

RULES OF THE 45th EUROVISION SONG CONTEST, 2000

I. PARTICIPANTS

1. Under the auspices of the EUROPEAN BROADCASTING UNION (EBU) and as part of the television programme exchanges known as "Eurovision", the EBU member organizations in Austria (ORF), Belgium (RTBF), Croatia (HRT), Cyprus (CYBC), Denmark (DR), Estonia (EE/ETV), Finland (YLE), France (GRF/FT3), FYROM (MKRTV), Germany (ARD), Iceland (RUV), Ireland (RTE), Israel (IBA), Latvia (LTV), Malta (MT/PBS), Netherlands (NOS), Norway (NRK), Romania (RO/TVR), Russia (ORT), Spain (TVE), Sweden (SVT), Switzerland (SSR/DRS), Turkey (TRT) and the United Kingdom (BBC) (24 countries), hereinafter referred to as the "participants", have decided, under the conditions of the present Rules, to actively take part in the

45th EUROVISION SONG CONTEST, 2000.

2. Participants are free to withdraw up to 31 October 1999, after which date they shall be liable for their financial commitments, even if they subsequently decide not to enter a song. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a participant withdraws later than 31 October, it may be replaced by the member from the next country on the waiting list if this is still compatible with the schedule for preparing the Contest.

II. AIM

1. The purpose of the Contest is to stimulate the output of high-quality original songs in the field of popular music, by encouraging competition among songwriters and composers through the international comparison of their works.
2. Only works (lyrics and music) not published as sheet music, or not issued as or included in a commercial record, cassette, disc, film, videogram, etc. before 1 January 2000, may be performed at the European Final. After that point, and until after the final, these works may be released commercially only in the country they represent, unless they are part of a compilation CD with all participating songs. Nevertheless, the artists are allowed to participate in TV or radio programmes outside of their territory and perform their song.
3. Until one month after the Contest only the EBU may approve the commercial release of a compilation album.
4. The Contest is mainly intended for broadcast on television by Eurovision members.

III. ORGANIZATION

The organization of the Contest involves:

1. The selection by each participant - preferably by means of a national competition - of the best possible song. It is strongly recommended that this selection should be made through a televised show using televoting.
2. Familiarizing the public with the songs in advance of the European Final by:
 - (a) the provision of recordings on videotape or film of all the participants' entries, which must reach the producing organization by 10 March 2000 and which shall be transmitted from the producing organization on 13 April 2000 for simultaneous recording by all participants;

- (b) the subsequent broadcast of these recordings by interested participants on dates convenient to each participant prior to the competition.
3. The public performance before a European audience of all songs presented by the participants during a live transmission of the European Final, on the basis of which should be awarded the

GRAND PRIX OF THE 2000 EUROVISION SONG CONTEST.

IV. NATIONAL SELECTION PROCEDURE

The national selection procedure shall be decided by each participant as it deems fit. However, the work selected and the national selection procedure must conform to the present Rules, and all national competitions and selection procedures must be completed by 28 February 2000.

It is strongly recommended that every participating organization receive a signed statement from songwriters and composers assuring that the entry has never been published or released commercially before the deadline stated in Art. II point 2 above. This formality shall be completed before the national selection procedure.

V. CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN FINAL

1. Participants in the Contest are selected on the following basis:
 - (a) The participant which presented the winning song in the previous year.
 - (b) The members which were not admitted in the previous year but which have conformed with all other rules relating to participation. The principle underlying this system of rotation is that all candidates can take part in the final at least once every two years.

- (c) The four largest contributing participants (Germany, UK, France, Spain)
 - (d) For the remaining places, until the maximum of 25 participants is reached, the members (other than the members falling within (a) (b) and (c) above) which obtained the highest average number of points over the preceding five years (total of points divided by the number of times that the country has participated). Where two or three members have the same average, the total number of points scored in the most recent year in which the member participated shall be decisive.
2. Non-participating members willing to participate the following year, shall inform the Permanent Services in writing before 15 April of the current year, and shall broadcast the current edition as passive participants.
 3. From Eurovision Song Contest 2001, the maximum number of participants shall be 23.

