

D E C I S I O N

ON THE NEW WORDING OF THE STATUTES ON THE BALTIC ASSEMBLY PRIZES FOR LITERATURE, ARTS AND SCIENCE

The Baltic Assembly,

proceeding from the proposals of the Joint Judging Committee of the Baltic
Assembly Culture Prizes,

proposes to approve the Statutes on the Baltic Assembly Prizes for Literature, Arts
and Science in the following wording:

STATUTES ON THE BALTIC ASSEMBLY PRIZES FOR LITERATURE, THE ARTS AND SCIENCE

I. General Provisions

1. The Baltic Assembly Prizes for Literature, the Arts and Science (henceforth - *the Prizes*) were established upon the suggestion of the Baltic Assembly session of October 31, 1993, in order to facilitate the development of literature, the arts and science in the Baltic States, to assess the most distinguished achievements in these fields and to disseminate these achievements in other states.

The Prizes have been established in order to:

- demonstrate the mutual interests of the countries in this region for the upholding of their national identity and self-esteem by supporting outstanding achievements in literature, the arts and science;

- maintain a continuous interest among the people in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania about developments in the Baltic States by creating the possibility to learn about each other's achievements;

- strengthen co-operation among the Baltic States in the fields of literature, the arts and science;

- create an interest among a growing number of people in the acquisition of the intellectual values and languages of the Baltic nations;

- raise the level of literature, the arts and science in the Baltic States.

2. The Prizes are to be awarded within the framework of the mutual co-operation program of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, upon the basis of the resolution passed by the joint judging committee (experts joint judging committee, henceforth *Joint Judging Committee*) approved by the Baltic Assembly.

3. The Baltic States shall allocate at least 5,000 ECU per each prize.

The nominal value of the Prizes shall be set annually in accordance with the resources allocated in the budget. The monetary prize to be presented to the winners shall be tax exempt.

II. Procedure for awarding the Prizes

1. The Baltic Assembly Prize for Literature shall be awarded annually at the session of the Baltic Assembly to an author for a novel, a play, a collection of poems, short stories or essays, or any similar written composition in Estonian, Latvian or Lithuanian. The work must have been published for the first time within the past three years.

2. The Baltic Assembly Prize for the Arts shall be awarded annually at the session of the Baltic Assembly either to an author or to a performer for a work of art or a series of works presented (performed before an audience) within the past three years in fine arts, applied arts, in music, architecture, theatre or cinema. It also may be awarded to a director, soloist, actor,

ballet artist or a group of artists for outstanding artistic achievement accomplished within the past three years.

3. The Baltic Assembly Prize for Science shall be awarded annually at the session of the Baltic Assembly to an author for outstanding research work or series in the humanities, social or natural sciences, which is of international importance, has a considerable impact on the Baltic region and has been published within the past three years.

III. The joint judging committee

1. The Joint Judging Committee of the Baltic Assembly Prize shall consist of nine people. The works nominated for the Prize in literature, the arts or science shall be assessed by the respective experts. Each country shall delegate three persons to the Joint Judging Committee and determine the procedure for their selection.

2. The members of the Joint Judging Committee shall be outstanding specialists in the fields of literature, the arts and science.

3. The members of the Joint Judging Committee shall be changed at least every three years.

Every year at least one member of the Joint Judging Committee from each state shall be released whereas after the attainment of proper rotation no member of the Joint Judging Committee shall have the right to participate in its work for more than three years running.

4. The Joint Judging Committee shall elect a chairperson and two vice chairpersons from their midst who shall change each year in accordance with the procedure for their rotation (among the countries).

5. The Joint Judging Committee meetings shall be convened at least once a year and shall be recorded in writing in the languages of all three countries and translated into English.

Joint Judging Committee decides its own internal working procedures.

The Joint Judging Committee meetings shall take place alternately in Tallinn, Riga and Vilnius.

6. The Joint Judging Committee meetings shall have full powers if at least two representatives from each country participate.

In addition to the regular meetings for awarding prizes, the Joint Judging Committee may convene other meetings if the necessity arises. The Committee meetings may be convened upon the suggestion of the Baltic Assembly, the Joint Judging Committee chairperson or the jury representatives from any of the respective countries. Every year members of the Joint Judging Committee shall be entitled to discuss the rules of the competition and the procedure for awarding prizes, and to propose amendments to the Statutes.

The Joint Judging Committee shall be entitled to make a decision not to award any one of the Prizes. The Prize shall also not be awarded if the Joint Judging Committee is not able to reach an agreement, that is, to make a concrete decision with a simple majority vote. The unused resources shall be transferred to the following year's budget.

The Joint Judging Committee shall make its decisions and the substantiation for them known to the public.

7. The Prize nominees from each country shall be assessed by national Judging Committees. Only the National Judging Committees shall be entitled to select works for submission to the joint competition of the Baltic States and the works shall be submitted together with all the necessary information (the curriculum vitae of the nominee, reviews and other related materials like audio- and video cassettes, slides etc.).

8. Works and their authors shall be nominated for the Prize by the Joint Judging Committee. The Joint Judging Committee shall assess the works nominated by the respective National Judging Committee of each country.

IV. Nominating the work and awarding the Prize

1. Works shall be submitted to the National Judging Committee in accordance with the rules of the competition three months and to the Joint Judging Committee one month before the awarding of the prizes. The National Judging Committee shall assess these works and nominate no more than the best two works from the fields of literature, the arts and science for review to the Joint Judging Committee.

In order to assess a musical work, fine arts and theatrical productions, it is recommended to organise concerts, exhibitions and performances.

2. The decision on awarding the Prize shall be submitted to the Baltic Assembly Secretariat no later than two weeks before the session of the Baltic Assembly.

3. The same person (group of authors) may not receive the Prize more than once.

V. Presenting the Prize

1. The prize - a special medal, diploma, signed by the Chairman of the Presidium of the Baltic Assembly and the Chairman of the Joint Judging Committee, and monetary prize - shall be presented by the Chairman of the Presidium of the Baltic Assembly or his/her deputy at a Baltic Assembly ceremony, and the names of the prize winners and information on their achievements shall be published in the press of all three Baltic States.

2. The literary work, the author of which has been awarded the Baltic Assembly prize, shall be published within two years from the reception of the Prize in the languages of two other Baltic States.

The prize-winning works in the arts and science shall also be given publicity in other countries.

VI. The administration and Secretariat of the Joint Judging Committee

1. The Joint Judging Committee shall be co-ordinated by the Baltic Assembly Secretariat, which also provides assistance to the National Judging Committee.

2. Each year the Joint Judging Committee shall request from the Council of Ministers of the Baltic States the resources necessary for the prize, for ensuring the necessary work of the experts, organising exhibitions and concerts and providing for other needs related to the assessment.

3. The administration of the Joint Judging Committee shall be conducted and the accounts of the financial resources shall be kept in accordance with the laws of the respective countries and the regulations of the Council of Ministers of the Baltic States.

VII. Duties of the Joint Judging Committee

1. The Joint Judging Committee, in conjunction with the Baltic Assembly Secretariat, shall be responsible for the proper utilisation of allocated funds.

2. The Joint Judging Committee shall provide the Baltic Assembly with a report on its activity.

The Statutes on the Baltic Assembly Prizes for Literature, the Arts and Science shall be adopted, amended and, if necessary, suspended by the Baltic Assembly.

Vilnius, 13 April 1996