

**STATUTE OF THE SAKHAROV PRIZE FOR FREEDOM OF THOUGHT**

**DECISION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS**

**OF 15 MAY 2003<sup>1</sup>**

The Conference of Presidents,

- having regard to Parliament's resolution of 13 December 1985 instituting the Sakharov Prize for freedom of thought,
- having regard to the proposal from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy,
- having regard to Rule 25(4) of the Rules of Procedure<sup>2</sup>,

HAS DECIDED

**Article 1**

Parliament shall annually award the Sakharov Prize for freedom of thought.

**Article 2**

The prize shall be awarded for a particular achievement in one of the following fields:

- defence of human rights and fundamental freedoms, particularly the right to free expression,
- safeguarding the rights of minorities,
- respect for international law,
- development of democracy and implementation of the rule of law.

‘Achievement’ shall mean any intellectual or artistic composition or active work in the above fields.

**Article 3**

The prize shall be 50 000 €.

Parliament reserves the right to publish any work for which the prize is awarded.

**Article 4**

The prize may be awarded to natural persons or to associations or organisations, irrespective of whether they have legal personality.

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<sup>1</sup> Modified by the Conference of Presidents on 14 June 2006.

<sup>2</sup> This reference to the Rules of Procedure is to the version in force during the seventh parliamentary term.

The nationality, place of residence or seat of the candidates shall be immaterial.

### **Article 5**

If a written work is submitted in support of an application, it must be in one of the official languages of the European Union.

An achievement within the meaning of Article 2 must be substantiated and verifiable.

### **Article 6**

Nominations must secure the support of at least 40<sup>3</sup> Members, or a political group, of Parliament. Individual Members may support only one nominee. Each proposal must be signed and include supporting evidence.

### **Article 7**

Nominations which meet the formal criteria set out above shall be assessed in a joint meeting of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Development. Following that assessment, the two committees shall proceed jointly to an indicative vote producing a list of three candidates, in alphabetical order, from which the Conference of Presidents shall select one winner.

### **Article 8**

The President of Parliament shall present the prize at a ceremony during a plenary session of Parliament.

### **Article 9**

The procedures for the award of the prize shall be governed by internal implementing provisions to be laid down by the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Those provisions shall be communicated to any candidate at his or her request.

### **Article 10**

The decision on the prize-winner shall be final and may not be challenged in the courts.

- Annex 1: Indicative timetable for the award of the Sakharov Prize
- Annex 2: List of prize-winners

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<sup>3</sup> Figure adapted in the light of the accession of Bulgaria and Romania.

**AWARD OF THE SAKHAROV PRIZE  
INDICATIVE TIMETABLE**

- June/July** A call for nominations is circulated to the Members of Parliament
- September** Closing date for proposing nominees
- September/October** The Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Development jointly:
- assess the nominations
  - take an indicative vote to establish a list of three names in alphabetical order, to be submitted to the Conference of Presidents
- October/November** Decision by the Conference of Presidents on one winner
- December** Official award ceremony at the plenary sitting (Strasbourg)

WINNERS OF THE SAKHAROV PRIZE

1988 - Nelson MANDELA  
Anatoli MARCHENKO (posthumous award)

1989 - Alexander DUBČEK

1990 - Aung SAN SUU KYI

1991 - Adem DEMAÇI

1992 - LAS MADRES DE PLAZA DE MAYO

1993 - OSLOBODJENJE

1994 - Taslima NASREEN

1995 - Leyla ZANA

1996 - WEI JINGSHENG

1997 - Salima GHEZALI

1998 - Ibrahim RUGOVA

1999 - Xanana GUSMÃO

2000 - ¡BASTA YA!

2001 - Izzat GHAZZAWI  
Nurit PELED-ELHANAN  
Dom Zacarias KAMWENHO

2002 - Oswaldo José PAYÁ SARDIÑAS

2003 - Kofi ANNAN (UN)

2004 - Belarusian Association of Journalists

2005 - Ladies in White  
Hauwa IBRAHIM  
Reporters Without Borders

2006 - Alexander MILINKEVICH

2007 - Salih Mahmoud OSMAN

2008 - Hu JIA

2009 - Lyudmila ALEXEYEVA, Oleg ORLOV and Sergei KOVALEV, on behalf of  
MEMORIAL and all other human rights defenders in Russia

2010 - Guillermo FARÍÑAS

2011 - Arab Spring: Asmaa Mahfouz (Egypt), Ahmed El-Senussi (Libya),  
Mohamed Bouazizi (Tunisia), Ali Ferzat and Razan Zaitouneh (Syria)

2012 - Nasrin SOTOUDEH and Jafar PANAHI

2013 - Malala YOUSAFZAI

2014 - Denis MUKWEGE

2015 - Raif BADAWI

2016 - Nadia MURAD and Lamya HAJI BASHAR

2017 - Democratic opposition in Venezuela

2018 - Oleg SENTSOV

2019 - Ilham TOHTI