

Council of Europe
The Deputy Secretary General

Strasbourg, 6 October 2018

Dear Ambassador,

I refer to the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe and the discussions at the meeting of the Ministers' Deputies on 20 June 2018.

As stated in the Secretariat proposals (see document CM/Inf(2018)18), the 70th anniversary celebration events should be seen in conjunction with national political, parliamentary, academic and cultural initiatives, which member states are encouraged to take on a voluntary basis.

In this respect, I should like to call on you to support two initiatives which are fully in line with the above, namely the essay writing competition and the photo competition.

Please find enclosed the guidelines for the organisation of the essay-writing competition for young people at national level. I warmly invite your authorities to undertake the organisation of this competition. A national winner from each participating member state will be invited to receive a diploma at the commemorative celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg in the autumn of 2019, thus enhancing the involvement of youth in the celebrations of the foundation of the Council of Europe.

Regarding the photo competition, it will be organised through Instagram with the aim of reaching out to as many young people as possible through social media and engaging them in a wider reflection on what it is to be a European. You will be informed when this competition is opened so that you can invite your authorities to use their social media outlets to encourage young people in your State to participate.

.../...

Ambassador Predrag GRGIĆ
Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina
to the Council of Europe

Tel. + 33 (0)3 88 41 32 87
France

Tel. + 33 (0)3 88 41 32 87
+ 33 (0)3 88 41 20 00

Fax. + 33 (0)3 88 41 37 40
+ 33 (0)3 88 41 27 99



ISWG70(2018)7 rev

10/09/2018

70th anniversary of the Council of Europe

Essay Writing Competition

General guidelines for the organisation at national level

These guidelines are not exhaustive. They are intended to assist member States in the organisation at national level of an essay writing competition and to invite a consistent approach across 47 countries.

Theme	"Imagining the European of the future?" Created in 1949, the Council of Europe counts 47 countries covering 840 million people. Its core values and mission are Human Rights – Democracy – Rule of Law. Against this background, the general title (in the form of a question) is intended to spur reflection about the common thread between these countries and people and where the writers would like them to be in the future. The title also leaves the possibility for more complex treatment.
Length	Essays should have a maximum of 1000 words.
Language(s)	The authorities in each member State should decide in which language and form submissions can be made. Where handwritten submissions are allowed, the winning essay should also be provided in a typed format (see section <i>winners</i> below).
Participants	Young people living in Europe born in the XXI century: 14 to 18 years old
Organisation	The competition should be launched officially by the appropriate national authorities. Schools and other relevant institutions should be informed through the competent ministries and agencies e.g. ministries of education, national cultural institutions, etc. The competition should be as widely publicised as possible, e.g. by posting the competition and its details on relevant websites with links to the Council of Europe website and the 70th anniversary section.
Jury	A jury should be formed at national level to receive and assess submissions in order to select a winning national essay bearing in mind the proposed theme and the fact that the competition forms part of the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe. The jury could include members of the national delegations to the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly and Congress and other relevant personalities.
Winners	The above-mentioned jury will declare the national winner. The Permanent Representation of each participating member State will communicate the name of the national winner together with the winning essay in its original version, a translation in English or in French, a photo and contact details of the national winner to Council of Europe Protocol by 30 June 2019. Therefore it is of the utmost importance that the national

2

Finally, I should be grateful if you could inform us of the national initiatives which your authorities have programmed for 2019 in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe (see document CM/Inf(2018)18, paragraph 12.2).

