



European Broadcasting Union

Union Européenne de Radio-Télévision

Television Department

Département Télévision

**EXTRACTS FROM THE  
RULES FOR THE  
2007 EUROVISION SONG CONTEST  
Helsinki, 10-12 May 2007**

**Section One: Core Elements**

The Eurovision Song Contest (the "ESC") is produced each May under the auspices of the Eurovision Broadcasting Union (the EBU) as part of the television programmes exchanges known as Eurovision and is a state-of-the-art, world-class television production of a music competition between songs representing different European countries of the Members of the EBU. Only active Members of the EBU are eligible to participate in the ESC and are authorized to apply. The EBU Members selected to participate in the ESC shall each enter a national song and shall be referred to hereafter as the "Participating Broadcasters".

The ESC takes place in two parts, i.e. a Semi-Final on Thursday, 10 May 2007 and a Grand Final on Saturday, 12 May 2007 (collectively referred hereafter as the "Shows"), the timing of each being from 21.00 CET to approximately 00.00 CET. Both shall take place in Helsinki, Finland, and shall be organized, produced and transmitted live by the Yleisradio OY-YLE (herein referred to as the "Host Broadcaster") and made available over the Eurovision satellite network for live broadcast by the Participating Broadcasters.

The Shows shall be presented on stage, in both English and French, by the international presenters. National commentary by commentators appointed by each Participating Broadcaster shall be added to the international version of the Shows.

The Format of the ESC consists chiefly of successive live musical televised performances by the artists during the Shows of the national songs entered by the Participating Broadcasters. The running orders of the Shows are decided by means of draws organized by the Host Broadcaster. Each national song which competes in the ESC shall be selected by each Participating Broadcaster through a National Selection in accordance with the procedure of its choice, provided that full transparency is ensured and that the provisions laid down in Section Four are respected.

Once all the songs have been performed, viewers in the countries of the Participating Broadcasters are invited to vote for their favourite song (without the possibility of voting for the song representing their own country) by means of televoting which shall be implemented in all the countries of the Participating Broadcasters on a centralized basis by a pan-European televoting partner. (See Annexe 3).

The winners of the Semi-Final and of the Grand Final shall be the songs which, according all information made available to the EBU Executive Supervisor by the

pan-European televoting partner at the time of the announcement of the results have obtained the most points at the end of the voting procedures.

The results of the voting in the Semi-Final shall be announced by the international presenters, who shall open envelopes containing the names of the ten countries which have received the most points at the end of the voting procedure and thereby qualify for the Grand Final alongside the 14 countries specified in Section Two below.

The national results in the Grand Final shall be announced in turn by the spokesperson for each Participating Broadcaster clearly and distinctly in English or in French. He shall first specify the name of the country on behalf of which he is speaking and then state the points allocated to the songs, in ascending order.

The winner of the Grand Final shall be the song which has received the most points at the end of the voting procedure.

If there is a tie for position number ten in the Semi-Final or for the first place in the Grand Final, the calculations laid down under Section 5 below shall apply. Should two or more songs still tie for first place in the Grand Final, even after those calculations, the songs in question shall be declared joint winners of the ESC.

The song writer(s) and the artist(s) of the winning song(s) in the Grand Final shall receive the ESC Trophy, and the transmission of the Grand Final shall end with a further performance of the winning song or songs.

The full results of the voting in the Semi-Final and the Grand Final shall be announced on the official website of the ESC, [www.eurovision.tv](http://www.eurovision.tv), shortly after the end of the Grand Final.

The Participating Broadcaster which has entered the winning song shall host the next edition of the ESC in accordance with the corresponding rules. Should two or more songs tie for first place, the location of the next edition of the ESC shall be subject to agreement between the Participating Broadcasters which presented those songs, the EBU and the Reference Group.

The main title of the Shows is the "2007 Eurovision Song Contest". It shall be used by all broadcasters, they may instead use a translation into their national language once that translation has been approved by the EBU Executive Supervisor. In case of such approval, the main title need not be used. Broadcasters are also entitled to have a minor title under the main title, using the name by which the ESC has been known in recent years.

## **Section Two: Application procedure and rules for participation**

### **1. Application Procedure**

- 1) All active EBU Members wishing to participate in the 2007 ESC must complete the confirmation of participation form [...] and return it by 15 November 2006 [...]. On the basis of the replies received, the Reference Group shall draw up a list of Participating Broadcasters [...].

