

Lostislandic National Congress



Platform for Decision 2014

Introduction

While the Federal Republic of Lostisland is less than one year-old, Lostisland itself, in its continuance as a project, will soon celebrate the 6th anniversary. This term, pretty solid for any institution, is even more impressive for a *new nation project*, or a micronation, as most of them do not exist for more than several months.

Throughout these years, while, admittedly, multiple mistakes have been committed, Lostisland, under the permanent leadership of Yaroslav Mar, has managed to develop its own recognizable style, has seen the implementation of various projects and, generally, managed to evolve from a role-play game to one of the most prominent and serious now existing new nation projects with dozens of participants from all over the world. However, despite all the impressiveness of these achievements, both internal and foreign observers are usually pointing to the extreme inconsistency between the level of progressiveness in some fields and total backwardness in other. Thus, the legal system of the Federal Republic is almost completely undeveloped; a legislature, truly representative of the nation, never existed; the economy is still in embryo, being represented only by Lostisland Post and their postage stamps.

In order to solve these and other problems, and to secure further advancement and continuance of the successful projects implemented in the Federal Republic, the Lostislandic National Congress has developed the following Platform, which includes all the experience of the party members – professional economists, lawyers, simply veteran citizens who were in Lostisland for months and ages and know how does it work from inside. It does not contain pseudoideologies which never work in a new nation's realities; nor does it set fictional (for Lostisland) goals such as “creating a socialist economy” – instead of that, the Platform outlines crucial, yet concrete principles of governing such a complex project. The Lostislandic National Congress, largest and oldest political party of Lostisland whose members oversaw the implementation of its most impressive achievements, was always committed to the ideals of national self-advancement and excellence, and like ever before, presents its experience to ensure that Lostisland prospers for many years to come.

A Government for the People

The Lostislandic National Congress always stood in opposition to the creation of multiple useless ministries and governmental agencies, believing that the effectiveness of the Government can be guaranteed only by professionalism of the officials and not by establishment of institutions which are “cool” to have. However, another principle of the LNC’s policy is that should a person who is a genuine professional in a certain field offer their services to Lostisland, it is our duty to let them apply their skills in Lostisland – if necessary, by creating new ministries and governmental agencies, even if such were never planned to exist. The history of Lostisland shows that the most successful projects were usually started on the spur of the moment, and openness to new ideas should always remain the guideline of the Lostislandic society.

Legislation which serves the Country

Without a doubt, the legislation was always the Achilles’ heel of Lostisland, with the legal system, starting from the Constitution, being extremely undeveloped and flawed. For a certain period of time, a system based on custom law seemed to work pretty well, but the Pavlov Crisis clearly showed that the country’s security cannot be ensured without effective laws.

However, what seems to be another extremity is the trend we can observe in some foreign new nation projects – the trend of trying to codify everything, even what will never be implemented in realities of a new nation, such as the procedures of marriage, child adoption, usage of drugs etc. It is the LNC’s firm belief that to develop and pass laws which will, anywhere in the foreseeable future, exist only on the theoretical plane is a waste of time which could be spent on more productive activities.

Overall, in order to enhance the legal system of Lostisland, the LNC will dedicate its forces to the following:

- Development of a new Constitution, which will replace the current one full of mistakes, flaws and controversies: once the draft is developed, it will be made a subject of public discussion, and then put on the Universal voting;

- Creation of new laws, most importantly the Penal Code which would specify the conditions of dealing with potential iniquity taking place in Lostisland.

The process of formulating new laws will be overseen by professional lawyers with license to practice in UN member states, who are citizens of the Federal Republic of Lostisland. Taking in account that no one currently lives on the territory of Lostisland, and neither is this likely to change anytime soon, the main principle of the new legislation will be that should a specific issue not be mentioned in the corpus juris of the country, citizens of Lostisland must act in accordance with the laws of the jurisdiction of their places of residence.

