

Eurovision Song Contest 1992 Committee

Letter from the Chair

Delegates,

Welcome to Eurovision Song Contest: 1992 and WAMUNC XXVII! My name is Anna, and I'll be your chair for this committee!

The goal of this committee is to combine the political aftermath of the fall of the Soviet Union with the fun of a music competition as you contend with the creation of new states, existing and emerging European institutions, cultural representation, and a contest that has seen its fair share of controversy. As the competing nations, both new and old, you will spend your time in committee working together via respectful debate and collaboration to plan the contest, while crafting your vision for your own country's contest submission.

To introduce myself, I'm a first-year student at GW's Elliott School, double majoring in International Affairs with a concentration in International Politics, and Political Science. I'm originally from East Brunswick, New Jersey, and am now a member of the GWMUN team here in DC! My interests include knitting, vegetarian cooking and baking, political history, and, of course, my four beagles: Marlo, Marigold, Izzy, and Finn. I look forward to getting to know you all in committee as well!

Lastly, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who helped make this committee a reality: USG for Historical and Specialized Committees Liana Moldovanu, this committee's co-creator, Tommy Stein, and the entire WAMUNC XXVII secretariat for all of their hard work and guidance.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this committee or the background guide, I can be reached by email at a.barrettsyrett@gwu.edu. Please remember to CC your advisor!

Insieme: 1992, Unite, Unite, Europe!

Anna Barrett, Committee Chair

Committee Overview

Following the breakup of the Soviet Union, the European Broadcasting Union has decided to allow ten new former Soviet states to compete in the 1992 Eurovision Song Contest in Malmö, Sweden! Since this annual contest aims to promote European unity through music, it is a perfect way to introduce these states and their cultures to the European and global communities. Amidst political turmoil in the East, and European integration in the West, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine will join 23 other states in submitting a song and performance to the competition that represents their culture, musical heritage, and national identity.

As delegates, you will work together in the months leading up to Eurovision 1992, which will be held in May, to create a set of rules and guidelines for the contest and songs. You will address issues such as how the new Soviet states will interact with the European Broadcasting Union, how minority cultures and languages will be represented, the extent to which politics will be allowed in song, how contest entries will be selected, and the rules and format of the contest itself.

Additionally, you will each design your own country's entry into the contest through directives, choosing factors such as genre, language, messaging, and performance style. Feel free

to be as creative as you want while representing your nation's culture and adhering to the guidelines you and your fellow delegates decide upon!

History and Background

Contest History

Created in 1956 to promote European Unity after the Second World War, the Eurovision Song Contest (ESC) is a music contest run annually in May by the European Broadcasting Union, an organization of state media companies which had been formed six years earlier. The first seven countries to participate in 1956 were the Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, France, Luxembourg and Italy. Switzerland hosted and won, with Swiss journalist Marcel Bezençon being deemed the father of the ESC because of his role as the contest director. Unlike all future contests, the first Eurovision Song Contest allowed each country two entries. The contest was based on Italy's Sanremo song competition, which now serves to determine Italy's Eurovision entry, and was presented by Radio Svizzera Italiana.¹

Between 1956 and 1992, several rule changes have occurred. Contestants can now use backing tracks instead of a live orchestra, a minimum age of 16 years old has been established for performers, and a procedure for breaking a tie was established (If two nations receive the same number of points, the nation with the most 12 point scores wins. If the tied nations have equal numbers of 12 point scores, the tiebreaker will move to 10 point scores, then 8 points, and

¹ European Broadcasting Union. 2019. "The Origins of Eurovision | Eurovision Song Contest." Eurovision.tv. May

so on.²) The age rule was instituted after Sandra Kim won for Belgium in 1986 at only 13 years old,³ while the tiebreaker rule was instituted after the 1988 results were close enough to warrant a re-evaluation of the rules.⁴ The only tie in Eurovision history occurred in 1969, when four nations: The UK, France, The Netherlands, and Spain won jointly, with The Netherlands winning the draw to host the following year.⁵ Last year, 1991, was the first and only time where the tie breaking rules have been put into practice, as Sweden and France had identical point totals. The tiebreaker ended in a victory for Sweden, which had received more 10 point votes.⁶ The number of participating nations has since extended to upwards of 41 nations,⁷ with winning songs spanning genres including pop, jazz, folk, rap, and more.

