

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HUMAN RIGHTS,  
COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

THE CHAIRMAN

26.06.01 306876

Mrs Nicole FONTAINE  
President  
European Parliament

Dear President,

The Enlarged Bureau of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy adopted last week its proposal for the Conference of Presidents concerning this year's calendar for the Sakharov-prize (see Annex I) and, in addition, several modifications to the Sakharov prize statute.

The proposed changes to the statute (see Annex II for detailed amendments) are based on the experience gained over the last decade and concern in particular:

- the updating of the text to today's political reality (in particular paragraphs 2, 3, 4 + 5);
- the adaptation of the provisions for the required signatures to Parliament's Rules of Procedure (i.e. "support of at least 32 Members, or a Political Group" (instead of 25 signatures only) with a new proviso that "individual Members may support only one candidate";
- finally it is proposed (paragraph 7) that if a candidate has received a two-thirds majority of the votes cast in the Committee on Foreign Affairs, only the name of this candidate will be transmitted to the Conference of Presidents. If none of the candidates obtains a two-thirds majority the names of the three candidates who obtained the most votes will be forwarded to the Conference of Presidents (old procedure).

The main reason for proposing these modifications is to achieve a very broad majority for the annual laureate of the Sakharov prize, which goes across party lines and, thus, underlines Parliament's full support for his case.

In view of the urgency of this matter I hope that the Conference of Presidents will be able to adopt next week the proposed calendar and the revised statute.

Yours sincerely

Elmar BROK

Encl. Annex I - proposal for 2001 calendar  
Annex II proposal for revised statute

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## SAKHAROV PRIZE

ANNEX I

The following draft calendar for the Sakharov prize 2001 is suggested:

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Consideration and decision of Conference of Presidents: | 5 July                    |
| Notice to Members from Secretary General:               | 6 July                    |
| Deadline for nomination of candidates:                  | 30 August                 |
| Presentation of candidate proposals in AFET:            | 10/11 September           |
| Vote in AFET:   | 1/2 October (Strasbourg)  |
| Vote in Conference of Presidents on Laureate:           | 4 October (or 18 October) |
| Prize ceremony in plenary:                              | 12 December               |