Realistic Democracy

The Federal Republic of Lostisland is sometimes criticized by foreign observers for being “undemocratic” or even “dictatorial”. Undoubtedly, the vast majority of these accusations, which sometimes include even something as delusional as supposed “vote rigging” taking place in Lostisland, is not worth to be commented, and what is remarkably, all of them always come from foreigners, mostly underage, and never from own Lostislandic citizens. However, it is true that the Lostislandic system of governance might seem undemocratic at first glance, and therefore needs to be explained more amply.

The view of the Lostislandic National Congress was always that genuine democracy is not about having seven legislatures, nor a 200-article constitution, but about giving to citizens the ability to peacefully influence the nation’s proceedings – irrespectively of ways in which such influence is exercised. As such, even now, hardly any Lostislandic citizen could complain about their voice not being heard, and all of them enjoy individual approach from the President directly even on the stage of applying for citizenship. The Parliamentary Election, which is to take place next January, is determined to make this trend even more definitive.

However, the LNC also believes that realism is important in the efforts of democratizing the state, and forgetting about it would lead to inevitable turmoil or even the collapse of the nation, as it was happening repeatedly in other new nation projects which were enjoying too frequent change of leadership. The clue to understanding LNC’s stance on democracy is by not forgetting that Lostisland is, after all, an authoritative project, established and

managed by Yaroslav Mar, who remained the permanent leader during all the epochs of the Lostislandic history. Undoubtedly, even those who criticize, sometimes justly, his methods of work, could hardly deny that modern-day Lostisland is to a very large extent built by him. The Lostislandic National Congress strongly believes that there is no point in having Presidential election, as long as Yaroslav Mar, the creator and inspirer of Lostisland, is able and willing to continue to serve on this position.

One could consider this as a pro-dictatorship stance, making comparisons with countries like the UK, Switzerland, Sweden, etc. However, it shall be taken in account that Lostisland – as much as we would like to change it – is not an actual country where citizens live, study, work and pay taxes. It is a project, which, although collaborative, is the product of one man's imagination, and who not only because of that, but also so to secure Lostisland's future has every right to remain its leader, a fortiori on the mostly symbolic position of the President. We do, however, strongly endorse the democratic election of the Prime Minister – who, being the Head of Government, has much bigger actual power.

Foreign Policy for a Greater Tomorrow

While the former Republic of Lostisland had a documented Foreign Policy Tractate, that document, mostly specifying legal issues, was saying little about the criteria for recognition and establishment of diplomatic relations, which resulted in the foreign policy being conducted without specific dogma.

The Lostislandic National Congress believes that a well-defined foreign policy is one of the cornerstones of successful development, and as such, will introduce its version of a new Foreign Policy Tractate. Its main provisions, most importantly, shall include the following:

- The ultimate and fundamental principle of the foreign policy is Lostisland's own benefit – not ambitions of specific politicians but neither an act of mercy. While considering proposals for the establishment of new diplomatic relations, proposals the Ministry of Foreign Affairs receives on almost a weekly basis, Lostisland's benefit shall always remain the only criteria for the proposal's acceptance or rejection, and understanding that Lostisland, even now, is much more professional than many similar projects which change system of

governance every week and undertake self-proclaimed “coups” and “revolutions”, it is advisable not to be too generous in this regard, so not to embroil Lostisland’s name into pointless conflicts;

