
CONTEST RULES

“Call for Essays”

1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 1.1 In these Rules, capitalised terms shall have the following meanings:
- 1.1.1 **Contest** – the contest named above, organised under the rules set forth in these Rules;
 - 1.1.2 **Organiser** – ORLEN S.A., with its registered office in Płock, at ul. Chemików 7, 09-411 Płock, entered in the Register of Entrepreneurs of the National Court Register kept by the District Court for Łódź-Śródmieście in Łódź, 20th Commercial Division of the National Court Register under KRS number: 0000028860, with share capital of PLN 1,451,177,561.25, fully paid-up, NIP: 774-00-01-454, REGON: 610188201;
 - 1.1.3 **Contractor** – Plej sp. z o.o., with its registered office in Warsaw, at ul. Sielecka 35, 00-738 Warsaw, responsible for managing the Contest, whose registration files are kept by the District Court for the Capital City of Warsaw in Warsaw, 13th Commercial Division of the National Court Register, under KRS number: 0000338644, NIP: 1132778398, with share capital of PLN 57,000.00;
 - 1.1.4 **Rules** – these rules;
 - 1.1.5 **Participant** – a person entering and taking part in the Contest, meeting the conditions specified in clause 2.1
 - 1.1.6 **Conference** – the conference titled *Powering Europe’s Future: Navigating a Sustainable Energy Transition with Security and Affordability*, taking place on 23–24 June 2025 at the Reduta Banku Polskiego in Warsaw, located at ul. Bielańska 10.
- 1.2 These Rules define the terms and conditions under which the Contest is held, in particular specifying the eligibility criteria for participation, the rights and obligations of the Organiser and Participants, as well as the structure, principles and procedures of the Organising Committee.
- 1.3 The Contest runs from 20 May until the end of 13 June 2025.

2 CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION IN THE CONTEST

- 2.1 Any natural person may participate in the Contest provided that they meet all of the following conditions:
- 2.1.1 they hold student status within the European Union – i.e. they have been admitted to a first-cycle (Bachelor’s), second-cycle (Master’s), or long-cycle Master’s programme, or have commenced doctoral studies;
 - 2.1.2 they have read and accepted the provisions of the Rules and submitted the declaration referred to in Annex 1;
 - 2.1.3 they are of legal age.
- 2.2 The following individuals are not eligible to participate in the Contest: employees of the Organiser or of entities involved in organising and carrying out the Contest; persons who maintain ongoing cooperation with the Organiser or these entities under any arrangement other than an employment contract; as well as their spouses, ascendants, descendants, siblings, second-degree relatives by affinity, adopters, adoptees, persons living in the same household, and spouses, descendants, or wards of the aforementioned individuals.

3 CONTEST RULES

- 3.1 To enter the Contest, participants must submit an independently written essay on the topic:

Overcoming Obstacles: A Critical Analysis of Barriers to fast Energy Transition

either (i) using the form available at: poweringfutureconference.com or (ii) sending the email address essays@poweringfutureconference.com.

Contest entries submitted via email should include an essays (PDF file) attached to the email and information in the email body such as: first name, last name, university, faculty, year of study, e-mail address, contact phone number, confirmation of reading and accepting the „Call for essays” Competition Regulations, confirmation that meets the criteria specified in 2.1 in the content of the ‘Call for Essays’ Competition Regulations and confirmation writing the essay by own (without the use of AI tools).

The „Call for essays” Competition Regulations and the Privacy Policy contained therein are available on the Conference website.

The Organizer reserves the right to decide on the form of sending the competition works, via the Conference website <https://poweringfutureconference.com>.

