



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe High Commissioner on National Minorities

Max van der Stoel Award

The Max van der Stoel Award recognizes extraordinary and outstanding achievements in improving the position of national minorities in the OSCE participating States.

What is it?

The Max van der Stoel Award, a prize of €50,000, is presented every two years to a person, group or institution for extraordinary and outstanding achievements in improving the position of national minorities in the OSCE participating States.

Established in 2001 by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, the Award honours Max van der Stoel, a prominent Dutch statesman who was the first OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, while also highlighting issues related to national minorities.

Who is eligible?

Eligible candidates include international organizations, non-governmental organizations, research institutes, government bodies or individuals with a record of excellence in the field of improving the position of national minorities in the OSCE area.

How is the winner selected?

The office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities manages the selection process. Nominations can only be made by or through the OSCE missions and institutions, delegations of the OSCE participating States and the High Commissioner on National Minorities. After drawing up a shortlist of candidates, a specially composed international jury, chaired by the High Commissioner, chooses the winner of the Award.

Who are the past winners?

- 2003** The Latvian Centre for Human Rights and Ethnic Studies
- 2005** The "Memorial" International Historical Enlightenment, Human Rights and Humanitarian Society
- 2007** The European Roma Rights Centre
- 2009** The Integration and Development Centre for Information and Research
- 2011** The Nansen Dialogue Centre Skopje
- 2014** Spravedlivost

Who was Max van der Stoel?

Max van der Stoel (3 August 1924 – 23 April 2011) was a Dutch statesman who had a long and distinguished career. He was appointed as the first OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities in 1992 and served eight and a half years in the post.

He was twice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, held seats in both the upper and lower houses of the Dutch Parliament, and was a member of a number of important organizations and institutions. He served as Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations and was awarded the honorary title of Minister of State by the then Queen Beatrix for his exceptional achievements.

Max van der Stoel Award 2016

The special Award ceremony will be held in The Hague on 24 October 2016. The deadline for nominations has been extended until 13 May.

More information

About the [Max van der Stoel Award](#).

About the [High Commissioner on National Minorities](#).

Visit our [Facebook](#) page.

Or [email](#).

Make a nomination

Deadline: 13 May 2016

Only OSCE missions and institutions, delegations of the OSCE participating States and the HCNM may nominate candidates directly. Others can still propose an eligible candidate (see criteria, left) by contacting their local OSCE mission or delegation to the OSCE: they will decide whether to nominate the proposed candidate.

Please include the name of the candidate, relevant contact information, and the reason for your nomination (100-200 words) with your nomination.

OSCE missions, institutions and delegations

Send your nominations using the [online nomination form](#); by email to: mvds@hcnm.org; or write to: Max van der Stoel Award, Prinsessegracht 22, 2514 AP The Hague, the Netherlands

Not an OSCE mission, institution or delegation?

Contact your local OSCE mission or delegation to the OSCE with your suggestion so they can decide whether to nominate your submission.

Delegations: www.osce.org/contacts/delegations
Missions: www.osce.org/contacts/70263