

Directorate-General for Communication

SAKHAROV PRIZE FOR FREEDOM OF THOUGHT

Programme 2016

1) Introduction

The Sakharov Prize for freedom of thought is awarded annually by the European Parliament.

2) Objectives of the programme

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.

An 'Achievement' may be any intellectual or artistic composition or active work in the above fields. It must be substantiated and verifiable.

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

3) Prize

The prize shall be 50,000 €.

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

4) Award

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

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

5) Information concerning the nomination and selection process

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

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.

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

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.

6) Legal disclaimer

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