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Azerbaijani Singers Won Eurovision Song Contest

A pop duo from Azerbaijan - Nigar Jamal and Eldar Gasimov, who go by the name Ell/Nikki, has won the 2011 Eurovision Song Contest in which finalists from 25 countries took the stage Saturday night in Düsseldorf, Germany. As a result of sms-voting and the decision of the expert jury Eldar Gasimov and Nigar Jamal's song "*Running Scared*" took the first place with 221 points.

Established in 1956, Eurovision is the biggest television show in Europe, attracting more than 120 million viewers. Performers from 43 European states took part in this year competition. Voting is a 50/50 split between several judging panels and viewers from all 43 participating countries. Two semi-finals during the week resulted in the final round of 25 countries. Italy won the second place followed by Sweden and Ukraine.

It was the first time that Azerbaijan has won the contest, being only in this competition fourth times since 2008. Azerbaijan performers were always in top ten during the past years. The win means that Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, will be next year's host of the Eurovision Song Contest.

Previous winners have included Celine Dion in 1988, who represented Switzerland with *Ne partez pas sans moi*, and Swedish super-group ABBA in 1974 with *Waterloo*. Last year was won by a German singer Lena Meyer-Landrut who passed the trophy to the winners from Azerbaijan.