- Quality vs. Quantity – as comes from the previous point, Lostisland shall engage in diplomatic relations only if this is in her interests, and as such, the number of signed treaties is not an aim itself. Instead of that, special attention shall be paid to collaboration with those few, but historically proven Lostislandic allies, assuring that it only begins, not finishes after signing the Treaty of Mutual Recognition. At the same time, the list of existing diplomatic relations must be reviewed and treaties with no longer active projects – terminated;
- No “micronational UNs” – history proves that organizations which tend to copy the UN and dedicated themselves only to abstract “promotion of peace and collaboration” do not work well in micronational realities – most importantly because micronations, or new nation projects, are not in a need of having their diplomatic relations assisted by other forces; neither do such organizations solve international conflicts (what is supposed to be the main aim of their foundation), usually achieving completely the opposite aim – introducing unhealthy competition for ephemeral “influence”, promoting discontent and political intriguing where it should not take place – intriguing in which Lostisland as well, unfortunately, was involved in the past. This does not apply, however, for organizations which exist for a genuine and specific purpose, such as the Antarctic Micronational Union or the Inter-Micronational Chess Federation, both of which Lostisland is a proud member of, with the latter one even being financially sponsored by President Yaroslav Mar personally;
- Where possible – reconciliation with former Lostisland’s political opponents, should they show their willingness to solve the conflicts in a peaceful and mutually-beneficial manner;
- Continuance of establishing more Lostislandic consulates in foreign countries (in addition to the already existing in the UK, Israel, France and South America), as they were proven to be one of the most effective venues of spreading information about the project;
- Promotion of engagement in collaboration with recognized NGOs and charitable organizations.

The section about foreign policy would be incomplete without mentioning another proposal which was in talks for the last months – completely abandoning the principle of engaging into formal diplomatic relations, practicing instead of them only informal diplomacy. However, as this matter seems too controversial to be solved by one person, the Lostislandic National Congress will promote putting it on a Universal referendum.

Economic Policy for a Stronger Nation

Ever since foundation, Lostisland was lacking an established economical system – the only change in this field took place in May 2012, when Lostisland Post, first and so far only profitable Lostislandic industry was established. The profit from selling custom postage stamps, while not enough to immediately turn all the citizens of Lostisland into billionaires, covered the expenses of maintaining the websites of Lostisland active, which certainly marked a historical moment in the development of the project.

Nonetheless, the economical field still remains rather undeveloped: the national currency, real, was only proposed but never issued, despite plans about minting own coins in 2013 being announced in December last year; stamps still remain the only type of Lostislandic goods available for sale and the only source of income. Breaking this trend would not be an easy job, but possibly the most difficult task which now encounters Lostisland. However, the Lostislandic National Congress believes that with wise managing even that would not be impossible.

When it comes to the great argument of money being or not being necessary for new nation projects, the LNC's stance is clear: it is. Without serious financial investments, the rapid growth of Lostisland in the first half-year of 2012, which just in several months led a generally backwards and inactive project to prosperity, would never take place. Understanding that money, whether some like or dislike it, is the engine of progress, the Lostislandic National Congress will continue to work on attracting more investments to the project.

Understanding the total inapproachability and uselessness of some supposedly economical projects taking place in other new nation projects, such as “creating a socialist economy” or developing pseudoideologies and then trying to follow them, the Lostislandic National Congress will promote only what is genuinely realistic and useful for Lostisland: financial investments, continuance

of the production of postage stamps, giving start to coin minting, production of souvenirs with national symbols, etc. As the LNC believes, only after first Lostislandic coins are minted, and after a significant amount of own production, such as the above mentioned stamps, coinage, flags and souvenirs, is put on sale, the goal of creating an economy can be considered as achieved. However, the LNC will make sure that resources required for the implementation of the said projects are gathered in a voluntary way and that never ever any taxes are implemented in the Federal Republic – one of the cornerstones of the LNC's platform is that participation in the project should always remain free, and that's how it will remain under the governance of the LNC officers.

Hunter Island as the Symbol of the Lostislandic Dream

Hardly anyone could disagree that for Lostisland, Hunter Island is something much greater than just one of the territorial claims – it's a symbol of an implemented dream, of the triumph of imaginativeness and open mind over routine and skepticism, all thanks to the great Expedition to Hunter Island, undertaken in July 2012 by a Lostislandic hero, a brilliant professional and a man who does not know what fear is, the glorious Minister of Transport of Lostisland Capt. Martin Legof. Understanding all the difficulties which emerge when you're trying to accomplish a project like that, the Lostislandic National Congress is nonetheless ready and most willing to dedicate all of its forces to make the Expedition being repeated – this time, God willing, with actually installing the Lostislandic flag on Hunter Island. As a project for the not-so-remote future, tourist voyages to the island could serve as a good way of promoting the name of Lostisland on a worldwide scale.

