



## STATEMENT

**The EWC has withdrawn from the Consortium of the European Union Prize for Literature (EUPL) with effect from January 2022.**

**“The new EUPL concept does not promote multilingualism as key to the European language diversity, and is not following the principles of equal treatment for all participating countries,” says the EWC Board.**

*Brussels, 01 February 2022*

From 2009 to 2021, the consortium selected by the European Commission to coordinate the European Union Prize for Literature (EUPL) was composed by the European Writers' Council (EWC), the Federation of European Publishers (FEP) and the International and European Booksellers Federation (EIBF).

The EWC board has decided to fully withdraw from the organisation of the award in the course of a relaunch-process of selection procedures. For the first time since its inception, the EUPL, with the departure of EWC from the consortium, is no longer organised by all representatives of the book value chain: authors, publishers and booksellers. In the current cycle, only publishers and booksellers will be organising the EUPL.

The decision, hard to take for EWC, was necessary. Here is why:

Each year since 2009, on a rotating basis over three years, 12 to 14 countries nominated three to five writers and national winners with the participation of a balanced national jury from all book value chain stakeholders. All of these 12-14 national winners were awarded the EUPL, which aimed at recognising European language diversity and literary quality.

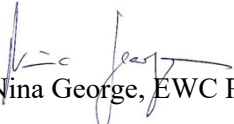
From 2022, only one winner [and five “special mentions” of the European Union Prize for Literature will be chosen from the now only one proposal](#) by each of the 12-14 participating countries. Furthermore, as the selection processes have changed considerably at national as well as pan-European level, the EWC Board concluded that the new EUPL concept does not promote multilingualism as key to the European language diversity, and is not following our convictions of equal treatment for all participating countries.

The new rules: <https://www.euprizeliterature.eu/selection-rules>

**Discovering a wide range of new authors every year was a highlight for us and the core meaning of the EUPL. As this approach has now changed, the EWC no longer wishes to endorse this format.**

We would like to thank all EWC members who, through their jury work over a decade, have contributed to making the diversity of voices and themes of their country visible. We would also like to thank the FEP and EIBF team and last year's EUPL coordinators for their collegial cooperation.

The EWC welcomes any future formats of EU programmes that focus on its value principles of ensuring equal treatment, fostering multilingualism and recognition of writers' achievements.

  
Nina George, EWC President