

# The Europe Prize award system

## First step: the European Diploma

The first step in selecting Europe Prizewinners. Some 20 diplomas are awarded every year. Mayors of the winning towns are presented with a parchment bearing the date and the name of the municipality at an *official ceremony at the Palais de l'Europe in Strasbourg* during the spring session of the Parliamentary Assembly.

## Second step: the Flag of Honour

The flag, embroidered and fringed with gold, is the most popular award and an essential step towards the Plaque of Honour and the Europe Prize. Fifteen to twenty are allocated every year and over 1,100 have been awarded since 1961. A member of the Parliamentary Assembly presents it to the winning municipality at a *municipal ceremony open to a wide public*.

## Third step: the Plaque of Honour

It consists in its upper part of brass figures representing the rape of Europe, in the central part of the twelve stars of Europe with the year the Plaque was awarded inscribed in the middle, and on the lower part a stylised map of the Great Europe indicating the name of the prize winning municipality. It is presented to the winning municipality by a member of the Parliamentary Assembly at a ceremony to which the local population is invited. Eight to ten plaques are awarded each year and 220 have been presented so far.

## Fourth step: the Europe Prize

The highest award, created in 1955 to recognize outstanding efforts in promoting European unity. Sixty-eight towns have been honoured ; only one or two prizes are awarded each year to Plaque and Flag winners.

This is no empty honour. The Trophy (held for a year), the bronze medal and the commemorative parchment accompany a *10,000 euros scholarship to fund European study visits for young people*.

The President of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly presents the prize at a *municipally-organised "Europe Day"* attended by the Europe Prize Sub-Committee.