

Landerneau (France) and Hünfeld (Germany) win the 2011 Europe Prize

Strasbourg, 14.04.2011 – The 2011 Europe Prize has been awarded jointly to the towns of Landerneau (France) and Hünfeld (Germany). This decision was taken unanimously by the Committee on the Environment, Agriculture and Local and Regional Affairs of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) at its April plenary session in Strasbourg.

Already winners of the European Diploma, the Flag of Honour and the Plaque of Honour of the Council of Europe, both towns have been twinned for more than forty years and have developed links between people from all levels of society. While Landerneau is also twinned with Caernarfon (Wales) and has friendship links with Mioveni (Romania), Hünfeld has developed an active twinning with Proszkow (Poland), Steinberg in Vogtland (Germany) and has friendship links with Geisa in Thuringia (Germany).

Through this choice, the committee also wanted to show that even small local authorities could aspire to this distinction, which was awarded to Kharkiv (Ukraine) in 2010 and Ankara (Turkey) in 2009. It is the second time that the Europe Prize is awarded to two twinned municipalities. In 2000, Cockermouth (United Kingdom) and Marvejols (France) were jointly awarded this prize.

Created by PACE in 1955, the Europe Prize is the highest distinction that can be bestowed on a European town for its actions in the European domain. The prize consists of a trophy, a medal, a diploma and a scholarship to be spent on a study visit within Europe for young people from the winning town.

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The **Plaque of Honour**, which is the second highest distinction after the Europe Prize, was awarded to ten municipalities:

Austria	St Georgen am Walde (Upper Austria)
Belgium	Evergem (Eastern Flanders) <i>together with Großenkneten (Germany)</i>
France	Chauray (Deux-Sèvres)
Germany	Durach (Bavaria) Großenkneten (Lower Saxony) <i>together with Evergem (Belgium)</i>
	Kuppenheim (Baden-Württemberg)
	Rheine (North Rhine-Westphalia)
	Weinstadt (Baden-Württemberg)
Lithuania	Šilutė (Klaipėda County)
Poland	Będzin (woj. Śląskie)

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The **Flag of Honour** was awarded to 17 municipalities this year:

France	Alfortville (Val-de-Marne) Arnage (Sarthe)
Georgia	Tbilisi
Germany	Erlangen (Bavaria) Flotwedel (Lower Saxony) Gerbrunn (Bavaria) Kosel (Schleswig-Holstein) Montabaur (Rhineland-Palatinate) Puchheim (Bavaria)
Italy	Fortezza/Franzensfeste (Prov. de Bolzano)
Lithuania	Birzai (Panevezys County)
Poland	Barlinek (woj. Zachodniopomorskie) Serock (woj. Mazowieckie) Wałcz (woj. Zachodniopomorskie)
Spain	Sant Joan de les Abadesses (Catalonia)
Ukraine	Lutsk (Volyn Oblast)
United Kingdom	Perth (Scotland)

18 municipalities were granted the **European Diploma**:

Croatia	Cres
France	Langeais (Indre-et-Loire) Le Vésinet (Yvelines) Massy (Essonne) Thonon-les-Bains (Haute-Savoie)
Germany	Bergen auf Rügen (Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania) Göttingen (Lower Saxony) Jettingen (Baden-Württemberg) Nauheim (Hessen) Straubing (Bavaria)
Italy	Cervia (Province of Ravenna)
Poland	Jabłonka (woj. Małopolskie) Korfantów (woj. Opolskie) Puławy (woj. Lubelskie) Sopot (woj. Pomorskie) Sulęcín (woj. Lubuskie)
Russia	Belgorod Volgograd



The Assembly brings together 318 members from the national parliaments of the 47 member states.
President: Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu (Turkey, EDG) - Secretary General of the Assembly: Wojciech Sawicki.
Political groups: EPP/CD (Group of the European People's Party); SOC (Socialist Group);
EDG (European Democrat Group); ALDE (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe);
UEL (Group of the Unified European Left).