

# **8<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP OF THEMATIC PHILATELY (Essen, May 11 - 13, 2017)**

## **1. General idea and location**

The European Championship for Thematic Philately (ECTP) shall join the best thematic exhibits in Europe in one single show, promoting the competitive aspect in high quality exhibiting, securing or even increasing the high standard of thematic exhibits in a long term perspective.

ECTP is recognized by The European Federation of Philatelic Associations (FEPA) as official European Championship for Thematic Philately and was held for the first time in 2006.

ECTP will be arranged in conjunction with the International Stamp Fair in Essen dated May 11th – 13th 2017. The fair in the fairgrounds of the Messe Essen is organized in a professional manner and ranks amongst the most successful philatelic fairs in Europe.

The exhibition itself will be realized by the German Philatelic Federation BDPH, namely by its regional federation of Nordrhein-Westfalen.

## **2. Scores and medals**

All exhibits are judged according to F.I.P. rules, applying solely the SREV for thematic philately. No other classes are admitted.

All exhibits (including those in the Champions' Class) which qualify for general F.I.P. exhibitions by their previous awards (minimum one vermeil medal at national exhibition, maximum three large gold medals at general F.I.P. exhibitions) receive diploma of the medal level according to the scores:

95+ large gold	79-75 large silver
94-90 gold	74-70 silver
89-85 large vermeil	69-65 silver bronze
84-80 vermeil	64-60 bronze

An exhibit which for the first time receives 85 points or higher at ECTP will qualify by that score for 128 pages at future FEPA exhibitions. As ECTP is an exhibition with no F.I.P. recognition, results will not go into the F.I.P. data base. In consequence, they do not have any impact on the allowance of frame numbers at future F.I.P. exhibitions. Large gold awards do not count for F.I.P. Championship Class, neither they can prevent these exhibits from being shown in future competition classes at F.I.P. exhibitions.

## **3. The championship competition**

Different from standard FEPA exhibitions, all exhibits enter one specific class, either the champions' class or one of the eight theme groups:

**Competitive Classes.** The exhibition will comprise eight different classes grouping the thematic range of exhibits as follows:

- Class 1: Arts and Culture
- Class 2: History and Organizations
- Class 3: Man and Everyday Life
- Class 4: Sport and Leisure
- Class 5: Transport and Technology
- Class 6: Medicine and Science
- Class 7: Animals and Plants
- Class 8: Agriculture and Pets

All exhibits will be shown in one of these eight classes unless they qualify for the champions' class.

**Champions' Class.** All champions (= winners of one of the eight theme groups at ECTP 2006 to 2015) show their exhibits in the Champions' Class. The jury will choose the best exhibit of this class as additional candidate for the Grand Prix ECTP (see below). An exhibit which has already won the Grand Prix ECTP in a previous year can be exhibited but is not eligible for candidate.

Participation in the Champions' Class is the prerequisite for future participation of this exhibit in one of the competitive classes. Those champions who have shown their exhibit in the Champions' Class at one of the previous ECTPs may remain in that class or may return into one of the eight competitive classes.

**Championship awards.** In each class, one European Champion will be elected from the exhibits shown (the one with the highest score). Further on, the second and third place will be awarded to the runner-ups. The eight champions and the best exhibit in the Champions' Class build the pool of candidates from which the jury votes for the winner of the Grand Prix ECTP.

The ranking of exhibits within each class follows the order of points awarded by the jury according to GREV and SREV for thematic exhibits. The Grand Prix ECTP will be voted in public during the award ceremony with every juror contributing his own ranking of the very best exhibits.

#### **4. Applications**

**Participants.** Every thematic exhibit which has reached at least one vermeil medal at a national exhibition of a FEPA member can apply for ECTP. There is no upper limit for qualification.

Exhibits which already received three large gold medals at general F.I.P. exhibitions in different years can also be shown. They will be normally judged as they compete for the championship. However, these exhibits do not receive normal medals as provided in section 2 of these regulations.

If an exhibit is not to be shown in the Champions' Class, it is in the decision of the exhibitor which of the eight theme classes is the most appropriate. (However, the exhibitor can be overruled by the selection committee in cases of obvious inconsistencies).

