



Eurovision Song Contest 2009 Voting during the Final

PRESS BRIEFING (SUMMARY ON LAST PAGE)

The Final of the 2009 Eurovision Song Contest sees a new voting system, involving professional juries in all 42 participating countries. Television viewers and juries will each have a 50 percent stake in the outcome of the Final. It is the first time since 1997 that juries will vote in all participating countries. Voting during the Semi-Final will remain unchanged compared to last year (see www.eurovision.tv/page/moscow2009/voting for more details).

Ruurd Bierman, Chairman of the Reference Group, explained the decision: "We strongly believe in televoting as a way of measuring the opinion of our millions of viewers across Europe. After the public debate about neighbour- and diaspora voting, we decided to give national juries a say in the outcome of the 2009 Eurovision Song Contest Final."

Majority in favour

A survey amongst representatives of the participating broadcasters revealed that a majority is in favour of such mixed model. Such system also has great support amongst the fans of the Eurovision Song Contest.

"More interesting show"

"Nothing is more democratic than the vote of the public. But a jury takes the opportunity to listen to the songs several times, before they make up their minds. In Belgrade, last year, we saw a difference in judgment of the public and the back-up juries, and we believe a combination will make the show more interesting," said Svante Stockselius, Executive Supervisor of the Eurovision Song Contest on behalf of the EBU.

New rules regarding the JURY

- In each of the 42 participating countries, a jury of **five** music industry professionals (including one jury chairperson) will judge the entries taking part in the Final. Their decision will be based on the second Dress Rehearsal
- Viewers can vote by phone and/or SMS. An on-screen clock shows the 15-minute voting window, after all songs have been performed
- Jury voting and televoting each count for 50 percent. The combined results will be presented on-air during the Final by spokespersons in all participating countries
- The jury voting will be monitored by an independent auditor in each country
- The jury should consist of a variety of members in terms of age, gender, background
- All jury members must be citizens of the country they are representing
- None of the jury members must be connected with any of the participating songs/artists in such a way that they cannot vote independently. The participating broadcasters must send a letter of compliance with the voting instructions together with signed declarations by each jury member stating that they will vote independently
- The names of the jury members must be revealed by the respective participating broadcasters before or during the Final



- The national juries will rank the songs after the Second Dress Rehearsal. The jury should convene on the day of the Final live show
- Each jury member of each national jury will make a ranking of his ten favourite songs and award points from 1 to 8, 10 and 12 points
- The chairperson will allocate 12 points to the song having obtained the highest number of votes from all jury members, 10 points to the song having obtained the second highest number of votes, 8 points to the song having obtained the third highest number of votes, 7 points to the next, and so on down to 1 point for the song having obtained the tenth highest number of votes from all jury members
- In the event of a tie for any of the above positions, the order of the tying songs shall be ascertained by a show of hands by the jury members (abstentions are not allowed)
- The jury voting will be monitored by an independent notary in each country
- The results of the national juries will be published by the EBU's Executive Supervisor of the Eurovision Song Contest through www.eurovision.tv

The merge with the TELEVOTING results

- As usual, the televoting winner receives 12 points, the runners-up 10 points, then 8 points, and so on
- The EBU's televoting partner Digame will merge the points given by televoters (1 to 8, 10 and 12) with the points given by the jury (1 to 8, 10 and 12) **per individual country**. Based on the combined points, the country with the highest points receives 12 points, then 10, etc.
- If there is a tie between two or more songs when the combined calculation between televotes and the jury votes is used to determine the final ranking of the songs in the Final, the song(s) which obtained the most votes from the televotes shall be ranked highest
- The spokesperson will read out only this combined result of each country. As usual, the points 1 to 7 will appear on screen. The spokesperson will then reveal 8, 10 and 12 points

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SUMMARY OF JURY VOTING DURING THE FINAL

The Final of the 2009 Eurovision Song Contest sees a new voting system, involving professional juries in all 42 participating countries. Television viewers and juries will each have a 50 percent stake in the outcome of the Final. This was decided after the public debate about neighbour- and diaspora voting.

In each of the 42 participating countries, a jury of **five** music industry professionals, supervised by a notary, judges the entries taking part in the Final.

None of the jury members must be connected with any of the participating songs/artists in such a way that they cannot vote independently. The participating broadcasters must send a letter of compliance with the voting instructions together with signed declarations by each jury member stating that **they will vote independently**.

Viewers in all 42 countries can vote by phone and/or SMS. An on-screen clock shows the **15-minute voting window, after** all songs have been performed.

Jury results and televoting each count for **50 percent**.

The spokesperson will read out the **combined result** of each country. As usual, the points 1 to 7 will appear on screen. The spokesperson will then reveal 8, 10 and 12 points.