

REGULATION

INNOVATION PRIZE FOR YOUNG FARMERS 2012

The EPP group in the European Parliament is organising for the first time a European prize for young farmers, entitled the “Prize for the best innovative young Farmer”.

The Innovation Union, a Europe 2020 flagship initiative, mentions the key role of innovation for a competitive agricultural sector which is capable of responding to the greatest challenges facing society, such as climate change and the sustainable supply of good quality food. One of the objectives of this initiative is high agricultural productivity, guaranteeing a secure and regular supply of food, feed and biomaterial (whether existing or new products), which maintains the environment, adapts to climate change and reduces its effects.

The role played by the young farmers is fundamental to life in rural areas and on farms. According to statistics, young farmers represent 10% of the European Union’s agricultural sector.

The Innovation Prize was introduced in a bid to make the central role played by young farmers in rural areas more visible and to better acknowledge the many innovative approaches they take towards agriculture and diversification.

Article 1 – General terms

The aim of the young farmers prize is to promote a positive image of young farmers and to identify activities characterised by innovation, sustainability and market orientation.

Article 2 – The Prize

2.1 Scope

The Prize, organised by the EPP group in the European Parliament, is open to all European farmers under 40 years old.

2.2 Criteria

The Prize will be awarded according to the following criteria:

2.2.1. The use of new know-how, new methods or new forms of technology in a particular sector or region.

Sector-based innovation may include working or organisational methods, the introduction of new forms of technology which bring about changes in relation to existing technology.

Innovation may also consist of adapting or modernising traditional technology.

Land-based innovation can include the use of recent developments (technical or organisational) in a geographical area where they were not used before.

2.2.2. Transferring innovation.

Innovation must not be limited to one single farm but should have an impact or effects on all holdings in the same sector of production, region or on an area's relations with the outside world.

Innovation does not only affect production on the farm, but also the packaging of products, channels of distribution and export methods for agricultural products.

2.2.3. Sustaining innovation.

Innovation must be economically and/or socially viable. Innovation must have a certain longevity and should stand the test of time in order to have an effect, instead of appearing and disappearing in a short space of time.

2.3 Decision and presentation of the Prize

The Jury will meet in accordance with the established calendar, in Brussels, to choose the Prize-winners and will make its decision in accordance with the procedure laid down in articles 3 and 6.

2.4 National eligibility of applications

The MEP will choose the national farmers organization as a partner.

The role of the partner will consist on organizing all the applications at national level following the criteria of this internal regulation and according the rules established.

The farmers organization with the MEP, can choose a maximum of 5 young farmers projects to be presented to the European prize. Applications have to be submitted in any European language with maximum 2 pages English summary. The application form will be provided by the Organising Committee in order to be distributed at national level.

The Farmers organizations and the national MEP will agree on the best projects to be presented.

2.5 EPP GROUP in the European Parliament Eligibility of applications

A Jury composed of internal and external representatives will decide on a winner based on the short-listed candidates selected and presented by the Organising Committee.

The Organising Committee will establish a list of all the eligible entries received.

All entries received that do not comply with the requirements of article 2 will not be valid and shall therefore be ineligible for the Prize.

Article 3 – The Jury

3.1 Role

The Jury will be entrusted to decide on the attribution of the Prizes as indicated in article 2. The Jury may also consider awarding a special recognition prize for a project of outstanding quality.

3.2 Composition

The Jury will be chaired :

Mr Joseph Daul, president of EPP

Members:

The jury members will be:

- Five members of the Agriculture and rural development committee
- one member of European Commission
- one member of EESC - European Economic and Social Committee
- one member of CEJA – European Committee of Young Farmers
- one member of COPA – COGECA

3.3 Deliberation

On the basis of a preliminary examination and selection by the Organising Committee, the Jury will analyse the short-list and decide on who shall be awarded the Prize, as indicated in Article 2. The Jury's decisions shall not be subject to appeal, and shall be taken on the basis of a simple majority of votes.

Article 4 – The Organising Committee

4.1 Role

An Organising Committee will be created to carry out a preliminary examination of all entries received, based on the eligibility criteria defined in Article 5. It shall assist the Jury in its deliberations.

In its role of assisting the Jury, the Organising Committee reserves the right to locally verify the achievements indicated in the applications.

Article 5 – Applications

5.1 Eligibility of applications

Only dossiers using the valid application form and complying with the procedures laid down in this article shall be considered.

The Organising Committee will establish a list of all eligible entries received and will be responsible for verifying that the dossiers transmitted to the Jury fully comply with the eligibility criteria.

All entries received that do not comply with the requirements of article 2 will not be valid and will therefore be ineligible for the Prize.

As indicated in Article 4, the Organising Committee reserves the right to verify, *in situ*, the achievements indicated by the candidates, and ask, if necessary for additional information.

5.2 Structure of the application form

Interested candidates shall prepare an entry application form composed of the following documents:

- Name and contact details of the young farmer presenting the application;
- Name and contact details of the partner organization
- Short description of the farm and motivation for farming
- Presentation of the young farmer project - which must not exceed 3 pages and must comply with the criteria outlined under art. 2.2;
- Additional material can be provided (dvd, photos, brochures, etc...)

5.3 Application form

The application form will be sent by the organizing committee by the 10th of July of 2012.

5.4 Receipt of applications

All application dossiers must be submitted by e-mail, no later than 30 September. No documents received after this deadline will be accepted.

Article 6 – Eligible applications and deliberations

The Organising Committee will examine all application dossiers and establish a list of all eligible applications from those received.

All applications received that do not comply with the requirements of articles 2 and 5 will not be valid and shall therefore be ineligible for the Prize.

On the basis of the examination and selection, the Organising Committee will decide on a short-list, as indicated in article 2.

In order to establish this short-list, the Organising Committee, upon failure to take a unanimous decision, will decide by a simple majority of votes.

The Jury composed of internal and external representatives (see article 3) will decide on the winner based on a selection of short-listed candidates presented by the Organising Committee.

The Jury's decisions shall not be subject to appeal, and shall be taken on the basis of a simple majority of votes. In the case of a draw, the Chair of the Jury will proceed with a qualifying vote.

The Jury will be assisted in its deliberations by members of the Organising Committee acting as observers and without voting rights (see article 4).

Article 7 – Results and presentation of the Prize – Designation of winners

After the examination and deliberations, the Chair of the Jury will transmit the information concerning the Prize-winners to the Organising Committee in preparation for the official award ceremony.

The Chair of the Jury shall inform the Prize-winner during the congress.

Article 8 – Communication and media coverage of the Prize-winner

The results of the Prize will be widely publicised.

Information will be communicated at EU level by the European Parliament and at Member State level by the farmers organization, using all available media and public relations tools .

Article 9 – Reminder of the conditions for participating in the competition

Participation in the **Prize** entails compliance with and acceptance of the conditions of these regulations by the participants, in keeping with the procedures laid down above, in the various phases and during the official award ceremony.
