Gmail **Grant Gochin <ggochin@gmail.com>**

Re: PEMC Nomination For Dr. Bubnys of LGGRTC

1 message

Wojciech Bednarski <wojciech.bednarski@pemc.eu> Fri, Sep 4, 2026 at 7:04 AM
To: ggochin@gmail.com
Cc: Marek Mutor <president@pemc.eu>

Dear Mr Gochin,
Thank you for your interest in the Platform of European Memory and Conscience Prize and, more broadly, in the Platform's work. Given the concerns you have raised, I would like to clarify how the Prize is awarded, as I believe this will help put the current process into its proper context.

For many years, the Prize has recognised a person or persons who are actively fighting totalitarianism today and standing up for democracy, fundamental human rights and freedoms, and the rule of law. We have had the privilege of presenting it, among others, to Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya and Ilma Numerov.

Importantly, the candidates are not selected or "nominated" by PEMC itself. **Candidates are proposed by our member organisations, with each organisation formally submitting its candidate and biographical information. We do not limit our member organisations in any way regarding the candidates they propose.**

Here, I can confirm that Arunas Bubnys was nominated by LGGRTC.
PEMC then facilitates the voting process. Every member organisation has one vote, and the Prize can only be awarded when a candidate obtains an absolute majority (50% + 1) of the votes cast. The decision therefore requires broad support across our membership. Currently, 80 institutions and organisations from 24 countries are entitled to vote

The voting process is also deliberately designed to allow members to make an informed and independent decision. Voting takes place over more than three weeks, giving each organisation time to examine the candidates and the available information before casting its vote. The ballot is secret, as is customary in such processes, and we do not disclose how individual members voted. This protects the independence of our members and allows them to exercise their judgement without external pressure.

I would also stress that the information concerning the candidates and their public activities is not hidden from our members. Much of the material you refer to is publicly available online, and we encourage our members to undertake their own assessment before voting. We are fortunate to have among our membership highly respected institutions and organisations with considerable expertise in historical research, human rights and the study of totalitarianism.

In this process, **PEMC is therefore not acting as a judge determining the merits of an individual candidate. Our role is to organise and facilitate a democratic decision-making process, while the actual decision belongs to our members collectively.**
Finally, I would note that Arūnas Bubnys is one of four candidates in the current process. The first round of voting will conclude on 10 September, after which the votes will be counted and the outcome established according to the procedure described above.

We take questions concerning historical truth, accountability and the defence of human rights very seriously, and I appreciate the opportunity to clarify the process. I hope this explanation also makes clear that the Prize is not the result of a unilateral decision by PEMC, but of a democratic decision entrusted to our member organisations.

Best,
Wojtek

Sincerely,
Wojciech Bednarski
Managing Director

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On Thu, 3 Sept 2026 at 16:16, Grant Arthur Gochin <ggochin@gmail.com> wrote:

> Dr. Bubnys, in order not to embarrass the members of PEMC, I do think
> you should bring this to their attention before any prizes are
> granted. https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/did-pemc-check-the-history/
>
> Best wishes,
> Grant Gochin
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