The Contest Now

The format of the competition is as follows: every nation's entry is selected according to their national broadcaster's criteria. Selection formats may include open competitions voted on by the public, a vote by a jury of music industry experts on a select few acts, or direct selection by the broadcaster. Once announced, the song may not be changed, although the performance may be altered before the first round of competition. In years with fewer participating nations the contest, which is hosted by the previous year's winner, consists of only one round, while in years with a larger number of competitors, two semi-finals are held with the top nations from each semi-final competing in the final. In such years, the previous year's winner and the contest's five

² Eurovision. 2017. "Rules." Eurovision.tv. January 12, 2017.

³ "Belgium." 2024. Eurovision Song Contest. 2024.

⁴ "Dublin 1988." n.d. Eurovision.tv.

⁵ "Madrid 1969." 2024. Eurovision Song Contest. 2024.

⁶ "Rome 1991." 2024. Eurovision Song Contest. 2024.

⁷ "Tel Aviv 2019." n.d. Eurovision.tv.

largest financial contributors, France, the UK, Spain, Germany, and Italy, will automatically advance. As a predecessor to the semi-final format, the contest briefly used a system of relegation, where the lowest-scoring nations would not return for the next year. While the winner is now determined by a mix of public voting done online and jury voting, in 1992, voting occurs entirely by the broadcasters themselves awarding points by ranking the top 12 nations, with 12 points being the highest possible score. Broadcasters may not award points to their own nation.⁸ As delegates, however, you have the final say in the contest rules and may choose to change any of these things or create your own rules.

The Eurovision Song Contest is known for launching the careers of several now internationally famous artists including ABBA (Sweden, 1974,⁹) Céline Dion (Switzerland, 1988,¹⁰) and Måneskin (Italy, 2021,¹¹) and has long been seen as a pioneer program for LGBTQ+ representation on TV, most notably following Israel's 1998 win with an openly transgender contestant, Dana International.¹² Additionally, Eurovision is noted for the range of song entries, including more serious pieces, such as Ukraine's winning song in 2016, *1944*, which details the discrimination against Crimean Tatars during the Second World War,¹³ as well as sillier novelty songs, such as *Give That Wolf a Banana*, Norway's 2022 entry¹⁴. This variety allows competing nations a lot of room for creativity as they select their songs.

⁸ 2017b. "How It Works." Eurovision.tv. January 15, 2017.

⁹ "ABBA." n.d. Eurovision.tv.

¹⁰ "Dublin 1988." n.d. Eurovision.tv.

¹¹ "Måneskin - Italy - Rotterdam 2021." n.d. Eurovision.tv.

¹² "Dana International - Israel - Birmingham 1998." n.d. Eurovision.tv.

¹³ "Jamala - Ukraine - Stockholm 2016." n.d. Eurovision.tv.

¹⁴ "Subwoolfer." n.d. Eurovision.tv.

Although the contest rules state that no song can be political, the underlying politics of broader Europe have and will continue to influence how juries will vote. Recently, Russia was excluded from the 2022 competition due to its invasion of Ukraine, who ended up winning that year.¹⁵ It is important to note that disqualification of performers is rare, however it does occur. In 2021, Belarus' song was disqualified for political lyrics, and, when Belarus' replacement entry was also disqualified, they chose to instead exit the contest, and have not returned since.¹⁶

Finally, delegates should note that the real-life 1992 contest did not include post-Soviet states and that the contest has been fictionalized for the purpose of this committee. The first former Soviet states to compete in Eurovision were Estonia, Lithuania, and Russia in 1994.¹⁷

1992

This committee takes place in 1992, following the collapse of the Soviet Union on December 26, 1991, after which 15 new states were created. Ten of those states will be competing in this committee. The other five: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, will not be competing. The collapse was motivated by failed political reforms by Mikhail Gorbachev, a weakened economy caused by falling oil prices, military defeat in Afghanistan, and Glasnost, which allowed for Western European and American politics, ideas, and media to enter the USSR. Additionally, the Baltic States: Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania had already declared independence in the period of time between 1988 and 1990. Georgia soon followed, becoming the first non-Baltic state to do so. Other states, including Armenia and

¹⁵ *BBC News*. 2022. "Eurovision: Russia Banned from Competing at 2022 Song Contest," February 25, 2022, sec. Entertainment & Arts.

¹⁶ *BBC News*. 2021. "Belarus Banned from Eurovision over Song Lyrics," March 26, 2021, sec. Europe.

¹⁷ "Dublin 1994." n.d. Eurovision.tv.