**VI. PROMOTION OF THE CONTEST:
PREVIEW PRESENTATION OF THE SONGS**

Preview presentation

- (a) Each participant shall provide, free of charge, for use by all other participants, a video recording or film of its entry of up to three minutes' duration. The production shown on the recording may be of any kind chosen by the originating organization, but the song presented and the singers must be the same as those appearing in the European Final.
- (b) These recordings must reach the producing organization by 10 March 2000. All entries, including that of the producing organization itself, shall be transmitted by the latter on 13 April 2000 for recording by the other participants.
- (c) It is strongly recommended that these previews should be broadcast, in order to promote the Contest.

- (d) Participants broadcasting such preview recordings must broadcast all of them to the same duration, provided that they respect their national laws and regulations and that they respect the moral standards of the country, but they must present them in two or more separate programmes, not in one single programme.
- (e) The songs may be shown in programmes devoted entirely to Contest entries or incorporated into light entertainment programmes.
- (f) The songs must be announced as entries for the 2000 Eurovision Song Contest, and in each case the organization and country entering the song must be identified.
- (g) Each participant shall be exclusively responsible for all expenses incurred for the production of its song, and for the provision of the recording or film to be distributed.
- (h) The cost of distributing the recordings or films over the Eurovision network for the preview presentation and the European Final (together with the possible expenses of the EBU Permanent Services and the distributing organization) shall be shared in accordance with the existing Eurovision rules.

VII. PERFORMANCE OF THE SONGS

1. The European Final shall consist chiefly of the successive presentation by the performer or performers of each song selected under the conditions defined in Article IV above.
2. The participants may sing in the language of their choice.
3. A song may be presented by a maximum of six performers. To be admitted, performers must have attained the age of at least 16 years in the year the Contest is held.
4. The lyrics and/or performance of a song must not bring the Contest into disrepute.

5. The performance of each song must not exceed three minutes. The producing organization shall be responsible for checking whether this provision has been observed. If, at the end of the second rehearsal, any country's song exceeds three minutes, the producing organization shall consult the EBU Scrutineer and together they may, at their sole discretion, disqualify that country's song from the Contest. In such circumstances, the head of delegation of the country concerned shall be informed in writing of the decision.
6. The producing organization has full responsibility for the broadcast of the Contest within the terms of these Rules, and for ensuring that the rules are observed.
7. The producing organization shall be obliged to produce the programme within the duration specified by the EBU Television Committee (i.e. no longer than three hours).
8. The producing organization shall present its proposed format to the Eurovision Song Contest Reference Group no later than eight weeks prior to the European Final, to ensure compliance with these Rules. The producing organization will send a detailed and timed line-up to all participants at least two weeks before the Contest.
9. Amplifying equipment shall not be allowed on stage.
10. A comprehensive drum-kit shall be provided by the producing organization for use by participants. Private drums-kits shall not be allowed.
11. The use of backing tracks is permitted on condition that they are instrumental only. No backing vocals or computerized vocals are allowed on the backing tracks. When it receives the backing track tapes, the producing organization shall check that this provision has been observed. In case of doubt, the producing organization shall contact the Permanent Services immediately.

VIII. ORCHESTRA

The producing organization is not obliged to provide an orchestra. If it does not intend to do so, it must inform the EBU Permanent Services in writing by no later than 31 August of the year preceding the Contest.

