



Federalist Candidate Sealand and Democrat Candidate Belgie d'Alberville on the stands outside the National Parliament Building

PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

On the 9th of December, 2023, the two Presidential Candidates, Sealand of the Federalist Party, and Belgie d'Alberville of the Democrat Party converged on the stage set up in front of the National Parliament Building in order to answer questions in the *Presidential Debate* held by the Grand National Office, Office of Citizens Affairs. Both candidates were asked a series of questions, which they provided answers to, and debated each other's answers. Here is a summary of the questions and their answers;

How will you kickstart the Economy on the Reformation of the Republic?

Belgie d'Alberville stated that 'everyone knows what's best for them', and stated that the government will create the most frictionless and easy process for the companies to start themselves up, eliminating red tape.

Sealand took a different approach, stating that a government fund would be created in order to help businesses lift off the ground by giving them loans, and proposing a bracketed 'fair' taxation system, where 'the people [with] lowest [income] would not be taxed very little'. This was disagreed by Belgie, who stated that the system would be unfair due to the conflict of different citizens interests, and supported limited government involvement. He added that the government should prioritise Farming and Blue Collar jobs, as he deems them 'crucial'.

With the New Currency, The Rosavian Pound, a majority of the currency is in the hands of the National Reserve, how do you propose to introduce this amount to the circulation?

Mr Sealand stated that his previous statement of a funds for new businesses would already be a beginning, and that he would additionally be contracting construction companies for infrastructure programmes, and lastly introduce a welfare programme for the poorest of the citizens.

Belgie d'Alberville refuted by stating that 'there will not be the poorest of the country when the economy has just started', as an opening to his

answer. 'There should not be a redistribution of money, because some jobs are more important than others', Belgie stated. 'Welfare Programmes, I don't see a point in doing them, as of right now.'

Sealand refuted this point, stating that there was an inequality, as members of the OTIC – Office of Terraforming, Infrastructure and Construction – were already ahead of the rest of the nation as they had a group of buildings already set up for themselves.

However, when Belgie raised that the created buildings were the property of OTIC rather than personal property of the members of OTIC, Sealand conceded the point.

With the end of the Military Administration, and the placement of the Gendarmerie into a lower position under the Ministry of National Security & Defence, how do you plan on ensuring the Nation's Security?

Mr Belgie started by stating that 'The Gendarmerie can not be everywhere', and 'We will definitely keep running the Gendarmerie, but it is important that the people have the right to own guns...', especially referring to the struggles of the Arsarians prior to the collapse of the last Republic, where the Governorate was the target of heavy attacks by nationalists and anti-secessionists.

Mr Sealand answered by stating that 'This is less about the Gendarmerie being powerful or the people owning guns, and more pre-empting a situation ... and that's by democratising... where more people can get involved', and gave workplace democracy as an example. 'Its going to prevent

people's anger boiling that they are not involved in the decision-making process.'

Mr Belgie stated that he agreed in more local administration, where the Municipalities would be able to make decisions on what to do with their own land, as he stated again, 'They would know better'.

Historically speaking, there has been a lot of discrimination against Minorities of Rosava, which included the large minority of Arsaria, but also smaller ones like Valyrians, Ukyalti and specifically Scarlithians. How do you plan on approaching this issue?

Mr Sealand opened by stating that unlike Belgie, he does not believe in the free market having say in everything, and stated that the government should have a hand in the Scarlithian issue. He implied that there should be some restrictions on non-Scarlithians purchasing lands in the Southern Continent.

Mr Belgie refuted that while the government needed to be mindful of the Scarlithian exploitation, the natural reserves in which the Scarlithian settlements are on are needed, and thus stated that the government should look for alternative resources.

Mr Sealand replied by stating that the government need not look for alternative sources, but they can purchase the natural resources from Scarlithian-owned businesses and companies, respecting the locals.

Mr Belgie d'Alberville started his own reply by stating that all exploitation is

unacceptable, and agreed that there should be more resources coming from Scarlithians. 'However, we can not force them to [sell]. The government does need the terracotta, ... to keep on existing [and developing].' He defended that the companies that go to the Southern Continent should be kept on a watch for discrimination and slavery.

Audience Question: Are there any specific industries that will be subsidized?

Mr Belgie d'Alberville stated that the funding should mainly go to blue collar workers, such as miners, but especially farmers. He added that the taxpayer should not be overburdened, and defended that limiting the subsidies to these industries is critical, stating for a second time that the people's money should not go to 'Restaurant Owners'.

Mr Sealand stated that the initial problem with the current nation is the food crisis. 'Subsidising the Farming Industry which is really yet to exist would really help us out.' He also added that he will be nationalising some farms. Mr Belgie refuted the farming nationalisation stating that this would remove motivation in the farmers, saying that they need money that they deserve. Mr Sealand responded by saying that the 'People not starving comes first'. While Sealand defended that every job is important, Belgie stated that some jobs are more important than others, doubling down on the farmers being elevated.

