

BALTIC ASSEMBLY

STATUTES

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

1. General Provisions

1.1. 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 the three Baltic 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 and about developments in their neighboring countries by creating the possibility to learn about their neighbors' achievements;
- strengthen cooperation among the Baltic States in the fields of literature, the arts and science;
- create an interest among a growing number of people for the acquisition of the intellectual values and languages of the Baltic nations;
- raise the general level of literature, the arts and science in the Baltic countries.

1.2. The Prizes are to be awarded within the framework of the mutual international cooperation program of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, upon the basis of the resolution passed by the joint judging committee (experts) approved by the Baltic Assembly.

1.3. Financial resources for the Prizes are allocated by the Council of Ministers of the Baltic States and are recommended not to be less than 5,000 ECU for 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.

2. Procedure for awarding the Prizes

2.1. The Baltic Assembly Prize for Literature shall be awarded annually at the session of the Baltic Assembly for a novel, a play, a collection of poems, short stories or essays, or any similar written composition in one of the Baltic State languages. The work must have been published for the first time in the original language within the past two years but no later than six months before the date the Prize is to be awarded.

Requirements for the work to be submitted and the list of documents to be attached shall be set in the rules of the competition which shall be drafted by the joint judging committee (experts) and shall be approved by the Baltic Assembly Secretariat.

2.2. The Baltic Assembly Prize for the Arts shall be awarded annually at the session of the Baltic Assembly for an original work of art or a series of works created within the past two years in fine arts, applied arts, in music, architecture or cinema. It also may be awarded to a group of performers, to soloists, actors or other performing artists for an outstanding artistic achievement accomplished within the past two years.

2.3. The Baltic Assembly Prize for Science shall be awarded annually at the session of the Baltic Assembly for a significant original work or a research series in the humanities, social or natural sciences and which is considered to be a contribution to the research of the Baltic region or is of international importance and has been published within the past three years.

3. The joint judging committee (experts)

3.1. The joint judging committee (experts) of the Baltic Assembly Prize (henceforth — the Joint Judging Committee) shall consist of nine people. The applicants for each Prize (in literature, the arts and science) shall be assessed by the respective experts. Each country shall independently determine the three persons to be delegated to the Committee and the procedure for their selection.

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

3.3. The experts and alternate experts shall be changed every three years.

After the first three years, counting from the date of the establishment of the Joint Judging Committee, every year, until the proper rotation of judges is attained, one Joint Judging Committee member from each country shall be released, by lot.

One and the same person may be nominated for the Joint Judging Committee for no more than two consecutive terms.

3.4. 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).

3.5. 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.

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

3.6. 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 in 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 in the year concerned if the Joint Judging Committee has not been 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.

In any case, the Joint Judging Committee shall make its decisions and the substantiation for them known to the public.

3.7. The Prize nominees from each country shall be assessed by National Judging Committees. Only the National Judging Committee shall be entitled to select works for submission to the joint Baltic competition and the works shall be submitted together with all the necessary information (the biography of the nominee, reviews, and other related documents).

3.8. 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.

4. Nominating the work and awarding the Prize

4.1. Works shall be submitted to the National Judging Committee in accordance with the rules of the competition before March 15 of that year. In one month's time, the National Judging Committee shall assess these works and no more than the best two works from each field shall be nominated for review by the Joint Judging Committee.

In order to assess a musical work, fine art and theatrical productions, concerts, exhibitions and performances may be organized.

4.2. The decision on awarding the Prize shall be submitted by the Joint Judging Committee to the Baltic Assembly Secretariat no later than two weeks before the spring session of the Baltic Assembly.

The Prizes may also be awarded at the Baltic Assembly autumn session in October. In this case, the works must be submitted to the National Judging Committee before August 15th of that year.

4.3. The same person may not receive the Prize more than once.

5. Presenting the Prize

5.1. The Prize — a special medal, diploma and monetary prize — shall be presented by the Chairman of the Presidium of the Baltic Assembly at a Baltic Assembly ceremony, and the names of the prize winners and information on their achievements shall be published in the official press of all three Baltic States.

5.2. The literary work, the author of which has been awarded the Baltic Assembly Prize, shall be published (communicated to the public) within two years from the reception of the Prize in the languages of both neighboring countries.

The country in which the literary work has been created, shall render financial assistance in publishing the work, thus recognizing the international importance of the Baltic Assembly Prize. The award-winning works in the arts and science shall be given publicity in the same manner with the support of the respective country.

6. The administration and Secretariat of the Joint Judging Committee

6.1. The Joint Judging Committee shall be coordinated by the Baltic Assembly Secretariat, which also provides assistance to the National Judging Committee.

6.2. Each year the Joint Judging Committee shall request from the Council of Ministers of the Baltic States the resources necessary for the Prizes, for ensuring the necessary work of the experts, organizing exhibitions and concerts and providing similar needs.

6.3. 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.

7. Duties of the Joint Judging Committee

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

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

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

Chairman of the Presidium of
the Baltic Assembly

Deputy Chairman of the
Presidium of the Baltic
Assembly

Deputy Chairman of the
Presidium of the Baltic
Assembly

Māris Budovskis
Republic of Latvia

Ülo Nugis
Republic of Estonia

Egidijus Bičkauskas
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Jūrmala (Kemer), May 15, 1994