IX. SCORES - RECORDINGS - TEXTS AND PERFORMERS OF THE SONGS - OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES

Each of the participants must make available to the producing organization:

1. By 10 March 2000 at the latest:
 - (a) If the producing organization is providing an orchestra, the score of the song to be performed, adapted to the composition of the orchestra made available by the producing organization; this material shall be returned after the Contest.
 - (b) A sound recording of its entry, and the appropriate backing track where applicable.
 - (c) A video presentation of the song on stage by the performers participating in the Contest.
 - (d) The lyrics of the song in its original language (language used during the Contest), together with English and French translations, which are free but correspond to the original lyrics, for duplication and distribution to the commentators. A copy of the lyrics and translations should also be sent by the same date to the EBU Permanent Services in Geneva, which shall duplicate them for the relaying organizations and the juries.

2. From 7 May to 13 May 2000:
 - (a) The performer or performers designated by it to present the song, and its own conductor if applicable. The producing organization shall draw up a staggered timetable for rehearsals so as to make the stay of foreign conductors and performers in its country as short as possible.
 - (b) An official representative appointed by it to attend the European Final. He/she shall be responsible for liaising with the producing organization and the EBU Scrutineer and shall be empowered to take last-minute decisions on behalf of his/her organization.

X. ORDER OF PRESENTATION OF THE SONGS

The order of presentation of the songs for the European Final shall be determined by a draw among the participants on 21 November 1999 in the presence of a representative of the EBU Permanent Services.

XI. VOTING PROCEDURE: TELEVOTING AND JURY

For the voting procedure during the European Final, each participant should use televoting, unless there are exceptional reasons for not doing so. Participants requiring assistance in setting up televoting should seek advice through the Permanent Services.

1. Televoting procedures

Participants using televoting for their voting sequence shall respect the following conditions:

- (a) Participants which have not successfully conducted a national telepoll within the last three years must seek advice from the Permanent Services.
- (b) Participants must be able to accommodate 23 different telephone numbers with the numbers ending with digits between 01 and 24.

- (c) All participants must have a stand-by jury of eight people (constituted in the same way as the traditional jury).
- (d) Participants must work closely with the main national telephone network operator and receive assurances from it that the televote will not cause disruption to emergency services calls.
- (e) To minimize the risk of national lobby groups voting for their own song in other countries, telephone numbers must be used that cannot be dialled across frontiers (or for which international calls can be excluded from the total count). No household should be permitted to vote more than three times.
- (f) The televote must be capable of being run and completed within five minutes.
- (g) The lines provided to answer calls must be equally accessible to any of the twenty-four numbers being rung.
- (h) The telephone network must ensure that callers from all around the country concerned stand an equal chance of successfully calling in.
- (i) Participants must keep the results of calls made to all numbers and provide these results to the EBU after the Contest. These results must be checked and certified by a notary.
- (j) Participants must be sure that they can announce the result within the tight seven-minute time-frame. It is recommended that this element be rehearsed before the Final.
- (k) Participants shall promote the benefits of the televoting system within their country with positive public relations.
- (l) The start and cut-off time for counting the votes must be exactly the same for all numbers used in the televote within any country. In particular, the call counter (the logger) must be set at zero at the moment when the public is invited to start ringing after it has heard all the songs. Any calls made before that time must be discounted.
- (m) Within each country, the cost of voting or the rate at which calls are charged must be the same for all people. Use of a national premium-rate code or other non-geographic code will ensure this. It is accepted that the cost of registering a televote will vary from one country to the next.
- (n) Participants shall comply with the recommendation of the producing organization on how the televote should be presented (graphics, commentators...).

2. Jury procedures

If in exceptional circumstances televoting is not possible, the following jury rules shall apply. The same rules shall apply for the stand-by jury.

- (a) The participant shall appoint a national jury of eight members. The names of the members of the national juries must not be disclosed until the day after the European Final. Four members of each national jury must be representatives of the public in the country, the other four being music professionals. There should be an equal number of men and women on each jury, with four jurors aged below 30 and four above 30 years of age. Only one of the four professional jurors may be connected with a record company or music publisher.

The composition of these juries may be completely different from that of the jury or juries appointed by participants for their national selection procedures.