...

Gendarmerie Captures Southern Continent's Primary Port

Following reports of a port designed to be docked by a single ferry – which was built by the Hambriston Branch of the Office of Terraforming Infrastructure and Construction – was controlled by the Hambriston Port Authority, which was under the Hambriston Municipal Government. The Port is on the Southern Continent, and is the only reliable mode of transportation to the continent, save for a small dirt airfield near the largest Scarlithian settlement. Since its construction, the Hambriston Port Authority – which also operated the corresponding port located in Hambriston, made with the same design to accommodate for the same ferry model produced locally in Hambriston – had assumed the operation and security of the port, hiring a number of armed security guards to man the checkpoint facing the inside of the treacherous desert. There were signs for incoming cars to slow down, and a

checkpoint for a security search. Upon these reports, it was determined by the Grand National Office and the Chancellery that the port belonged to OTIC, and the security was best done by the Gendarmerie. Following this, a message was dispatched to the Hambriston Port Authority, requesting the immediate handing over of the port and its security duties to the GNO and the Gendarmerie. The HPA approved this, and allowed the Gendarmerie to move in. A helicopter was dispatched from the Norfolk Base, and soon arrived on the port, dispatching the Gendarmerie foot soldiers. The transition was largely peaceful, save for an incident that resulted in a shoot-out between the Security Apparatus and the Gendarmerie Detachment.

While a member of the Security Apparatus attempted to scare away a wild animal – not identified – from approaching the perimeter wall of

the port, fired his firearm, which caused a confusion in the already tense Gendarmerie team, which opened fire on the security guard. The Security guard was hit once during the shooting, and was attempted to be given care, but due to the remote location, passed away on location. The Grand National Office is currently in the talks with Hambriston on the issue of reimbursement.



The Gendarmerie soldiers opening fire on the Security Guard that fired his weapon

Norfolk Quickly Becomes the Most Industrialised Area of Rosava

As the Republic industrialised, the corporations of Rosava looked for the most suitable location for their industrial complexes to be built. Not long after, a candidate shined among all others; Norfolk.

There are 3 reasons why Norfolk is host to almost the entire industrial output of the Nation: It's surroundings, it's proximity and it's price.

Being outside of any large cities or developed sub-urban areas such as Perthshire or Hambriston respectively, the area surrounding Norfolk is open for exploitation, with many mining operations as well as lumber operations already being active in the area. The relatively low residential occupancy allows corporations to have a more free reign with less pushback on what they can exploit out of the ground.

Second point being proximity, Norfolk is very close to Perthshire, and has a bus line going directly to Friona, where many of the factories sell their produce. It is also overall located very centrally to the nation-wide distribution of the population, being a logistically advantageous location.

Third reason is price; as Norfolk started out a small river-side village, its plot prices were initially – and largely still is – way below the prices one would have to pay for anywhere in the large cities. On top of this, the amount of unclaimed and unregistered land allows for individuals to claim land for free through the Office of Citizens Affairs, as there are no laws prohibiting such practice, or a fee imposed on it.

These factors combined have led to the opening of a large complex to the west of the town, as well as a new development being built to the North.

The reaction from the locals of Norfolk has largely been apathetic to the situation, as many of the industrial development has been detached from the local community enough as not to disturb them. Some do fear, however, that this situation may change in the future, and the industrially viable positioning of their land could put the people of Norfolk at a crossroads with the large corporations which set up shop on their backyards.

Friona Overtakes Capital City Perthshire In Development

Since the formation of the Republic, a trend has been very clear; the capital city of Perthshire is being left behind as the most developed urban area, definitely getting behind Friona and being head to head with Hambriston in urban areas, but falling behind yet again in sub-urban development. This leaves one question: Why? The Chancellor of the Grand National Office stated; 'As of now, the regional chiefs and builders themselves have immense freedom. They are free to create their projects as they wish. However, this won't be for long. With the new government, as Ministry of State and Internal Affairs will likely prioritising certain elements, I'm sure things will be more under control, though it ultimately depends on the government. After all, projects will then require some amount of money, and that money will be provided by the Executive.'

Currently, many of the stores are located within Friona, a majority of the infrastructure development is in Hambriston, and nearly all industrial development is in Norfolk – which even though it is a part of the Perthshire Municipality, is out of the city itself.

This can largely be attributed to the portion of manpower allocated for each area: nearly all architects are in the Arsaria Branch, while nearly all Civil Engineers are in the Hambriston Branch, leaving very little for the National Branch. This led to the branches and their members largely prioritising their own homeland, in what Chancellor described as 'Immense Freedom'.

A large point of ridicule by many has been the Perthshire Mall, which has been left unfinished under the management of the Civil Engineer Truman, for nearly over a month, despite being a central financial issue on a national level. Originally meant to be the centre of trade in the Republic, the role is quickly being shifted to Friona, as the sellers look east in their attempts to find a venue for their products.