## **2. Rules for participation in the ESC**

- 1) Active EBU Members from a total of 24 countries shall compete in the Grand Final. There shall be 14 guaranteed places in the Grand Final, i.e. one for the Host Broadcaster, four for EBU Members from Germany, Spain, France and the United Kingdom and nine for EBU Members whose countries obtained the highest scores at the previous edition of the ESC (apart from any Members in the above-mentioned countries). Should any Member in one of the above-mentioned nine countries decide not to participate in the ESC, its place shall be offered to a Member in the country which was ranked next in the last edition of the Grand Final. The artists from these 14 Members shall not participate in the Semi-Final.
- 2) All other Participating Broadcasters, from a maximum of 26 countries, shall contest the Semi-Final for the ten remaining places in the Grand Final. If more than 26 countries apply to participate in the Semi-Final, priority shall be given to the countries which have participated the most often in the five previous editions of the ESC. The remaining countries shall be placed on a waiting list. If there are more Members on the waiting list than the number of places available in the Semi-Final, the Reference Group shall decide preferably through a draw which Member(s) shall have the right to participate. If any Participating Broadcaster withdraws, the Reference Group shall select a replacement in accordance with the above criteria. [...]

### **Section Three: Organization**

The ESC is co-produced by the Participating Broadcasters and the Host Broadcaster under the guidance of the EBU. [...]

The EBU has appointed an EBU Executive Supervisor with direct responsibility for overseeing and guiding all aspects of the financial, organizational, and creative planning and execution of the ESC. [...] The EBU Executive Supervisor shall work in close cooperation with [...] the Reference Group, a group representative of EBU Members participating in the ESC [...].

The EBU is the sole rightsholder of the Eurovision Song Contest. All rights in the ESC and the Shows are exclusively owned and managed on a centralized basis by the EBU, which shall be responsible, in consultation with the Reference Group, for the marketing of all commercial exploitation rights [...].

### **Section Four: The Entries**

- 1) The entries (lyrics and music) must not have been commercially released and/or publicly performed before 1 October 2006.
- 2) The maximum duration of each song is three minutes. Any entry which is longer may be disqualified by the EBU after consultation with the Reference Group.
- 3) Each performance may consist of a maximum of six people on stage.
- 4) All artists must be aged at least 16 on the day of the Semi-Final.

- 5) Each participating artist on stage may compete for only one country in the ESC of the same year.
- 6) Participating Broadcasters are free to decide the language in which their artists will sing.
- 7) Artists shall perform live on stage, accompanied by a recorded backing-track which contains no vocals of any kind or any vocal imitations. The Host Broadcaster shall verify respect for this rule.
- 8) Changes to the lyrics, the name of the artist or group, the title of the song and the language of the performance (i.e. all elements which appear in printed material such as brochures, CD covers and booklets) shall be allowed only up until the Meeting of the Heads of Delegation. Any later changes may be approved only by the Host Broadcaster, in consultation with the EBU Executive Supervisor, [...].
- 9) The lyrics and/or performance of the songs shall not bring the Shows or the ESC as such into disrepute. No lyrics, speeches, gestures of a political or similar nature shall be permitted during the ESC. No swearing or other unacceptable language shall be allowed in the lyrics or in the performances of the songs. A breach of this rule may result in disqualification.

#### **Section Five: Procedure in case of a tie**

- 1) Should there be a tie for position number ten in the Semi-Final or for first place in the Grand Final, the winner shall be the song which has obtained points from the highest number of countries. If the tying songs have received votes from the same number of countries, the highest number of 12-point scores shall be decisive. If the winner still cannot be determined by this procedure, the number of times ten points have been awarded shall be the deciding factor. If necessary, this method shall continue until account has been taken of the number of times one point has been awarded.

In the very unlikely case that after applying the above procedure in the Semi-Final there is still a tie concerning the qualifying ranks (1–10) and non-qualifying ranks (11–26), the tie shall be resolved by giving precedence to the country or countries which were earliest in the running order for the Semi-Final.

- 2) Should two or more songs receive exactly the same number of calls in a given country, the results of the Stand-by Jury (see Annexe 3 and Appendix 5) shall be used to determine their respective ranks (i.e. the song having obtained the most votes from the Stand-by Jury shall be ranked above the other). If these songs have received no votes from the Stand-by Jury, their ranks shall be determined by a draw to be held by the pan-European televoting partner under the supervision of the EBU Executive Supervisor.

[...]

## **Section Seven: Broadcasting and other uses of the Shows**

[...]