- (b) Each member of each national jury shall award from 1 to 10 votes to each song, excluding the song presented by the participant that has appointed him/her. Abstentions shall not be allowed.
- (c) The members of the national juries shall register their votes for each song, as soon as it has been sung, on secret voting papers that shall be collected by the secretary.
- (d) Each jury shall have a chairperson, appointed by the relevant participant from its own staff, who shall be responsible for counting the votes after each song has been performed, and for allocating points accordingly for the European Final results, after the last song has been sung. He/she shall be assisted by a secretary who shall act as spokesperson and be responsible for communicating the jury's final points, clearly and distinctly in English or in French, when requested to do so by the producing organization's presenter.
- (e) Each participant should offer its national jury the possibility of viewing the TV transmission of the European Final on TV sets giving the best possible reception. Each participant undertakes to cut off reception of the programme sound and vision while the points of other national juries are being announced until after its own jury's final points have been transmitted. Only the secretary to the jury may listen to the international programme sound on headphones in order to hear when the presenter calls on his/her country to allocate its points.

- (f) Each national jury must sit in its own country in the presence of a notary, or similar official, whose task it shall be to ensure adherence to the above rules and to collect the completed ballot papers and send them to the EBU Permanent Services in Geneva, where they shall be filed in the archives.
- (g) No later than 15 minutes after the start of the voting, the last five organizations in voting procedure shall deliver their votes to the Scrutineer off air (by fax), in order to facilitate the verification of the final result. These votes shall be announced on air in accordance with the normal procedure.

XII. FINAL DRESS REHEARSAL - VOTING

The final dress rehearsal shall be produced in full and under the same conditions as the European Final.

1. Each participant shall make a recording of the final dress rehearsal.
2. Each participant shall be required to order the circuits for the voting procedure as specified by the EBU Operations Department in agreement with the producing organization.
3. Each participant's spokesperson shall hold a rehearsal of the voting procedure in accordance with instructions issued by the EBU Permanent Services.
4. The national jury (real or stand-by) shall assemble for the final dress rehearsal on 13 May 2000, the actual day of the Contest.
5. The juries (real or stand-by) shall receive the sound and vision of the final dress rehearsal of each song presented. They shall then hold a rehearsal of the voting procedure according to instructions issued by the EBU Permanent Services.
6. During the break between the end of that rehearsal and the broadcast, the juries may view/listen to this recording if they wish.

XIII. FINAL VOTE BY THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

1. There shall be an interval of at least seven minutes after the recapitulative run-through of all songs. After the voting has been completed, a secretary in charge in each country (regardless of whether the results have been through the jury or through televoting) shall add up the number of votes obtained by each song. He/she shall allocate 12 points to the song gaining the most votes, 10 points to the song gaining the second highest number of votes, 8 points to the song gaining the third highest number of votes, 7 points to the next, and so on down to 1 point for the song gaining the tenth highest number of votes. The spokesperson shall stand by to make the public announcement of these results.
2. For participants using a jury, should there be a tie for any of the above positions, the order of the tying songs shall be ascertained by a show of hands by the members. If two or more songs tie for the same place, and if there is still a tie after the show of hands, the final order shall be decided by the vote of the youngest member of the jury.

XIV. FINAL CLASSIFICATION

1. The points allocated by each participant must be announced in ascending order, beginning with the minimum number of points (1) and ending with the maximum (12). Thus, the attribution of points shall take place in the following order: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12.
2. When called upon to announce the final points allocated, the spokesperson shall state, in English or in French, the name of the country for which he/she is speaking and shall announce, in ascending order, how the points have been awarded.