Each essay must meet the following requirements:

- 3.1.1 length: maximum 3,000 words (excluding footnotes and bibliography),
 - 3.1.2 written in English,
 - 3.1.3 submitted in PDF format,
 - 3.1.4 include the author’s full name.
- 3.2 Failure to meet the eligibility criteria specified in section 2.1 or to comply with any of the requirements set out in section 3.1 will result in the essay being rejected during the preliminary formal review carried out by the Organiser. The participant concerned will be notified via email. Rejected essays will not be evaluated by the Organising Committee.
- 3.3 The substantive evaluation of essays and the selection of winners will be carried out by the Organising Committee appointed by the Organiser. The Committee will consist of 3 to 7 members. The Organiser reserves the right to change the composition of the Committee at any time prior to the final Committee meeting.
- 3.4 The Organising Committee will hold at least two meetings (online format is acceptable), minutes of which will be recorded:
- 3.4.1 an opening meeting, during which the Chair of the Committee will be appointed to oversee the further work;
 - 3.4.2 a closing meeting, during which the list of winning essays will be approved.
- 3.5 The Organising Committee is responsible for supervising and conducting the Contest. Decisions are made by simple majority vote, with at least three members present. In the event of a tie, the Chair has the casting vote.
- 3.6 The evaluation of essays will begin on 13 June 2025 and will continue until 17 June 2025. Each member of the Committee will assess the essays individually. At the closing meeting, the arithmetic mean of all individual scores will be calculated for each essay.
- 3.7 The substantive evaluation will be based on the following criteria and point limits:
- 3.7.1 relevance to the contest topic – up to 5 points,
 - 3.7.2 content quality – up to 40 points,
 - 3.7.3 style and language (including bibliography) – up to 5 points.

- 3.8 Each member of the Organising Committee will evaluate the submitted essays using the criteria set out in section 3.7. The maximum score an essay can receive is 50 points. The final score for each essay will be the arithmetic mean of the individual scores awarded by Committee members.
- 3.9 Each decision made by the Organising Committee regarding the awarding of prizes will be recorded in the minutes of the closing meeting, during which the Contest winners will be selected. Subject to sections 3.12 and 4.4, decisions of the Committee are final and not subject to appeal.
- 3.10 The Organising Committee may award additional prizes. Such decisions are made by simple majority vote.
- 3.11 Committee members may consult external experts in their evaluation work.
- 3.12 If a relationship exists between a Committee member and a participant that could affect the member's objectivity, any involved party must report this to the Organiser, who will immediately decide whether to exclude the member from the Committee. Any decisions made with the involvement of the excluded member will be nullified.

4 WINNERS AND PRIZES

- 4.1 By 13 June 2025, the Organising Committee will select the 3 best essays. Their authors will be invited to attend verification interviews (online participation is allowed), which will take place on 14–15 June 2025.
- 4.2 The announcement of the Contest finalists (3 Participants whose essays received the highest scores) will be made on 18 June 2025 via the website poweringfutureconference.com, in the 'Call for Essays' section. The announcement of the winners (including ranking) and the prize ceremony will take place on 24 June 2025 during the Conference:

Powering Europe's Future: Navigating a Sustainable Energy Transition with Security and Affordability.

The prizes are as follows:

1st place – PLN 3,000, a leadership meeting with a Member of the Management Board of ORLEN S.A., and a tour of selected ORLEN assets (e.g. a refinery);

2nd place – PLN 2,000 and a tour of selected ORLEN assets;

3rd place – PLN 1,000 and a tour of selected ORLEN assets.

- 4.3 Each winner is required to provide their personal data to the extent necessary for fulfilling tax obligations related to the prize (e.g. PESEL number, place of residence). Prizes will be distributed by the Contractor.
- 4.4 If a winner fails to provide the required information necessary for tax settlement, they will forfeit the right to the prize and shall not be entitled to any equivalent or substitute form of compensation. The Organiser shall determine the implications of such a case for the final outcome of the Contest, including any impact on the decisions referred to in section 4.2.
- 4.5 Pursuant to Article 30(1)(2) of the Personal Income Tax Act of 26 July 1991 (consolidated version of 10 January 2025, Dz. U. [Journal of Laws] of 2025, item 163), the prizes referred to in section 4.4.1 are subject to a flat-rate personal income tax of 10% of the prize value. The Contractor, acting as the tax remitter, will calculate, withhold and pay the applicable tax to the competent Tax Office before distributing the prizes. An additional cash prize amounting to 11.11% of the value of the main prize will be added to cover the tax due.
- 4.6 By accepting these Rules, prize recipients agree that the additional cash prize will not be paid directly to them, but will instead be used to cover the personal income tax due on their prize.