Ukraine, had been ready to declare independence as well. Some states, however, such as Belarus and Russia, however, were more eager to retain the USSR. In August of 1991, an attempted coup against Gorbachev revealed the Soviet government's weakness and sealed the USSR's fate. All remaining states declared independence in the following months. The Soviet Union was officially dissolved on December 26, 1991, with the signing of the Alma-Ata Protocol. The Alma-Ata Protocol also formed the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), an organization of former Soviet States meant to retain the close cultural and political ties of the Soviet Union. The CIS established Russia as the USSR's successor, with President Boris Yeltsin receiving control over the USSR's nuclear arsenal. The Baltic States, however, are not member states of the CIS and have chosen instead to form closer ties with Western Europe.¹⁸ These newly independent states face challenges such as economic development, democratization, integration into the global community, and the development of domestic institutions. As of 1992, the relationship between these states and Western Europe varies between hostile, and eager to join the greater European community depending on the state.

Additionally, the European Union was scheduled to officially take form on January 1st, 1992, but the implantation of the treaty, which was finally signed on February 7, 1992, was delayed until January 1, 1993. The formation of the EU, which will create a European Parliament and a single currency, institute free trade, and standardize government regulations is representative of the growing European Integration movement which encourages a more interconnected European continent through social, political, economic, and legal reforms.¹⁹ The

¹⁸ Britannica. 2018. "Collapse of the Soviet Union | Causes, Facts, Events, & Effects." In *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

¹⁹ "The European Union Developed in Roller-Coaster Fashion over 40 Years." ThoughtCo. 2009.

European Broadcasting Union is another symbol of this integration and has sought to promote this interconnectedness through the contest. In fact, the winning song in 1990, *Insieme: 1992* referenced just this, encouraging Europeans to embrace the formation of the EU.²⁰ Although the EU is not yet in existence as of 1992, when the union does take effect in 1993, eleven of the competing states in the Eurovision Song Contest 1992 will become founding members: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, and Spain.²¹

Finally, the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has just broken apart, triggering the Yugoslav Wars. Slovenia and Croatia declared their independence from Yugoslavia in 1991, which was met with resistance from the Yugoslavian military. As of early 1992, NATO is considering military intervention in the conflict, given that Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Macedonia are also in favor of independence, which has led to significant armed conflict in Bosnia. This leaves Serbia and Montenegro as the remaining regions of Yugoslavia that have not declared independence. This war is part of a larger pattern of instability in the Balkans and represents a growing shift away from Socialism and Communism in Eastern Europe.²² This instability has already started to affect Eurovision, with the 1991 contest being moved from a coastal area of Italy to Rome to distance itself from the conflict.²³

²⁰ “Toto Cutugno.” 2024. Eurovision Song Contest. 2024. <https://eurovision.tv/participant/toto-cutugno>.

²¹ European Union. 2024. “History of the European Union 1990-99.” European-Union.europa.eu. 2024.

²² Office of the Historian. 2019. “The Breakup of Yugoslavia, 1990–1992.” State.gov. 2019.

²³ “Rome 1991.” 2024. Eurovision Song Contest. 2024.

The Issues at Hand

Cultural Expression

Eurovision provides minority cultural groups with the opportunity to represent their cultures on an international stage. This can come in the form of songs sung in minority languages, such as Norway's inclusion of the Northern Sámi language in their 2019 entry,²⁴ traditional instruments, or traditional genres of music. Cultural expression may be intentionally political, while the song itself is apolitical. Perhaps the most well-known example of this was in 2014 when Austrian drag queen Conchita Wurst won as the first openly gay man and drag queen. Wurst's performance became a symbol against homophobic legislation in Russia, while Russian singers the Tolmachevy Sisters were booed despite not commenting upon the laws.²⁵ For states seeking to forge their own identities and distance themselves from the collective entity of the Soviet Union, this contest provides them with the opportunity to do so. Eurovision was developed to promote unity, but countries still want to uphold their national identity on the public stage.

Contest Rules

Among the most pressing of the potential issues regarding contest rules is the inclusion of political messaging in songs, which is expressly forbidden, and potential grounds for disqualification. This does not, however, mean that participating nations may not include more subtle messaging in their music. The extent to which messaging may be present in entries is not

²⁴ "KEiino." 2019. Eurovision Song Contest. 2019.