### **2) Rights and obligations of the EBU**

Without prejudice to the other rules in this Section, all broadcasting and other rights to the Shows and the ESC are exclusively owned by the EBU, to be managed centrally by the EBU on behalf of the Participating Broadcasters. Unless any rule of this Section applies, non-participating broadcasters are not allowed to broadcast any material from the Shows (rehearsals/preparations, etc.) without the prior written permission of, and without possible payment of a rights fee to, the EBU. Similarly, no commercial or non-commercial entity shall use the logo or other distinctive elements of the ESC or the Shows without the prior written permission of the EBU. [...]

#### **2.3) Distribution**

The EBU shall, in cooperation with TEAM, be responsible for coordinating all sales of the Shows to non-participating broadcasters from countries where rights remain available, for the financial benefit of Participating Broadcasters and the Host Broadcaster. [...]

Non-participating radio broadcasters other than active EBU Members or non-participating television broadcasters from countries where rights remain available may purchase the right to broadcast the Shows on their territory upon possible payment of a rights fee.

In countries where rights remain available, non-participating EBU Members shall have a first option, to be exercised within a deadline set by the EBU, to purchase the programmes for their territory.

Depending on the facilities available, non-participating broadcasters from countries where rights remain available may also request the right to send a commentator, and/or a production team, to the Shows.

### **3) News access**

Any broadcaster which does not hold any media rights shall be granted, upon request to the EBU, a total of two minutes' news access from each of the two Shows, free of charge for use in regularly-scheduled news bulletins within 24 hours of the Semi-Final and the Grand Final respectively. [...]

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[...]

### **Annexe 3 Centralized televoting**

1) Pan-European televoting partner

[...]

- b) For both the Semi-Final and the Grand Final, televoting is obligatory in all countries of the Participating Broadcasters (i.e. a maximum of 40 countries).

[...]

- e) In all cases the following guidelines must be followed:

(i) There shall be a fixed voting window [...] with the lines opening and closing at exactly the same time in all countries where the televoting actually takes place.

(ii) Voters must be excluded from voting for the entry of their own country of residence, and this must be made known to them.

(iii) The lines provided to receive calls must be equally accessible to any of the numbers being rung. [...].

[...]

- f) Each Participating Broadcaster shall appoint a Stand-by Jury whose votes shall be used in case of a technical or similar failure in the televoting procedure. The EBU Executive Supervisor shall decide, during the Shows whether the Stand-by Jury votes will be used. In particular, the EBU Executive Supervisor may decide to use such votes in a given country if an insufficient number of calls has been registered in that country.

- g) If a dispensation is requested by 1 January 2007, the Reference Group may make an exception to the compulsory televoting rule and may allow voting by Jury in accordance with the rules below.

- h) In any country where the EBU, in consultation with the Reference Group, makes an exception to the compulsory televoting rule a Jury shall vote for the Semi-Final and/or Grand Final. The composition of the Jury may be the same for both events. If such a Jury is appointed, no Stand-by Jury shall be required. The rules laid down under Appendix 4 shall apply to all Juries.

[...]

2) Obligations of the Participating Broadcasters with respect to centralized televoting

[...]

- e) Each Participating Broadcaster shall do its utmost to prevent fraudulent voting in the Shows.[...]

### **Rules applicable to the Juries**

- a) Each Jury shall consist of eight members plus a (non-voting) chairman. The members shall be nationals of the country of the Participating Broadcaster which has appointed them.
- b) Four members of each Jury shall be representatives of the public. The other four shall be music professionals. There should be an equal number of men and women on each Jury, and a wide spread of ages.
- c) Only one of the four music professionals is allowed to be connected with a record company or music publisher.
- d) The names of the members of the Juries may not be disclosed until the end of the Grand Final.
- e) Each Jury shall assemble in its own country on the day of both the Semi-Final and the Grand Final to view sequences of the final dress rehearsal of each song and shall then vote thereon in accordance with instructions issued by the EBU.
- f) Each member of each Jury shall award votes from one to ten to each song, excluding the song presented by the Participating Broadcaster of his own country and shall register his votes for each song as soon as it has been sung, on secret voting papers which shall be collected by the chairman. Abstentions are not allowed.
- g) The chairman shall be responsible for counting the votes awarded to each song, and for determining the points that will be awarded. The chairman shall allocate 12 points to the song having obtained the highest number of votes, 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.
- h) 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. 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.
- i) Each Jury's deliberations shall be monitored by a notary, whose tasks shall be to:
  - ensure compliance with the voting rules;
  - collect, check and certify the completed voting papers established by the chairman in accordance with point g) above;
  - send by fax all the certified voting papers to the pan-European televoting partner. [...].