person able to achieve the same effect?

Bemep_admin: only if they are able to prove the error in 100%.

Mariuszstr: Will factions, who lose members to the point when there are less than 19, be automatically demoted to the "pending" status?

Admin: no.

Adicracus: will players with multiple accounts be purged the same way as inactive players are?

Admin: players with multiple accounts are being systematically removed.

Adicracus: How can you form coalitions and will there be new options introduced to that end soon?

Admin: the new option was introduced this morning.

Mariuszstr: I have a question – is the game formula really fair? As we all know, you have to vote with the majority to win. So doesn't that decrease the chances of those persons, whose views are in the minority? Do they have to vote in contradiction with their conscience?

Bemep_admin: the formula promotes not only education, but also the ability to conduct negotiations and the to convince others to your point of view, therefore you can obtain additional points by taking part in coalitions, furthermore, the ranking is also influenced by the drafting of and voting upon interesting resolutions.

Brutu: And what does the admin say to the fact that for example the PO faction ripped off the faction program, name and a registered logo from an actual political party, existing and operating in Poland – a member of the EU.

Bemep_admin: everyone can model themselves after who they want – if their program and planned actions don't contradict the spirit of the game, we cannot intervene.

Mariuszstr: What will points be awarded for specifically, regarding coalitions? Just for the creation of a coalition?

Admin: There will be additional points for the players who place their votes at their coalition's disposal, if their coalition wins.

Brutu: And what do the administrators think about the idea of creating virtual reduced parliamentary commissions or a Parliament presidium?

Bemep_admin: the idea is an interesting one, however currently we don't plan on creating them – the participants can take advantage of the already existing options and possibilities.

AK_GUBIN: I'd like to know how many questions are still in store for us ☺

Bemep_admin: questions are asked regularly – one per 24 hours, with minor exceptions, and not counting weekends. The game will be concluded at the end of March 2007 – so quite a few.

Fellow: I don't know if the question has already been asked, but I noticed a problem with looking up information on the participants. After I enter their data into the search engine, I get no results.

Fellow: I tried to look up the top-ranking people ☺ and when I entered their login, I couldn't get any additional information on those participants.

Mariuszstr: it would be useful to have the function "find the user's posts"

Admin: We already discussed that with Frodo and are considering introducing such an option.

AK_GUBIN: How can I remove my account?

Admin: Write an e-mail to the admin, justifying your request.

Fellow: I don't know, I can't seem to get the search engine for personal data to work, unless you should enter all possible data into it, but that seems like a bit much?

Admin: All It takes is to enter . and you will find all users whose logons start with a full stop. Perhaps you've entering not too few, but too many search conditions.

AK_GUBIN: Does it matter which faction I belong to?

Bemep_admin: Factions may enter coalitions, to have a bigger influence on votes

Admin: when a faction earns points in a coalition, they are added to the scores of the participants who are their members.

AK_GUBIN: The vote outcome is of course decided by majority?

Admin: yes.

AK_GUBIN: So you have to pick the faction which has the most members ☺

Admin: Except will anyone want to enter a coalition with that faction? ☺

Bemep_admin: or actively participate in a coalition of smaller factions

Sgsman: I have a question: why is there so little oversight from the moderators? And when will real votes appear, when will there be a chance for real discussion? Right now everyone just votes YES, so...

Admin: when moderators exercise their authority, there's an uproar that they close down threads, when they withdraw, people complain that there's no oversight ☺ moderating is tough and unrewarding work, we are trying our best, as are the moderators appointed from among the participants.

Bemep_admin: you can vote and discuss your votes even now – furthermore the introduction of resolutions will open the way to the creation of interesting projects just begging for discussion.

AK_GUBIN: Does the number of posts on the forum have any relevance? :P

Admin: Yes, it keeps growing ☺

Bemep_admin: no, it doesn't influence your score.

Espectro: I have a question... in the vote section, should we mark "yes" or "no" in keeping with our views, or with how we anticipate the vote outcome will be in the real EP? Or perhaps should we alternate between those two?

Bemep_admin: there are two types of votes in the votes section – forecasting the outcomes of votes in the EP, and internal votes – the latter is a place for discussion and the creation of a majority in the virtual parliament.

Sgsman: will there be a purge of inactive users – mainly unaffiliated?

Admin: the question was already addressed, yes, there will be monthly "reductions"

Sgsman: hm, the activity of most players consists of writing a single post and that's that...

Admin: we aren't able to determine whether someone, who hasn't logged in 5 days hasn't done so because they can't, or because they don't want to play anymore, we have to set up some strict rules. Analyzing the individual behavior of several thousand players is technically impossible.

Sgsman: will there be any other ways of earning points, apart from votes and questions, where you only "rack up" points?

Admin: coalitions, and starting from next month, e-learning – it's all in the rules section

Bemep_admin: and additionally, resolutions drafted by the players

Sgsman: I see. How about for active participation in the game, discussion and activity in the party structures?

Bemep_admin: there are no prizes for that type of activity, apart from the possibility of shaping the fate of your faction – through participation in the board of directors.

Sgsman: how about filibustering? ☺

Admin: ?

Bemep_admin: filibustering = getting banned ☺

Admin: time is almost up, 3 last questions please ☺

Sgsman: where are the "rules of drafting resolutions" ☺?

Bemep_admin: the rules of drafting resolutions will appear simultaneously with the "resolutions" section.

Midori: Will there be any more such chats with administrators? And if so – how often?

Bemep_admin: Certainly, if there's need for such chats. Our proposal is: once per 2 weeks, at a time agreed upon in advance.

Midori: let's leave the admins in peace now ☺ don't want them getting exhausted ;)

Admin: Precisely ☺. Thank you for participation and for your questions.

Bemep_admin: thank you for your questions and we await your comments.

Bemep_admin: for up-to-date information you can reach us at our e-mail addresses.