



**PUBLIC RECOMMENDATION to Olemic Thommessen, Speaker of the Parliament of Norway and the chair of its nomination committee**

The Speaker has our full support in the announced review of the present procedures for electing the Nobel Committee. What is needed is more than a mere technical adjustment.

The current procedure was introduced in 1948. In the debate at the time, many, like Carl Joachim Hambro, former parliamentary president, were concerned that it would harm the peace prize if party interests were to affect the choice of persons. It is high time to evaluate the experience. It is hardly reconcilable with an objective of securing a committee perceived as independent of Norwegian politics if the relative balance of parties in the Norwegian parliament determines its composition.

The task of Parliament is to decide who shall sit on the Nobel Committee, but Nobel's will contains no indication that Parliament primarily must or should elect politicians or persons connected with political parties for the committee.

We have previously (cf. letter of October 26, 2017, pointed out that Parliament is obliged to determine Nobel's (own) intention with/regarding the peace prize and ensure that the Nobel Committee is composed of those best qualified considering the purpose of the peace prize. Central to Nobel's idea of "champions of peace," were those who would work for "creating the fraternity of nations", "reduction or abolition of standing arms" and "peace congresses"

The demand that the Norwegian Parliament must change its selection procedure has been ongoing for ten years. In our view, it is necessary for Parliament to decide before the year ends what can be done to ensure that the Nobel Committee has members that are knowledgeable about and keen to promote the specific peace ideas Nobel wished to support.

Bergen, Oslo, Tromsø, November 28, 2017

(Name list)