

Press Release

Council of Europe Press Division

Ref: 763a08

Tel: +33 (0)3 88 41 25 60

Fax: +33 (0)3 88 41 39 11

pressunit@coe.int

internet: www.coe.int/press



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Call for applications for the European Crystal Scales of Justice Prize for innovative practices contributing to the quality of criminal justice

Strasbourg, 29.10.2008 - After the third successful edition of the Crystal Scales of Justice Prize in the civil justice field in 2008, the Council of Europe and the European Commission decided to establish a complementary biennial prize in the criminal justice area. The Crystal Scales of Criminal Justice will be awarded for innovative practices contributing to the quality of criminal justice. The competition will be organised on a biennial basis by the Council of Europe and the European Commission in the years in which the civil justice prize is not awarded.

The launch of the first edition of the criminal justice prize was officially announced during the award ceremony of the civil justice prize in Catania, Italy on 24 October by representatives of the European Commission and of the Council of Europe. This prize aims at highlighting good practices in organisation of courts and management of criminal procedures.

In order to be eligible, initiatives must be presented by a court, a bar association or an association of legal professionals, a prosecution office, a prison or probation administration, or any other entity responsible for criminal justice affairs in a Member State of the European Union or the Council of Europe. Applications for the 2009 edition must be submitted by 1 March 2009 and meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the rules of the competition.

All projects will be assessed by a Jury composed of European legal practitioners. The prize and three special distinctions will be awarded during the plenary session of the Justice Forum, which will take place at the end of the first half of 2009 in Brussels.

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