Mr Rafael Benitez, Head of Protocol, coordinator of the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe and his team remain at your disposal should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni

Enc

JE - 67075 Strasbourg Cedex
France

Tel.: + 33 (0)3 88 41 52 87
+ 33 (0)3 88 41 20 00

Fax: + 33 (0)3 88 41 27 40
+ 33 (0)3 88 41 27 99

COMMITTEE
OF MINISTERS
COMITÉ
DES MINISTRES

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

MINISTERS' DEPUTIES

Information documents

CM/Inf(2018)13-rev

4 October 2018¹

1320th meeting, 20 June 2018

1 General questions

1.6 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. 2019 will mark the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe. It will also coincide with other major anniversaries, namely the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the 60th anniversary of the European Court of Human Rights.
2. The Committee of Ministers will have to take decisions - including budgetary - concerning the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe by autumn 2018.
3. A number of principles will guide the decision-making process, namely:
 - a) It should take into account the current political, institutional and budgetary situation of the Organisation so as to provide a balanced and dignified commemoration;
 - b) It should focus on one or two major high-impact, high-visibility events: the session of the Committee of Ministers and a ceremony at which all Council of Europe bodies will come together to deliver a coherent message for the whole of the Organisation; and
 - c) It should focus on the Council of Europe's core activities, with a view to adopting a future-oriented approach.
4. The present document is drawn up on the basis of experience gained from the celebrations of the 50th and 60th anniversaries. It is intended to foster a discussion as to the general framework of the celebrations, which is essential at this stage in order to ensure that the celebrations are organised in a timely manner.
5. At the outset it should be mentioned that this document does not focus on the ordinary activities in the Programme and Budget of the Council of Europe for 2019 (or their budgetary implications), which will also bear the 70th anniversary label.
6. The overall costs of the 70th anniversary celebrations will be discussed at a later stage in the light of a number of factors, including the budgetary context. The proposals included in this document follow a balanced approach, taking the necessary elements into account.
7. The celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe should be structured around three complementary and mutually-reinforcing aspects: a) visibility, b) political impetus, and c) commemoration. A number of activities will contribute to securing each of these dimensions. The celebrations should combine activities in Strasbourg with activities in the field and at national level.
8. Other important aspects that should be borne in mind are the integrated character of the celebrations, bringing together all the institutions of the Organisation, and the complementarity between the Council of Europe's own celebrations and those organised at national level by the member States, which should be promoted and encouraged. The other specific anniversaries within the Council of Europe e.g. 60th anniversary of the Court, 25th anniversary of the Congress, 20th anniversary of GRECO, etc. will also be taken into account.

¹ This document has been classified restricted until examination by the Committee of Ministers.

b) Political impetus – Session of the Committee of Ministers – Helsinki, May 2019

14. In line with the precedents of the ministerial Sessions on the occasion of the 50th and 60th anniversaries, the May 2019 Session will be held in the capital of Finland, the country holding the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers during that period. That Session will be an occasion for Ministers to conduct a critical assessment of the Organisation's achievements and strengths and to set the political orientation for its future, along the lines of the Warsaw Summit Declaration and Plan of Action. The results of the ministerial meeting will be brought to the attention of various bodies for follow-up.

15. The Session will be combined with a commemorative and cultural event to mark the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe held on the eve of the ministerial Session.

c) Commemorative dimension – the "main event"

16. In addition to the above-mentioned ministerial Session in May, a second major event will be organised to coincide with the 4th Part Session of the Parliamentary Assembly (30 September-4 October 2019) in Strasbourg, as the Seat of the Organisation, and with the involvement of the City of Strasbourg.

17. This ceremonial event will mark the celebration of the 70th anniversary and include an institutional ceremony and statements by Council of Europe authorities and possibly other major personalities who could bear witness to what the Council of Europe represents, as well as a concert and a festive celebration. The event will be open to the public and bring together Council of Europe authorities, high-level personalities, permanent representatives, members of the Parliamentary Assembly and judges at the Court, local authorities, young people, staff members, etc. It would provide a further opportunity to maintain the political momentum, particularly in looking to the future, with an integrated approach involving the various institutions of the Organisation and providing for an institutional commemoration. A similar event was organised on the occasion of the 60th anniversary. The programme for that event is included in Appendix 6 for information.

Other events

18. The 2019 **World Forum for Democracy** will have a particular importance. By highlighting the core values of the Council of Europe and focusing on the conclusions of the above-mentioned ministerial Session, it will also formulate proposals for the way forward. The general theme and possible sub-themes for the Forum will be decided in the coming period on the basis of input from the partners taking into account the challenges identified as having a major impact on democracy. The Forum will bring together members of civil society, elected officials, political leaders and journalists from all over the world.