3. The spokespersons are not necessarily called in the same order in which the songs were presented.
4. The producing organization shall provide a suitable scoreboard in full view of the audience on which the cumulative points for each song shall be displayed as they are announced by the spokespersons.
5. The total number of points and the final classification of the songs shall be established when the announcements of all the national votes have been completed.
6. A representative of the EBU Permanent Services, in the capacity of Scrutineer, shall satisfy himself/herself as to the correctness of the voting operations leading up to the final classification. He/she shall be responsible for any decisions required in the course of the ballot and for giving any necessary instructions to the presenter and the scoreboard operator(s).

XV. "GRAND PRIX"

1. The song obtaining the highest number of points is awarded the

GRAND PRIX OF THE 2000 EUROVISION SONG CONTEST.

2. Should there be a tie for the first place, the Grand Prix shall be awarded to the song that has obtained the highest score (12 points) the most often. If the winner cannot be determined by this procedure, then the number of times 10 points have been awarded shall be the deciding factor.
3. Should two or more songs still tie for the first place, even after this calculation, both/all such songs shall share the Eurovision Grand Prix.
4. The final result shall be announced immediately, and the transmission of the European Final shall end with a further performance of the winning song or songs.

5. The participant having presented the winning song shall produce the Eurovision Song Contest the following year. Should there be a tie, the organizations concerned shall agree among themselves, in consultation with the Eurovision Song Contest Reference Group and the EBU TV Committee, on the producer of the next Eurovision Song Contest. If no agreement is possible, other countries shall be consulted, after which the Reference Group shall make a recommendation to the TV Committee.
6. Trophy(ies) shall be presented to the composer(s) and the songwriters(s) to have created the winning song(s). A trophy designed by the producing organization shall also be presented to the performer(s) of the winning song(s).

XVI. FINANCING

1. All participants (other than the producing organization) shall pay a participation fee to the EBU Permanent Services, as a contribution to the producing organization's production costs as well as to the EBU coordination costs, fixed by the Eurovision Song Contest Reference Group and approved by the Television Committee. In the unlikely event of a participant having to withdraw, these fees may be revised. The producing organization will charge participants directly CHF 1,200 for each commentary position required.
2. Participants that have not paid their contribution by 31 August following the contest may be excluded from the following year, following a recommendation of the Eurovision Song Contest Reference Group approved by the Television Committee.
3. Members which were not admitted in 2000 but have announced their desire to participate in 2001 have to broadcast the 2000 Contest and are therefore obliged to pay a broadcast fee corresponding to 50% of what their fee would have been had they participated in the 2000 Contest. This fee will be remitted to the producing organization.

4. Any other television organizations entitled to broadcast the European Final shall pay the EBU the agreed broadcast fee which it shall forward to the producing organization.
5. All expenses incurred in organizing and broadcasting the European Final, over and above the total participation and broadcast fees, shall be borne by the producing organization, with the exception of:
 - (a) All expenses incurred by each participant relating to its own participation (such as fees and travel and subsistence costs for the performer or performers, commentator, jurors, official representatives, etc.), which shall be the full responsibility of each respective participant and cannot be refunded.
 - (b) The cost of relaying the European Final over the Eurovision network (together with the corresponding expenses incurred by the EBU Permanent Services), that shall be divided in accordance with existing cost-sharing rules.
6. Each participant bears its own costs related to the national contest.

XVII. BROADCAST OF THE EUROPEAN FINAL

1. The European Final, produced in accordance with the applicable Eurovision rules (especially as regards advertising and sponsorship), shall be transmitted in its entirety as a live continuous programme over the Eurovision network on 13 May 2000 from 19:00 to approximately 22:00 GMT, unless emergency procedures interrupt the programme, in which case the producing organization may broadcast the dress rehearsal.
2. There will be two opportunities for commercial breaks during the programme: one during the presentation of the songs and one before the announcement of the voting.
3. The producing organization must transmit the EBU logo before and after the programme and each participant shall relay it.

