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 **Candidats.fr**

 **(Traduction vers l'anglais)**

**Brevet ability, technical measures of protection, interoperability, committed sales, ''confidence computing system,''.. So many subjects on which a big number of developers and users of free software, and mostly citizens, would undoubtedly to know the view points of candidates at the presidential 2007. This is why April launched 30 January 2007 the initiative Candidats.fr : for the entering of Free Software in campaign!..**

April, after having participated actively to the efforts of information spreading and to combating against DADVSI , in the frame of initiative EUCD.INFO, expanded its action within 2007 via the Candidats.fr initiative.

Crucial choices partially arranging the future of free software will have to been made by public authorities within the following years :

**-**abroad and in Europe first of all, which point of view will be defended by France, upon the following debates on the community brevetting ? How should it get rid of the trouble of legal protection by technical measures of protected works ? Should it be allied to Brazil and India when they ask for an action reorientation of the World Organization of Intellectual Property? And how to act within Europe in order to favor the development of interoperability ?

-and in regard to the national program **,** should it revise fast the DADVSI law, without expecting it to end up to circumstantial l negotiations at European and international level ? How could it break the prospective committed sale and the repeated forcing of consumers code, that sustain the socializing of free software systems? Should it by any means compel French authorities to the use of public standards and to free software systems when it's possible? And what will be the standard of Free Software use within French schools?

In order that everybody is able to express oneself and make his own conscious choice, April presented to its candidates 30 January 2007 at the presidential elections a questionnaire and a list of specific proposals. The purpose is to allow to candidates to develop their vision and get engaged to the subject on debate within the community. Their answers and engagements on the case have been put online while they were being received. By the end of May 2007, a similar start was launched for the legislation.

The initiative of April has been successful. Eight candidates among twelve, at the presidential elections answered to questionnaire Candidats. Fr : Francois Bayrou, olivier Besancenot, Jose Bove, Marie-George Buffet, Jean-Marie Le Pen, Segolene Royal, Nicolas Sarkozy et Dominique Voynet. Arlette Laguiller had acknowledged us much earlier that she had no reaons to answer, Frederic Nihous, Philippe de Villiers, Gerard Schivardi, in their turn, did not answer without providing the reason.

The subjects recommended by April weren't treated deeply by the majority of candidates, and April was thus happy to have contributed to the debate to a large extent on free software and to the numeric freedoms.

April felt sorry for the non responding of Nicolas Sarkozy, although he had promised it publicly : he's the only presidential candidate that he was not engaged in the defending of free software.

April is thanking all candidates that were engaged in the answering, giving thus the opportunity to French citizens to get to know better their view points on free software and numeric freedoms.

The quality of the disputed answers demonstrates for April, the ability of candidates to be surrounded by experts, to be good listeners, to check opinions on sensitive issues

, sometimes hot ones, which is itself a good criteria for promoting the ability of thinking, by each party, whatever the result is.

The ability to get extracted from the apparent technicality in order to lie the numeric goals to other social subjects is also rejoicing : it wits that the goals have been integrated in a social project and that politic has known how to take the step on technique, either informational or legal one.

It's pleasant, as the era of numeric is our common future, both from societal and economic view point and the software freedom will be contributing from today on to our ability of practicing other fundamental liberties as well.

' *‘’Let’s hope that the initiative of April has contributed to the nourishment of the citizen debate beyond partisan cleavages The proposals of candidates in disposal in the meantime have been read through by the majority, disputed and criticized. There’s no doubt that certain suggestions will be made tomorrow”’, declared Jean-Christophe Becquet, vice president of the popular education of April.*

*‘’The free software actors are interested in its democratization, socialization and the adoption of an adapted legislation, mainly on brevets and intellectual property rights, in order to favor its development and its diffusion within society. April will try to achieve this goal, by its new president of Republic upon his assignment ‘’, declared on its behalf Benoit Sibaud, the president of the association.*

All answers of candidates are Online at the following address :

http ://www.candidats.fr/annuaire.php

Less than 36 hours before the first tour of the presidential elections, M Nicolas Sarkozy was letting know his answer to Candidats.fr initiative, to the questionnaire that all candidates had received. The French people having already shown up M.Nicolas Sarkozy as France President, April suggests the analysis of his answers, and this way decrypt the impacts on Free Software of the new President view points, related to numeric liberties. See

http://www.candidats.fr/index.php/2007/05/16/75-la -reponse-de-nicolas-sarkozy-au questionnaire-candidatsfr-une-analyse.

**Legislation 2007**

In the frame of initiative, Candidats fr., the April suggested to citizens they should encourage candidates to legislation elections 2007 to sign the Pact of Free Software.

The Free Software Pact is a simple document, allowing to electors to know which conscribed candidate is aware of Free Software goals and is engaged in promoting and defend related freedoms to it. The Free Software Pact is also a tool allowing all citizens related to Free software to give awareness to candidates of their responsibilities upon their election. The Free Software Pact is therefore inscribed to a double citizen demarche: provide a dialogue base within citizens and the elected ones before elections, on the free Software goals; dispose clear engagements made in full conscience.

*‘’The Free Software Pact is inscribed within a double citizen demarche : supply a dialogue base between citizens and the elected ones before elections take place in regard to the goals of Free Software : dispose clear engagements made in full conscience’ declared Benoit Sibaud* , president of April.

On the site dedicated to this initiative : <http:///www.candidats.fr/legislatives2007> a collaboration platform has been applied to allow everybody to take part in this campaign.

The coordinates of the 7 639 candidates were available on the site Candidats.fr that also allows the undertaking of further actions for each candidate. The internets were invited to help maintaining this information and report their proper actions. The synthesis argumentations were redacted to allow everybody to join the meeting of candidates. Others more staffed, are also available for those who wish to deepen. The candidates having signed the Pact may point it out in their site with the help of a macaroon “’ I have signed for the Free Software Pact’’.

613 volunteers have participated. They tool 809 responsibilities, this means they tried inside a department or a subscription to have the Free Software Pact signed. 1225 contact actions have been reported and 520 legislation candidates 2007 signed the Pact.

**Among the 577 elected members, 68 signed the free software pact.**