Cultural Development as the Voice of the Country

Being founded by musicians, Lostisland from the beginning had more favorable conditions for developing culture, and one of the most notable examples of the latter still remains the National Anthem, composed by Stepan Ignatiev, former Captain Regent and the co-founder of Lostisland. Encouraging further cultural development of Lostisland, not only in music but also in other fields, is one of the priorities of the Lostislandic National Congress. In particular, once started but never properly implemented project, such as the development of the Lostislandic language and the National University of Lostisland, should be

audited and if possible, revived. As of the implementation of new cultural projects, irrespectively of their nature, citizens wishing to contribute with cultural initiatives will always be heard and if necessary, assisted.

Language Policy

For quite a long period of time Lostisland was divided in two factions – so-called “Old Lostisland”, consisting of Russophone citizens who joined the project in 2009 – 2011, and less organized but a larger group of non-Russophone citizens who joined it later. Fully this confrontation was manifested during the 2013 Captain’s Regent Election where many citizens were voting for each candidate simply because he belonged to their faction and shared their views on the role of Russian language within Lostisland.

While it was the LNC candidate who voiced support for Russian as the only official language, the party as a whole acknowledges the fact that Lostisland, while created in Russia and by Russians, is no longer a Russian but a multinational project, and believes that in existing Lostislandic realities, marked by geographical, ethnical and linguistic diversity, the only language which deserves this status is English – being the only one understood and spoken by the absolute majority of Lostislandic population. However, it is undoubtedly important to keep and preserve languages historically and currently associated with Lostisland, for which purpose Russian, Turkish, Dutch and Spanish were granted the status of *National* languages, and encouraging greater usage and widespread of them in the everyday life of the Federal Republic is an important part of the LNC’s language policy.

PR as the Gateway to Prosperity

As statistics shows, the majority of currently active citizens joined Lostisland in 2012 – 2013, which are years characterized by aggressive PR campaigns undertook by Lostislandic leadership mainly through the Internet and social networks, but also in offline communities. Understanding that this cannot be a mere coincidence, the LNC believes that continuing to conduct PR campaigns and promoting the project by all possible means is one of the crucial requirements for its growth. Already having one of the most popular Facebook page among new nation projects (359 followers as of November 26, 2013), Lostisland must continue to promote itself through this venue, which was

proven to be one of the most efficient, and the LNC sets 500 followers as a goal for the end of 2014.

Undoubtedly, Facebook shall not be the only mean of spreading information about Lostisland, and neither the Internet can substitute real-world activities. For this reason, as already stated, the LNC will promote establishing more consulates of Lostisland, making sure that they are always equipped with appropriate symbols, such as, most basically, the National flag and paper Applications for Citizenship. The production of souvenirs with Lostislandic symbols, as mentioned above, should help the case too, as once purchasing a mug or a pen with the Lostislandic advertisement on it, the customer will be almost unavoidably spreading information about Lostisland, becoming an unconscious contributor to the PR campaign.

Irrespective of the means of promotion, all of them must be supervised by a dedicated professional and a specialist in PR; the Lostislandic National Congress will make sure that such person takes charge of the Lostislandic informational policy.

Conclusion

In this document, the Lostislandic National Congress outlined only the basic principles of its beliefs of governing the project. Nonetheless, being the result of collective work of the party members – professional lawyers, business consultants, simply experienced Lostislanders – it, should it be implemented, will serve as a springboard for the future leap in Lostisland's development. In order to make all written above coming true, we urge you, at January 3-5 2014, to vote for the **Lostislandic National Congress** on the Parliamentary Election 2014. A vote for the LNC is not only a vote for stability and professionalism – it is a vote for the future of Lostisland, its glory and prosperity.

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