4. All participants shall broadcast the European Final live on their national programme service. They are also entitled to broadcast it on their 100% owned satellite channels as long as they offer exactly the same broadcast on satellite (i.e. commentary, televoting information, etc).
5. The same shall apply to candidates for participation the following year, except that if for imperative scheduling reasons a live broadcast should not be possible, a deferred broadcast shall be carried out within 24 hours.
6. Thereafter, within 30 calendar days of the date of the European Final, all participants and candidates for 2001 shall be entitled to repeat the broadcast wholly or in part, an unlimited number of times, either on their terrestrial channels or on 100% owned satellite channels.
7. Subject to prior authorization by the EBU, the European Final may also be broadcast live or by deferred relay by Eurovision members in other countries and by EBU associate members located in the European Broadcasting area. The deferred transmissions must take place within 30 calendar days of the date of the European Final.
8. Notwithstanding the foregoing, television and radio organizations throughout the world shall be entitled to news access not exceeding two minutes of the Final for the purpose of reporting the results of the European Final in their regularly scheduled news bulletins.
9. Sound broadcasting organizations throughout the world may broadcast the European Final live or by deferred relay. However, in countries where the EBU has an active member organization or organizations, this applies only to such organization or organizations. If in a given country no EBU member organization chooses to broadcast the Final, another broadcaster in the same country may be authorized to do so.

10. In agreement with the EBU and the producing organization, the European Final may also be broadcast, live or by deferred relay, by television organizations located outside the European Broadcasting Area, whether EBU members or not.
11. Organizations choosing to use the commercial break opportunities referred in point 2 above are not entitled to broadcast, wholly or in part, the entertainment acts presented by the producing organization during these intervals.
12. After the time period referred to in point 6 above participants, together with any other members which did not qualify for participation and/or which have declared their intention to participate in the following year's Contest and have broadcast the Final shall continue to be entitled, without any limitation in time, and in accordance with the applicable Rules on Use of the Eurovision Signal, to use extracts from the European Final not exceeding five minutes' total duration (but no more than two minutes per song) in any of their television programmes.
13. Aside from the permission stated above, any television organization or producer must seek permission to use extracts from any past Eurovision Song Contest Final from the producing organization of the Contest in question.

XVIII. COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION

During the programme and at the venue, the commercial exploitation of the Contest shall be the responsibility of the producing organization in accordance with the Eurovision Rules regarding advertising and sponsorship.

In that regard, the following are permitted:

1. On-screen identification of a maximum of two provider(s) of the scoreboard computer graphic display and data transmission:
 - Identification of the provider(s) may only appear at the same time as the picture of the scoreboard.
 - There shall be a maximum of 60 seconds of identifications in total during the voting sequence, but no more than 6 seconds each.
 - The service providers' logo may be faithfully reproduced in the original lettering and typeface and colours.
 - The maximum number of television lines utilised for the identification shall be 10 lines (20 half-lines) in total in 625 lines standard. The identification shall appear at the bottom of the screen.
 - Such identifications may be made by insertion into the telecast feed.

2. Postcards and green room
The postcards and the green room are not intended as an opportunity to advertise but it is permissible for the producing organization to feature appropriate local tourism, products or services to a modest degree, and subject to the final consent of the EBU Permanent Services.

3. On-screen presence in the closing credits should be limited to the parties which have made a significant contribution to the staging of the Contest.

4. Sponsorship of the event (not on-screen), is the sole responsibility of the producing organization.

5. Any on-screen reflection of the event sponsorship must be kept to a strict minimum and be mutually agreed by the producing organization and the EBU Permanent Services.

XIX. GUARANTEE

Each participant, by the very fact of entering a song in the Contest, shall guarantee that it has obtained all the necessary authorizations from all the rightsholders concerned, including live broadcasting on the Internet and the presentation of sound recordings and videos on the official Internet sites.

Each participating organization shall make every effort to secure from the rightsholders of its song the rights for a compilation CD and a video release to be arranged by the EBU Permanent Services (or a third party appointed by the Permanent Services) on behalf of the participants. Revenue shall then be shared among the participants. In exceptional circumstances where it has not been possible to secure these rights, the participating organization shall inform the Permanent Services immediately after the national selection.