**Frames.** German standard frames, 98 x 98 cm, containing space for 3 rows of four A4 pages each, are used for this exhibition. 11 frames (allowing for 132 pages of normal size) are allotted to those exhibits which received at least 85 points at a previous F.I.P. or FEPA exhibition (allotment of frame number according to GREX). All other exhibits receive seven frames uniformly (allowing for 84 pages of normal size). In order to arrange conformity with international frame size, exhibitors can choose to show four pages less (128 / 80) if they prefer to do so.

**Applications.** All entry forms are gathered by the national delegates for the FIP commission for Thematic Philately. They submit the entries for their countries and make sure that exhibits which are shown on international level by the first time have received a properly qualifying medal at a national exhibition. Names and addresses of all national delegates can be found on <http://www.fipthematicphilately.org>, the website of the FIP commission for Thematic Philately.

All collectors who want to participate at ECTP 2017 have to submit their application, including a photocopy of the plan page and the exhibit description, to the national delegate of their country not later than November 30th 2016. The national delegates will forward the applications to the

Exhibition manager of ECTP  
Jürgen Witkowski,  
Reuenthalweg 66, D-45279 Essen (Germany)

not later than December 30th 2016. Delegates and exhibitors are informed of the acceptance of the exhibit until January 31st 2017.

Every FEPA country can submit as many applications as there are properly qualified exhibits. In case of oversubscribed classes, the selection committee of ECTP will give preference to exhibits from as many countries as possible, observing that the best exhibit from each country (in terms of previous awards) is selected.

The exhibition fee for both, the Champions' Class and the Competitive Classes is € 40 per frame and shall be payable after notification of acceptance of the exhibit.

#### **5. Transport of exhibits**

Each exhibit shall be brought and collected by the exhibitor himself or by his authorized agent. In the special case of a championship, the exhibitors are in general requested to be present during the exhibition and the award ceremony. For this reason, no national commissioners are appointed for this purpose (as usual with general exhibitions on FEPA level). However, exhibits can also be sent in by mail or of course be carried by jury members from the respective country.

Exhibitors or their agent have to mount / dismount the exhibit (if not sent in by mail). The mounting of frames shall take place on Wednesday, 10th of May, from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m., the dismounting on Saturday, 13th of May, from 5 p.m. onwards.

To forward an exhibit by the posts shall only be possible in exceptional cases which have to be announced beforehand. These exhibits must reach the exhibition manager not later than 30<sup>th</sup> April under the following address:

Exhibition manager of ECTP  
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A storage of the exhibits after the exhibition took place or a reposting of the exhibits shall generally not be possible. All exhibits are to be collected immediately after the exhibition closes.

## **6. General regulations**

ECTP orientates on the regulations for exhibitions arranged by FEPA and BDPH. The transport and insurance of exhibits is in the responsibility of the exhibitor. Every exhibitor may insure the exhibit at her/his own expense.

The exhibition manager shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the security of the exhibit from arrival till return thereof. However, the exhibition manager and the organizing team shall not bear any liability for loss or damage that might occur during transportation, mounting, dismounting or while the exhibition.

## **7. Jury**

The ECTP jury will represent a wide range of FEPA countries. Each member is a qualified thematic juror on FIP and/or FEPA level. The jury work consists of evaluating every exhibit according to GREV and SREV for thematic exhibits, allotting medal levels accordingly, ranking all exhibits in each of the eight classes, voting for the Grand Prix amongst the eight new champions and the candidate from the Champions' Class, and suggesting modifications to the exhibitors during a jury critique on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 10 - 12.30.

## **8. FEPA Jury Seminar of May 12th / 13th 2017**

The special time frame of the Stamp Fair in Essen (Thursday to Saturday) allows for a FEPA seminar for thematic jurors in conjunction with ECTP, starting Saturday afternoon (14.00) and ending Sunday noon. All FIP and FEPA jurors are free to join the seminar, and future candidates for FEPA apprenticeship shall also get the opportunity to participate. The participation is free of charge. Jurors who would like to attend are kindly requested to contact the organisation committee not later than January 31<sup>st</sup> 2017. Thematic jurors on national level can be admitted if free seats are available.