5 PARTICIPANTS' PERSONAL DATA

- 5.1 For the purposes of organising the Contest, the controller of Participants' personal data within the meaning of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR) is the Organiser.
- 5.2 The Organiser has appointed a Data Protection Officer, who may be contacted at: daneosobowe@orlen.pl or in writing at the registered address of ORLEN S.A. Information about the Data Protection Officer is also available at www.orlen.pl in the 'RODO' section. Participants' personal data will be processed for no longer than necessary to properly carry out the Contest and deliver the prizes. After this period, data will be retained until any mutual claims related to the Contest expire.
- 5.3 Personal data will be processed for the following purposes:
- 5.3.1 for the Participant's entry in the Contest, notification of winning, and prize delivery – in connection with the conclusion of an agreement (participation in the Contest and acceptance of these Rules), and on the basis of the legitimate interests of the controller involving the organisation of activities enabling the proper conduct of the Contest, including, among others, ensuring communication with the participant/winner (Article 6(1)(b) and (f) GDPR);
 - 5.3.2 in order to fulfil legal obligations imposed on the Organiser by law, in connection with the payment of taxes and reporting duties (Article 6(1)(c) GDPR);
 - 5.3.3 for complaints handling (Article 6(1)(f) GDPR);
 - 5.3.4 for handling, pursuing, and defending against any mutual claims (Article 6(1)(f) GDPR).
- 5.4 Participants' personal data may be disclosed by ORLEN S.A. to entities cooperating with the Organiser in the execution of the Contest, as well as to entities providing accounting, postal and delivery, legal, and archiving services.
- 5.5 Persons whose personal data are processed on the basis of these Rules have the right to access their data, the right to rectify them, the right to erasure, the right to restrict processing, the right to data portability, and the right to object to the processing of personal data on grounds relating to their particular situation.
- 5.6 A person whose personal data are processed on the basis of these Rules has the right to lodge a complaint with the President of the Personal Data Protection Office (Prezes Urzędu Ochrony Danych Osobowych) (address: ul. Stawki 2, 00-193 Warsaw, www.uodo.gov.pl).
- 5.7 The controller does not intend to transfer personal data to so-called third countries (i.e. countries outside the European Economic Area, which includes the European Union, Norway, Liechtenstein, and Iceland).

6 COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

- 6.1 Any complaints by Participants concerning the Contest must be submitted no later than 14 days after the end of the Contest, either in writing to the Organiser's registered office address or via the contact form available at poweringfutureconference.com.
- 6.2 For written complaints, the deadline is considered met if the postmark from a postal facility located in the territory of the Republic of Poland bears a date within the allowed period. For email complaints, the date of sending the message to the Organiser's email address specified in section 6.1 shall be decisive. A complaint must include: (i) a statement that it concerns the 'Call for Essays' Contest; (ii) the Participant's details: full name, residential address, email address; (iii) the reason for the complaint along with a justification.
- 6.3 Complaints submitted in violation of sections 6.1 or 6.2 will not be considered.

- 6.4 The Organiser will review the complaint within 14 (fourteen) days from the date of receipt. The complainant will be informed of the outcome without delay, either by email sent to the address provided in the complaint submission or by traditional mail sent to the postal address provided.
- 6.5 The Organiser's decision regarding the complaint is final. However, this does not preclude the Participant's right to pursue claims through court proceedings.

7 FINAL PROVISIONS

- 7.1 Any matters not regulated by these Rules shall be governed, in particular, by the provisions of the Polish Civil Code and other generally applicable provisions of Polish law.
- 7.2 In justified cases, the Organiser reserves the right to amend the provisions of the Rules, provided that such amendments do not infringe upon the rights and obligations already acquired by Participants.
- 7.3 The binding interpretation of the provisions of these Rules lies with the Organiser.

Annex No 1 to the Rules

Participant's Declaration for the 'Call for Essays' Contest

1. I hereby declare that I have read and accepted the content of the Rules of the 'Call for Essays' Contest.
2. I hereby declare that I meet the eligibility criteria specified in section 2.1 of the Rules of the 'Call for Essays' Contest.
3. I hereby declare that I have prepared the essay independently (including without the use of AI tools) and that it meets the requirements specified in section 3.1 of the Rules of the 'Call for Essays' Contest.