²⁵ Molloy, Antonia. 2014. "Conchita Wurst 'Bearded Women and Men' Parade Banned by Russian Officials | the Independent." The Independent. May 16, 2014.

an established principle, and guidelines on the matter are up for interpretation. Additional contest rules that delegates should be advised to keep in mind include that song entries must contain vocals of some kind, artists must be at least 16 years old, songs may be no longer than 3 minutes, no live animals are allowed on stage, and there can be no more than six people on stage for each act. Finally, artists do not need to be from, or have citizenship to, the nation they are representing.²⁶ This last rule benefits smaller nations, such as Luxembourg, who have historically looked to neighboring nations for performers. Contestants, by the nature of the contest, are encouraged to experiment and play around with these rules. There are no requirements for genre, meaning countries have played outside the box. In 2022, Ukraine became the first nation to win with rap music,²⁷ while Finland has historically been fond of heavy metal entries.²⁸ In 1995, Norway creatively challenged the rule that songs must have vocals by submitting an entry with a very short singing part at the beginning and an instrumental violin piece for the remainder of the song. This paid off, and Norway won the 1995 contest.²⁹ In 2003 and 2006, Belgium submitted entries in made-up languages in a creative interpretation of the rule stating that entries may be in any language.³⁰

As delegates, you may change, abolish, or add any rules you as a committee decide upon, and you are also encouraged to creatively interpret contest rules when crafting your own entry.

²⁶ Eurovision. 2017. "Rules." Eurovision.tv. January 12, 2017.

²⁷ "Turin 2022." n.d. Eurovision.tv.

²⁸ "Finland." n.d. Eurovision.tv.

²⁹ "Dublin 1995." n.d. Eurovision.tv.

³⁰ "Belgium." 2024. Eurovision Song Contest. 2024.

Ensuring Fairness

Every year, Eurovision faces allegations of vote rigging, unfair counting, and bias. One issue is how juries award points to other nations. There is a longstanding practice of juries awarding higher point totals to nations in the same region (For example, a Scandinavian nation giving their 12, 11, and 10 point scores to other Scandinavian nations). Juries for nations with a good chance of winning may also choose to disregard quality and score a competitor poorly to damage their chances of winning, although this is not as common. Another issue to consider is the fact that in many nations, the viewers do not have a say in who represents them, and there may be bias in the regional or professional juries that select entries. Since the selection process is not standardized, this leaves the question of how the new participants will select their songs open, and in the post-Cold War climate, some adjustments to the rules might be necessary to promote an image of the contest as fair and open.

The fans are also fairly vocal about those they like and those they do not. In 2024, Israel's song "Hurricane" was met with boos from the crowd due to their actions in the Gaza Strip. Broadcasters chose to address this by using new technology to mute the boos and replace them with fake cheering. Additionally, the ESC faced criticism for choosing to include Israel despite banning Russia for similar actions in Ukraine in 2022. Those in support of Israel also flooded the votes, resulting in Israel placing fifth.³¹ These sorts of practices were not common in the 1990s considering that the people's vote was not added until the 21st century, yet it is an example of how political events can influence the contest. In a 1992 context, politics can come into play with regard to how states choose to distribute their points.

³¹ Savage, Mark. 2024. "Chaotic Build-up to Eurovision as Thousands Protest."

State Relations

None of the post-Soviet states are yet a part of the European Broadcasting Union, and given the unprecedented nature of this contest, there is not yet a guide for how these states will interact with the EBU, whether they should have to join before competing, or even which broadcasters the EBU will be working with. Additionally, with the failure of the European Union to form before 1992, questions linger around the extent to which Western European states should be cooperating as one entity, the role of this contest in European integration, and the extent to which post-Soviet states should be included in this integration. Finally, in the aftermath of the Cold War, there is a possibility of residual hostilities, and tensions between states. This may be exacerbated by the recent fall of the Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia. Examples of these tensions may be seen in the war between Azerbaijan and Armenia, civil war in Georgia, and the comparatively strong democracies of the Baltic states (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania).

Delegations

Delegates should keep in mind while researching that broadcasters and selection formats are listed as they stood in 1992, and may have changed since.

“The Big Five”

Known as the “Big Five” because of their status as the five biggest financial backers of the competition, the UK, France, Spain, Germany, and Italy automatically advance to the finals in years where multiple rounds of competition are held. Their financial contributions to the contest’s operating costs are seen as necessary for the contest to run at its current scale.

