

CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF EUROPE

Resolution 122 (2001)¹ on the Prix Europa and regional television and radio programmes

The Congress,

1. Convinced that:

- a.* closer ties between European citizens contribute to the development of a culture of tolerance, to mutual respect and to the continent's democratic stability;
- b.* the media, especially television and radio, are powerful means of creating closer ties between citizens;
- c.* local and regional media can be particularly effective in reflecting Europe's numerous identities and rich cultural diversity;
- d.* the processes of democratisation and decentralisation – particularly in the countries of central and eastern Europe – will lead to increased media independence, freedom, diversity and quality in these countries and are propitious to the development of local and regional media;

2. Conscious of the considerable challenges of globalisation and the need to support all programmes aimed at promoting Europe's cultural diversity and improving the visibility of its audiovisual products on the global market;

3. Considering that the European audiovisual landscape should be based on qualitative and quantitative production demonstrating the creativity and dynamism of Europe's professionals;

4. Welcoming the dynamism and success of the Prix Europa, which, since 1987, has become a genuine pan-European festival of radio and television programmes that are "made in Europe by Europeans";

5. Welcoming the fact that the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly became one of the partners in the Prix Europa in 1998 and that consequently the Council of Europe is now represented by three bodies: the CLRAE, the Media and Press Division and the Parliamentary Assembly,

6. Decides:

- a.* to press ahead resolutely with its contribution to and sponsorship of the Prix Europa, in particular by awarding a special prize for the best (fiction or non-fiction) television project submitted by a low-budget local or regional organisation;
- b.* to examine, in co-operation with other Prix Europa partners, the possibility of creating a new category of

special prize which would be awarded to the best radio programme produced by a low-budget local or regional organisation;

c. to examine, in conjunction with the other partners in the Prix, particularly the Parliamentary Assembly and the Media and Press Division, but also in consultation with the Secretary General, the suitability of holding a major event connected with the Prix Europa in the Council of Europe premises in Strasbourg, so as to benefit from its Europe-wide networks of media professionals to disseminate the Council's core values: promoting diversity and constructing a Europe based on tolerance and peace;

7. Invites its members:

- a.* to help in informing the public about the Prix Europa;
- b.* to encourage their regional and local media professionals to participate in this competition and to contribute to the exchange and broadcasting of prize-winning television and radio programmes in their regions or countries;

8. Invites members of the Congress from countries² that have not yet taken part in the Prix Europa to act as spokespersons for the Prix in their regions;

9. Instructs the Committee on Culture and Education of the Chamber of Regions:

- a.* to monitor the Congress's contribution to the Prix Europa and the action taken to follow up this resolution;
- b.* to take steps to ensure a meeting between representatives of the Prix Europa and representatives of the Eurimages programme of the Council of Europe with a view to examining possibilities for future co-operation;
- c.* to examine in a future report the development and relative position of regional media in Europe, particularly television and radio, for the purpose of proposing actions to support them over and above the Prix Europa, especially in the countries of central and eastern Europe;
- d.* to study, together with the other Prix Europa partners, appropriate measures to develop financial assistance for media professionals in central and eastern Europe, so that they can participate more fully in the competition.

1. Debated and approved by the Chamber of Regions on 30 May 2001 and adopted by the Standing Committee of the Congress on 31 May 2001 (see Doc. CPR (8) 5, draft resolution presented by Mr P. Kittelmann, rapporteur)

2. Countries which have already taken part in the Prix Europa: Austria, Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belarus, Switzerland, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, Spain, Estonia, France, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Iceland, Lithuania, Latvia, Moldova, Norway, Netherlands, Portugal, Poland, the Russian Federation, Romania, Sweden, Slovakia, Slovenia, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Turkey, United Kingdom, Ukraine and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia..

