

RULES GOVERNING THE EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY SITES -
A TRAIL THROUGH EUROPEAN INTEGRATION
BUREAU DECISION OF 5 OCTOBER 2020¹

Article 1
Designation

Each year, the European Parliament shall award the distinction “European Democracy Site” to sites of relevance for the consolidation of European democracy in the European integration process.

Article 2
Definitions

The concept “Sites” means tangible places, such as monuments and places of remembrance, as well as intangible goods associated with a specific event or a person. Tangible sites should be accessible to the public.

“Sites” may be national, concerning only one State, or transnational sites.

“Transnational site” means a site with historical significance in more than one state or of prime importance for the continent as a whole regardless of the State in which it is located.

“Transnational site” may refer also to sites located on the territory of at least two Member States and having a common thematic or historical link to each other.

Article 3
Objectives

1. By establishing this distinction, the European Parliament aims at:
 - a) Strengthening the sense of commitment to the principles and democracy and unity of the citizens of the European Union;
 - b) Underscoring the connections between the advancement of European unity and the advancement of democracy in Europe;
 - c) Fostering peace, solidarity, equality, and cross-continent understanding.

2. The award of the distinction shall contribute to:
 - a) Give visibility and recognition to the sites (and to the historic individuals and groupings related to them) having highly contributed to the creation of bonds among Europeans;
 - b) Increase the understanding of the citizens of the European Union of the history of Europe and of the building of the European unity.

¹ Amended by the Bureau decision of

Article 4
Eligibility criteria

1. Sites located, or in the case of intangible goods, registered, on the territory of the European Union shall be considered for the distinction. Tangible and intangible sites located in the countries negotiating its accession to the European Union, or in European countries which have concluded an Association Agreement with the European Union, maybe considered under certain circumstances to be appreciated by the Advisory Panel established in these rules.
2. Sites shall be committed to be accessible to and engage with a variety of audiences in the promotion and advancement of European democracy.
3. Sites shall be committed to uphold the principles of historic objectivity and accuracy.

Article 5
Suitability criteria

1. The Advisory Panel established in these rules, when considering the suitability of sites for being granted the distinction, will take into account the following aspects:
 - a) The pan-European significance of the site, linking European democracy and European unity, including relevant links to specific historical events, phenomena, or personalities;
 - b) Influence exerted by the site in fostering and promoting the values, principles and goals set in Articles 2 and 3 of the Treaty on European Union on a local, regional, national, or transnational basis;
 - c) The site's contribution to peace, intercultural dialogue, equality, and cross-border solidarity in the framework of European unity;
2. The Advisory Panel may consider complementary criteria.

Article 6
Advisory Panel

1. An Advisory Panel shall propose to the Bureau a reasoned decision with those sites deemed to deserve the distinction.
2. The selection will be limited to a maximum of one site per Member State in the first edition of the distinction. On duly justified cases, the Advisory Panel may also propose one site meeting the eligibility criteria set up in Article 4 not located in a Member State. The Bureau may review the number of sites to be awarded the distinction after the first edition.
3. The Advisory Panel shall consist of the Vice-Presidents responsible for information policy, press and citizens` relations and the members of the Board of Trustees of the House of European History. The Advisory Panel shall establish internal rules, working arrangements and decision-making process.

4. The Advisory Panel shall be assisted by the Academic Committee of the House of European History. The Directorate General for Communication will ensure the Secretariat of the Advisory Panel.

Article 7
Award of the distinction

1. The Bureau of the European Parliament will award the distinction “European Democracy Site”. The decision of the Bureau on the selection of the sites is final.
2. The distinction consists of a Diploma and Plaque to be displayed on the site, or as close as possible to the site, having due regards to the applicable local regulations. The Plaque will include the logo of the European Parliament and a description of the site.

In case of intangible goods, the Plaque should be displayed on their website.

3. The recognition of a site shall have a symbolic value and does not entail any other financial or material benefit.
4. The Directorate General for Communication will communicate the decision of the Bureau to the sites. The award decision shall be published on the dedicated website of the distinction, the Official Journal of the European Union and in any other communication platform that could ensure the widest diffusion and promotion of the distinction.

Article 8
Obligations of the sites receiving the distinction

1. Sites that have been awarded the distinction of European democracy sites, by accepting the award, commit to maintain the compliance with the conditions of eligibility on which the distinction is based.
2. If the conditions of eligibility are no longer met by the site for which the distinction has been granted by Parliament, the Bureau may revoke it, at any moment, based on a reasoned opinion of the Advisory Panel. The procedure for revoking a distinction will ensure that the site representatives can be heard and present allegations.
3. Sites can withdraw on voluntary grounds from the distinction.
4. Sites benefitting from the distinction shall adequately highlight this fact, give visibility and promote the European democracy sites initiative.
5. Acceptance of the award implies full acceptance of these above rules and of the implementing procedures prepared by the Directorate General for Communication.

Article 9
Protection of personal data

1. All personal data included in or related to the procedures set in these rules will be processed in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data
2. Such data shall be processed solely for the purpose of the implementation, management and monitoring of the present agreement by authorised personnel, without prejudice to any possible transmission to the EU bodies charged with a control or inspection mission in applying Union law.

Article 10
Intellectual Property Rights

The awarded sites shall grant to the European Parliament a licence to use any materials that they may have created in relation to the European democracy sites award, for the purpose of promoting the award or any other purpose necessary for the fulfilment of the European Union's objectives. To this end, the European Parliament shall conclude a licence agreement with the awarded sites.

Article 11
Implementing procedures

1. The Directorate General for Communication will establish implementing procedures for the realisation of the European democracy sites award initiative. Furthermore, it will provide the necessary administrative support and allocate the required financial resources,
2. The Directorate General for Communication will mobilise the most suitable resources for the promotion of the distinction through different channels, including a dedicated website. Specific information actions targeting multipliers in the Member States, media, cultural institutions and museums, European studies centres and civil society organisations will be implemented.
3. The Directorate General for Communication shall ensure the added value and complementarity of the European democracy sites award initiative action with regard to other initiatives in the field, such as the European Heritage Label and the Council of Europe's European Cultural Routes.
4. The Directorate General for Communication shall carry out an evaluation of the action on an annual basis.

Article 12
Entry into force

The rules shall enter into force on the day following their publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.