UK: Between their contest debut in 1957 and 1992, The United Kingdom has won Eurovision four times: in 1967, 1969 (as part of a four-way tie), 1976, and 1981. In the 1991 contest, The UK placed tenth out of 22 participants.³² The UK's participating broadcaster is the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), which chooses the artist, while the public votes electronically from eight options on the song that they will perform.³³

France: Between their contest debut in 1956 and 1992, France has won Eurovision five times: in 1958, 1960, 1962, 1969 (as part of a four-way tie), and 1977. In the 1991 contest, France placed second out of 22 participants, with the contest being decided in a tie-breaking vote.³⁴ France's participating broadcaster is Antenne 2, which chooses the performer and song with no contest or public input.³⁵

Spain: Between their contest debut in 1961 and 1992, Spain has won Eurovision twice: in 1968, and again in 1969 (as part of a four-way tie). In the 1991 contest, Spain placed fourth out of 22 participants.³⁶ Spain's participating broadcaster is Televisión Española (TVE), which chooses the performer and song with no contest or public input.³⁷

³² "United Kingdom." n.d. Eurovision.tv.

³³ "United Kingdom: A Song for Europe 1992." 2015. Eurovisionworld. 2015.

³⁴ "France." n.d. Eurovision.tv.

³⁵ "National Selections: 1992." 2024. Eurovisionworld. 2024.

³⁶ "Spain." n.d. Eurovision.tv.

³⁷ "National Selections: 1992." 2024. Eurovisionworld. 2024.

Germany: Between their contest debut in 1956 and 1992, Germany has won Eurovision once, in 1982. In the 1991 contest, Germany placed eighteenth out of 22 participants.³⁸ Germany's participating broadcaster is ARD, an association of regional broadcasters, which hosts a selection competition in which regional juries select the contest entry.³⁹

Italy: Between their contest debut in 1956 and 1992, Italy has won Eurovision twice: in 1964, and 1990. In the 1991 contest, which Italy hosted, they placed seventh out of 22 participants.⁴⁰ Italy's participating broadcaster is Radiotelevisione Italiana (RAI), which chooses the performer and song with no contest or public input.⁴¹

Returning Competitors

Austria: Between their contest debut in 1957 and 1992, Austria has won Eurovision once, in 1966. In the 1991 contest, Austria placed last out of 22 participants.⁴² Austria's participating broadcaster is Österreichischer Rundfunk (ORF), which chooses the performer and song with no contest or public input.⁴³

Belgium: Between their contest debut in 1956 and 1992, Belgium has won Eurovision once, in 1986. In the 1991 contest, Belgium placed sixteenth out of 22 participants.⁴⁴ Belgium's participating broadcaster is Radio-télévision Belge de la Communauté

³⁸ "Germany." n.d. Eurovision.tv.

³⁹ "Germany: Ein Lied Für Malmö." 2017. Eurovisionworld. 2017.

⁴⁰ "Italy." n.d. Eurovision.tv.

⁴¹ "National Selections: 1992." 2024. Eurovisionworld. 2024.

⁴² "Austria." n.d. Eurovision.tv.

⁴³ "National Selections: 1992." 2024. Eurovisionworld. 2024.

⁴⁴ "Belgium." 2024. Eurovision Song Contest. 2024.

Française (RTBF), which hosts a selection competition in which a jury selects the contest entry.⁴⁵

Cyprus: Between their contest debut in 1981 and 1992, Cyprus has yet to win Eurovision. In the 1991 contest, Cyprus placed ninth out of 22 participants.⁴⁶ Cyprus's participating broadcaster is the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation (CyBC), which hosts a selection competition in which a jury selects the contest entry.⁴⁷

Denmark: Between their contest debut in 1957 and 1992, Denmark won Eurovision once, in 1963. In the 1991 contest, Denmark placed nineteenth out of 22 participants.⁴⁸ Denmark's participating broadcaster is the Danish Broadcasting Corporation (DR), which hosts a selection competition in which the public votes electronically on the artist and song.⁴⁹

Finland: Between their contest debut in 1961 and 1992, Finland has yet to win Eurovision. In the 1991 contest, Finland placed twentieth out of 22 participants.⁵⁰ Finland's participating broadcaster is Yleisradio (Yle), which hosts a selection competition in which a jury selects the contest entry.⁵¹

⁴⁵ "Belgium: Finale Nationale Concours Eurovision de La Chanson 1992." 2015. Eurovisionworld. 2015.

⁴⁶ "Cyprus." n.d. Eurovision.tv.

⁴⁷ "Cypriot Selection 1992." 2024. Eurovisionworld. 2024.

⁴⁸ "Denmark." 2024. Eurovision Song Contest. 2024.

⁴⁹ "Denmark: Melodi Grand Prix 1992." 2024. Eurovisionworld. 2024.

⁵⁰ "Finland." n.d. Eurovision.tv.

⁵¹ "Finnish Selection 1992." 2024. Eurovisionworld. 2024.