19. It should also be recalled that the various institutions of the Council of Europe will organise their own specific activities.

20. The **Assembly** will organise a ceremony to mark the 70th anniversary during its Third Part Session in 2019. Standing Committee events may also be organised in Paris and Tbilisi in this connection. Specific exhibitions on the personalities attending the Assembly through the years, including guest book entries and speeches, could also be presented, together possibly with a video.

21. The **Congress** will mark its 25th anniversary in 2019. This will be celebrated in February 2019 together with the European Committee of the Regions which will also mark its 25th anniversary. Furthermore, the two sessions of the Congress in 2019, the *European Local Democracy Week* and its network of cities and regions, as well as the network of youth delegates invited to the Sessions since 2014 will contribute to the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe. These events will underline the contribution of local and regional authorities to the activities of the Council of Europe in promoting democracy, respect for human rights and rule of law and highlight the local and regional dimensions of democracy.

22. The **Court** will also mark its 60th anniversary and activities will be planned in that respect, including, in addition to visibility actions such as a commemorative stamp, the traditional opening of the Court's judicial year (end of January), to which national judicial authorities are invited, and the seminar held on that occasion, as well as activities aimed at enhancing communication and visibility. In addition there will be specific exhibitions, dedicated publications and an "Open Doors" day, subject to the availability of budgetary and human resources.

Appendix 7

70th anniversary programme of activities

1 January, Strasbourg	Joint statement by Council of Europe authorities marking the beginning of the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe Launch of the 70th anniversary section on the Council of Europe website
21-25 January, Strasbourg	Commemoration of the liberation of Auschwitz, with particular emphasis on the reasons for founding the Council of Europe, in theory on 27 January; the date will be adjusted in accordance with the PACE session
January, Strasbourg	Opening of the judicial year of the European Court of Human Rights and seminar
25-27 February, Helsinki	Conference on "Artificial Intelligence: Governing the Game Changer"
2-4 April, Strasbourg	36th Session of the Congress debate on local and regional democracy: 47 States - 200,000 communities - the other dimension of democracy Side event: exhibition on the European Charter of Local and Regional Authorities
April	High profile event on the 30th anniversary of the Anti-Doping Convention
Spring, Finland	Public event in the margins of the 2nd meeting of the Educational Policy Advisers' Network (EPAN) on the role of education in building a culture of democracy and human rights in Europe over the past 70 years
Spring, Strasbourg	Plenary session of the Ethics, Integrity and Transparency in Education Platform (ETINED) on the importance of ethics and the absence of corruption in education to the development of democracy, human rights and the rule of law
16 May, Helsinki	Commemorative event to mark the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe
17 May, Helsinki	129th Session of the Committee of Ministers
24 May, Strasbourg	Amicale event
May, Strasbourg	Exhibition on the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe ⁸
May, Strasbourg	Europe Day devoted to the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe combined with "Open doors"
May, Strasbourg	Launch by La Poste in France of stamps commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe and the 60th anniversary of the Court
May, Strasbourg	3rd Children's Forum
7 June, France	High Profile event on women and sport in connection with FIFA Women World Cup 2019
18-19 June, Cologne or late June, Paris	Event marking the 20th anniversary of the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee ⁹
20-21 June, Strasbourg	Conference on academic freedom and university autonomy in the light of the democratic mission of higher education
25-26 June	Annual HELP (Human Rights Education for Legal Professionals) Conference
26 or 27 June, Brussels	Joint conference of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the European Committee of the Regions to mark their 25th anniversary

⁸ The Exhibition will be on display at the Palais de l'Europe in May and again in October and November. In June and July it will be on display at the Aubette in Strasbourg.

⁹ This event will be followed by another event in Strasbourg specifically on Article VII (recognition of qualifications of migrants and refugees).