



By FLORIAN EDER

with ZOYA SHEFTALOVICH

*2020, december 10th*

OVER AND OUT     1

**THIS YEAR'S EUROPEAN BOOK PRIZE** goes to “It Happened on September First” by Slovak writer Pavol Rankov. It’s the coming of age story of three Hungarian, Jewish-Slovak and Czech friends who are children in the 1930s, when languages, religions and ethnicities mixed in southern Slovakia as they do today in Europe. By the time they are adults, they are ripped apart by ideologies that seek to impose a single ethnicity, by the war, and by new borders.

**The jury also awarded a special mention to Bulgarian author** Kapka Kassabova for her book “Border: a journey to the edge of Europe,” about the artificial, fluid and at times extremely violent borders between Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey. The prize, worth €10,000, will officially be awarded to Rankov next February in Brussels by the president of the 2020 jury, actor Carole Bouquet, and Pascal Lamy, the chairman of the sponsorship committee, at a ceremony alongside European Parliament President David Sassoli.