Greece: Between their contest debut in 1974 and 1992, Greece has yet to win Eurovision. In the 1991 contest, Greece placed thirteenth out of 22 participants.⁵² Greece's participating broadcaster is Elliniki Radiofonia Tileorasi (ERT), which chooses the performer and song with no contest or public input.⁵³

Iceland: Between their contest debut in 1986 and 1992, Iceland has yet to win Eurovision. In the 1991 contest, Iceland placed fifteenth out of 22 participants.⁵⁴ Iceland's participating broadcaster is Ríkisútvarpið (RÚV), which hosts a selection competition in which a mix of regional juries and industry professionals select the contest entry.⁵⁵

Ireland: Between their contest debut in 1965 and 1992, Ireland has won Eurovision three times: in 1970, 1980, and 1987. In the 1991 contest, Ireland placed tenth out of 22 participants.⁵⁶ Ireland's participating broadcaster is Radio Telefís Éireann (RTÉ), which hosts a selection competition in which regional juries select the contest entry.⁵⁷

Israel: Between their contest debut in 1973 and 1992, Israel has won Eurovision twice: in 1978, and 1979. In the 1991 contest, Israel placed third out of 22 participants.⁵⁸ Israel's participating broadcaster is the Israel Broadcasting Authority (IBA), which hosts a selection competition in which regional juries select the contest entry.⁵⁹

⁵² "Greece." n.d. Eurovision.tv.

⁵³ "National Selections: 1992." 2024. Eurovisionworld. 2024.

⁵⁴ "Iceland." n.d. Eurovision.tv.

⁵⁵ "Iceland: Söngvakeppni Sjónvarpsins 1992." 2024. Eurovisionworld. 2024.

⁵⁶ "Ireland." n.d. Eurovision.tv.

⁵⁷ "Ireland: Eurosong 1992." 2024. Eurovisionworld. 2024.

⁵⁸ "Israel." n.d. Eurovision.tv.

⁵⁹ "Israel: Kdam Eurovision 1992." 2020. Eurovisionworld. 2020.

Luxembourg: Between their contest debut in 1956 and 1992, Luxembourg has won Eurovision five times: in 1961, 1965, 1972, 1973, and 1983. In the 1991 contest, Luxembourg placed fourteenth out of 22 participants.⁶⁰ Luxembourg's participating broadcaster is Compagnie Luxembourgeoise de Télédiffusion (CLT), which chooses the artist, while the public votes by postcard between two options for the song that they will perform.⁶¹

Malta: Between their contest debut in 1971 and 1992, Malta has yet to win Eurovision. In the 1991 contest, Malta placed sixth out of 22 participants.⁶² Malta's participating broadcaster is the Maltese Broadcasting Authority (MBA), which hosts a selection competition in which a jury selects the contest entry over two rounds of competition.⁶³

The Netherlands: Between their contest debut in 1956 and 1992, The Netherlands have won Eurovision four times: in 1957, 1959, 1969 (as part of a four-way tie), and 1975.⁶⁴ The Netherlands is returning to the contest after sitting out the 1991 competition, which coincided with a national day of mourning.⁶⁵ The Netherlands' participating broadcaster is AVROTROS, which hosts a selection competition in which regional juries select the contest entry.

⁶⁰ "Luxembourg." 2024. Eurovision Song Contest. 2024.

⁶¹ "Luxembourgish Selection 1992." 2024. Eurovisionworld. 2024.

⁶² "Malta." n.d. Eurovision.tv.

⁶³ "Maltese Selection 1992." 2024. Eurovisionworld. 2024.

⁶⁴ "Netherlands." 2024. Eurovision Song Contest. 2024.

⁶⁵ "Rome 1991." 2024. Eurovision Song Contest. 2024.

Norway: Between their contest debut in 1960 and 1992, Norway has won Eurovision once, in 1985. In the 1991 contest, Norway placed seventeenth out of 22 participants.⁶⁶ Norway's participating broadcaster is Norsk Rikskringkasting (NRK), which hosts a selection competition in which regional juries select the contest entry.⁶⁷

Portugal: Between their contest debut in 1964 and 1992, Portugal has yet to win Eurovision. In the 1991 contest, Portugal placed eighth out of 22 participants.⁶⁸ Portugal's participating broadcaster is Radiotevisão Portuguesa (RTP), which hosts a selection competition in which regional juries select the contest entry.⁶⁹

Sweden: As the previous year's winner, Sweden is the host country in 1992. This comes with financial and logistical challenges that should be kept in mind, as Sweden is responsible for accommodating the artists, officials, and fans, as well as designing the set and theme of the contest. Between their contest debut in 1958 and 1992, Sweden has won Eurovision three times, in 1974, 1984, and 1991.⁷⁰ Sweden's participating broadcaster is Sveriges Television (SVT), which hosts a selection competition in which regional juries select the contest entry.⁷¹

Switzerland: Between their contest debut in 1956 and 1992, Switzerland has won Eurovision twice: in 1956, and 1988. In the 1991 contest, Switzerland placed fifth out of

⁶⁶ "Norway." n.d. Eurovision.tv.