Accordingly, it shall indemnify all organizations concerned against any claim whatsoever from authors, performers, publishers, producers or any other persons or entities in respect of any of the broadcasts or other uses of the songs referred to in Articles VI, XVII and XVIII.

XX. DISQUALIFICATION – SANCTIONS

1. Disqualification of a song

A song may be disqualified:

- (a) if during the rehearsal week there is evidence that a performer, a member of the delegation or a spokesperson does not comply with the requests of the producing organization and/or the Scrutineer and therefore risks causing disturbance to the programme;
- (b) if the performer(s) depart(s) from the planned transmission as rehearsed at the final rehearsal, and thereby cause(s) disturbance to the programme;

- (c) if a participating organization/performer has in any way attempted to breach the present Rules at any stage of the preparation of the Contest, or is about to do so during the contest itself.

The decision to enact disqualification is taken by the EBU Scrutineer after consultation with the executive producer and at least 3 members of the Reference Group.

- If disqualification of a song is decided before the deadline for sending all material (see Art. IX 1), the participant is entitled to propose another song and to send in all related material by the deadline mentioned above.
- If disqualification of a song is decided after the deadline mentioned above but before the day of the Final, the participant concerned shall not present its entry and shall not be able to vote. However, it will be liable for its financial contribution. In that case, if timing allows, the participating organization shall have the right to appeal against the decision to the Chairman of the TV Committee and, if he cannot be reached, to the Secretary General of the EBU.

Any decision taken in accordance with the above-mentioned procedure shall be final, and no legal remedy shall be possible.

2. Sanctions against participants

Sanctions may be imposed upon a participant, if it:

- (a) does not comply with the present Rules (e.g. not respecting the duration of the song, commercially release their entry outside of their territory before the final, ...); or
- (b) withdraws from the 2000 Eurovision Song Contest later than 31 October 1999; or
- (c) does not broadcast the European Final in accordance with Art. XVII ; or
- (d) inserts advertising items or sponsorship messages - other than those envisaged under Art. XVIII - during the broadcast, except in the sections of the programme allowing for commercial breaks as expressed in Article XVII;

- (e) is one of the last five voting countries and does not submit a fax of its results in accordance with the Rules.

Any sanction shall be pronounced by the TV Committee, following a proposal by the Eurovision Song Contest Reference Group. It shall be proportionate to the damage or prejudice caused to the EBU, the producing organization and/or the reputation of the Contest, shall have a deterrent effect, and could amount to the exclusion from the following year's Song Contest.

Any decision taken in accordance with the above-mentioned procedure shall be final, and no legal remedy shall be possible.

XXI. FINAL CLAUSES

1. By entering a song for the European Final each participant accepts these Rules, which apply to the event as a whole.
2. In case of dispute, the English version of these rules shall prevail.
3. Each participant must provide the EBU Permanent Services with the quantitative and qualitative information on the Final that will be requested by the Eurovision Song Contest Coordinator after the Contest.

DEADLINES FOR THE 2000 EUROVISION SONG CONTEST

1. Dispatch of the 2000 Rules End September 1999
2. Deadline for withdrawal 31 October 1999
3. Draw for running order 21 November 1999
4. Date from which selected songs can be published as sheet music, issued as a commercial record, cassette, etc., or included in a VTR, film, videogram, etc. 1 January 2000
5. National competitions and selections must be completed by 28 February 2000
6. Sound recordings, scores and lyrics to reach the producing organization 10 March 2000
7. VTRs or films to reach the producing organization for injection 10 March 2000
8. Recordings injected from origin to active participants 13 April 2000
9. Performers to be available for rehearsal from 7 to 13 May 2000
10. Final dress rehearsal and European Final 13 May 2000