



Regulations for the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Human Rights Prize¹

Article 1: The Prize

The Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Human Rights Prize shall be awarded on the occasion of the Parliamentary Assembly's biennial debate on "The state of human rights in Europe", in order to reward outstanding civil society action in the defence of human rights in Europe.

Article 2: Nature

The Prize shall consist of a sum of ten thousand euros, which may be subject to periodic adjustment by the Bureau, a plaque and a diploma commending the Prizewinner's outstanding contribution to the cause of human rights.

Article 3: Eligibility

Individual members of civil society or non-governmental organisations or institutions who are active in the defence of human rights in Europe may be eligible for consideration.

Article 4: Nominations

1. Nominations for the Prize must reach the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly by 30 September of the year preceding the award of the Prize. They shall be signed by at least five sponsors, other than the nominee, on the special form appended to these Regulations.
2. Nominations shall provide details of the nominee's action(s) in the defence of human rights and specify the reasons why the nominee's action(s) can be considered to be outstanding. All relevant supporting documents shall be provided.
3. Nominations may be submitted in one of the two official languages of the Parliamentary Assembly: English or French.

¹ As adopted by the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 19 December 2007, and modified on 19 November 2009.

Article 5: Selection Panel

1. A selection panel comprising the President of the Assembly, the Chairperson of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, the Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee and four independent persons with recognised moral standing in the field of human rights shall examine the nominations and make a recommendation to the Bureau as to the Prizewinner.
2. The four independent experts referred to in the preceding paragraph shall not be current members of the Assembly. They shall be appointed by the Bureau for a five-year period, renewable once. In order to ensure a reasonable rotation and continuity, the term of two of the experts shall be limited to three years on the occasion of the first appointment made by the Bureau. The names of the experts concerned shall be drawn by lot by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly.
3. The selection panel shall be chaired by the President of the Assembly.
4. In the event that the selection panel considers that none of the nominations put forward is sufficiently outstanding, it shall inform the Bureau accordingly.

Article 6: Decision on the Prizewinner

1. The decision on the Prizewinner shall be taken by the Bureau by an absolute majority of the votes cast.
2. The Bureau's decision on the Prizewinner shall be subject to the endorsement of the Parliamentary Assembly by means of the Bureau's progress report.

Article 7: Award Ceremony

1. The Prize shall be awarded at a ceremony which shall take place in principle during the part-session of the Parliamentary Assembly following the Assembly's endorsement of the Prizewinner.
2. The Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly shall approve the modalities of the ceremony.