⁶⁷ "Norway: Melodi Grand Prix 1992." 2024. Eurovisionworld. 2024.

⁶⁸ "Portugal." 2024. Eurovision Song Contest. 2024.

⁶⁹ "Portugal: Festival RTP Da Canção 1992." 2024. Eurovisionworld. 2024.

⁷⁰ "Sweden." 2024. Eurovision Song Contest. 2024.

⁷¹ "Sweden: Melodifestival 1992." 2015. Eurovisionworld. 2015.

22 participants.⁷² Switzerland's participating broadcaster is the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation (SRG SSR), which hosts a selection competition in which a mix of regional juries, industry experts, and press officials select the contest entry.⁷³

Turkey: Between their contest debut in 1975 and 1992, Turkey has yet to win Eurovision. In the 1991 contest, Turkey placed twelfth out of 22 participants.⁷⁴ Turkey's participating broadcaster is Türkiye Radyo ve Televizyon Kurumu (TRT), which hosts a selection competition in which regional juries select the contest entry.⁷⁵ Turkey is currently backing Azerbaijan in the Nagorno-Karabakh War, which is being fought against Armenia. Both Armenia and Azerbaijan are competing in the 1992 contest.⁷⁶ It should be noted that, while the country is now known as Türkiye, it competed under the name "Turkey" in 1992.

Yugoslavia: Between their contest debut in 1961 and 1992, Yugoslavia has won Eurovision once, in 1989. In the 1991 contest, Yugoslavia placed twenty-first out of 22 participants.⁷⁷ Yugoslavia's participating broadcaster is Yugoslav Radio Television (JRT), which hosts a selection competition in which juries select the contest entry.⁷⁸ Following the fall of the Socialist Republic, Yugoslavia is competing for the first time as the

⁷² "Switzerland." 2024. Eurovision Song Contest. 2024.

⁷³ "Switzerland: Concours Eurovision 1992." 2015. Eurovisionworld. 2015.

⁷⁴ "Türkiye." n.d. Eurovision.tv.

⁷⁵ "Turkey: Şarkı Yarışması 1992." 2021. Eurovisionworld. 2021.

⁷⁶ Britannica. 2018. "Collapse of the Soviet Union | Causes, Facts, Events, & Effects." In *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

⁷⁷ "Yugoslavia." n.d. Eurovision.tv.

⁷⁸ "Yugoslavia: Jugovizija 1992." 2015. Eurovisionworld. 2015.

“Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.” Yugoslavia is currently in a state of war, and the nation is on the verge of dissolving.⁷⁹

Former Soviet States

As these states are new, none have a song selection process. It will be your job to decide how your nation will pick its contest entry.

Armenia: Armenia’s participating broadcaster will be the Public Television Company of Armenia (AMPTV). Armenia is currently fighting the Nagorno-Karabakh War, in which the citizens of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, the majority of whom are ethnically Armenian, voted to declare independence from Azerbaijan and become a part of the Republic of Armenia. During the conflict, Armenia has expelled hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijanis. Armenia was also in conflict with the USSR before it dissolved, and had been trying to gain independence.⁸⁰

Azerbaijan: Azerbaijan’s participating broadcaster will be Azerbaijan Television (AzTV). Azerbaijan is currently fighting the Nagorno-Karabakh War, in which the citizens of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, the majority of whom are ethnically Armenian, voted to declare independence from Azerbaijan and become a part of the Republic of Armenia. During the conflict, Armenia has expelled hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijanis. Azerbaijan is backed by Turkey in this conflict and was formerly backed by the USSR before it dissolved⁸¹.

⁷⁹ Office of the Historian. 2019. “The Breakup of Yugoslavia, 1990–1992.” State.gov. 2019.

⁸⁰ “Armenia - Independence.” n.d. Encyclopedia Britannica.

⁸¹ Suny, Ronald Grigor. 2023. “History of Azerbaijan | Events, People, Dates, & Facts.” Encyclopedia Britannica. April 10, 2023.

Belarus: Belarus’s participating broadcaster will be the Belarussian Television and Radio Company (BTRC). Belarus is currently in the process of organizing national elections, however, there have been several delays. Belarus is much more connected to the USSR and was much less eager to gain independence, than other former Soviet states. The Communist Party retains a significant amount of power, although there is a strong pro-democracy movement in the form of the Belarusian Popular Front.⁸²

Estonia: Estonia’s participating broadcaster will be Eesti Televisioon (ETV). Estonia had been pushing for independence for years prior to the dissolution of the USSR, including in the form of a 1991 referendum with over 78% in support of independence. Estonia has moved quickly towards democratization and economic reform, although there are some residual concerns over the effect of these reforms on poorer Estonians.⁸³

Georgia: Georgia’s participating broadcaster will be Georgian TV’s First Channel (1TV). Georgia declared independence from the USSR prior to its collapse but has faced significant democratization problems since then. In late 1991 President Gansakhurdia was overthrown in a coup, triggering an ongoing civil war. Additionally, separatist movements in Abkhazia and South Ossetia pose a threat to Georgian stability.⁸⁴

Latvia: Latvia’s participating broadcaster will be Latvijas Televīzija (LTV). Latvia declared independence from the USSR in 1990. In response, the Soviet Union invaded

⁸² French, Richard Antony, and David R Marples. 2023. “History of Belarus | Events, People, Dates, & Facts.” Encyclopedia Britannica. April 10, 2023.

⁸³ Misiunas, Romuald J, and Kazimierz Maciej Smogorzewski. 2023. “History of Estonia | Events, People, Dates, & Facts.” Encyclopedia Britannica. May 19, 2023.

⁸⁴ “Georgia - Independent Georgia.” n.d. Encyclopedia Britannica.

and attempted to overthrow the new republic in January 1991. After the fall of the Soviet Union, Latvia was quick to resume friendly relations with other European states. Latvia specifically looked to resume diplomacy with Sweden, the host of this year's conference.⁸⁵

Lithuania: Lithuania's participating broadcaster will be Lithuanian National Radio and Television (LRT). Lithuania was the first Soviet state to declare independence but was soon followed by the other Baltic states. The USSR responded with a blockade, and then a coup attempt when that failed. Lithuania is a full member of the UN and has moved quickly to establish friendly relations with the rest of Europe.⁸⁶

Moldova: Moldova's participating broadcaster will be TeleRadio-Moldova (TRM). Moldova gained independence when the Soviet Union collapsed. After independence two of Moldova's main concerns have been the protection of minorities such as the Gagauz people, and the retention of autonomous zones Transnistria and Gagauzia. Moldova also has significant linguistic divides between Moldovan, Russian, and Turkic-speaking groups.⁸⁷

Russia: Russia's participating broadcaster will be the All-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company (RTR). As the Soviet Union began to weaken, Russia looked to reform its government by electing a president, Boris Yeltsin, in 1991 and taking steps towards a more republican government. In August of 1991, however, a coup

⁸⁵Spekke, Arnold, and Aivars Stranga. 2023. "History of Latvia | Country, Map, & Flag." Encyclopedia

⁸⁶"Lithuania - Independence Restored | Britannica." n.d. www.britannica.com.

⁸⁷"Moldova - Independent Moldova | Britannica." n.d. www.britannica.com.

attempt against Mikhail Gorbachev accelerated the USSR's collapse and led to its formal dissolution.⁸⁸

Ukraine: Ukraine's participating broadcaster will be the National Television Company of Ukraine (NTU). Following independence, Ukraine's main concern has been economic recovery. Ukraine is not as wealthy as other regional states and has been dealing with hyperinflation. Over 90% of Ukraine's citizens supported independence in 1991, although pro-Soviet sentiment remains in the region of Crimea, which has a large ethnic Russian population.⁸⁹

Questions to Consider

1. How can the former Soviet states use the competition to establish their own identities and shed the influence of the USSR?
2. How can Western European states use the contest to facilitate European integration?
3. What role do new and non-Western states have to play in integration and the broader European community?
4. How can participating nations and artists use the contest to promote their political agendas and represent their cultures?=
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⁸⁸ Taruskin, Richard, and Martin McCauley. 2019. "Russia - Post-Soviet Russia." In *Encyclopædia Britannica*.

⁸⁹ "History of Ukraine - Independent Ukraine | Britannica." n.d. www.britannica.com.

5. How can the rules of the contest be adjusted or changed to adapt to new participants and address residual concerns over fairness?

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