



The International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen

For the Unity of Europe



Charlemagne Prize Laureate 2016

His Holiness

Pope Francis

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A Voice of Conscience



We are delighted by the overwhelming response to this year's recipient of the Charlemagne Prize. Considering the current political situation, it is no easy task to distinguish a personality who supports and promotes the grand European project with commitment, clarity and, at the same time, constructive criticism. The Charlemagne Prize Board of Directors is grateful to His Holiness Pope Francis for agreeing to accept the Charlemagne Prize and, in doing so, for setting an invaluable example for the common goal of all Europeans. We are honoured to present our award to a man who inspires hope, an ambassador of peace and togetherness in a strong Europe, a man whose words carry weight and are listened to attentively by the whole world.

In fact, it was the stirring message delivered by the designated award winner in his much acclaimed address to the European Parliament in November 2014 that first caught our attention: "The time has come for us to abandon the idea of a Europe which is fearful and self-absorbed." This blunt description of the situation was followed by the appeal: "The time has come for us to [...] revive and encourage a Europe of leadership, a repository of science, art, music, human values and faith as well. A Europe [...] which cares for, defends and protects man, every man and woman. A Europe which bestrides the earth surely and securely, a precious point of reference for all humanity!"

Europe needs this kind of encouragement, but also this stern admonition to reflect on its original strength. His Holiness Pope Francis has repeatedly called for us to place the ideals of the founders of Europe at the heart of our activities. The Charlemagne Prize Board of Directors is convinced that, with him, we are honouring a voice of

conscience that urges us to place people at the centre of all our actions. We are honouring an outstanding moral authority who, acting as both cautioner and mediator, reminds us that Europe has the task and the duty to build on the ideals of its founders and to achieve peace and freedom, justice and democracy, solidarity and subsidiarity, and the safeguarding of creation.

In taking stock of the current situation, the Charlemagne Prize Board of Directors cannot ignore the obvious weaknesses, crises and setbacks that the European Union has experienced over the past years. Many of the achievements of the European process of integration have been pushed into the background, accompanied by a dramatic loss of confidence. In this dire situation, Pope Francis sends a message of hope.

In its citation for this year's award winner, the Board of the Directors praise the Holy Father's encouragements for promoting a vision of the future "based on the capacity to work together in bridging divisions and in fostering peace and fellowship between all the peoples of this continent." We look forward to the Pope's acceptance speech at the Charlemagne Prize award ceremony in the Sala Regia. We are optimistic that we can expect a further message of encouragement for Europe to face the future with confidence.


Marcel Philipp
Lord Mayor of Aachen

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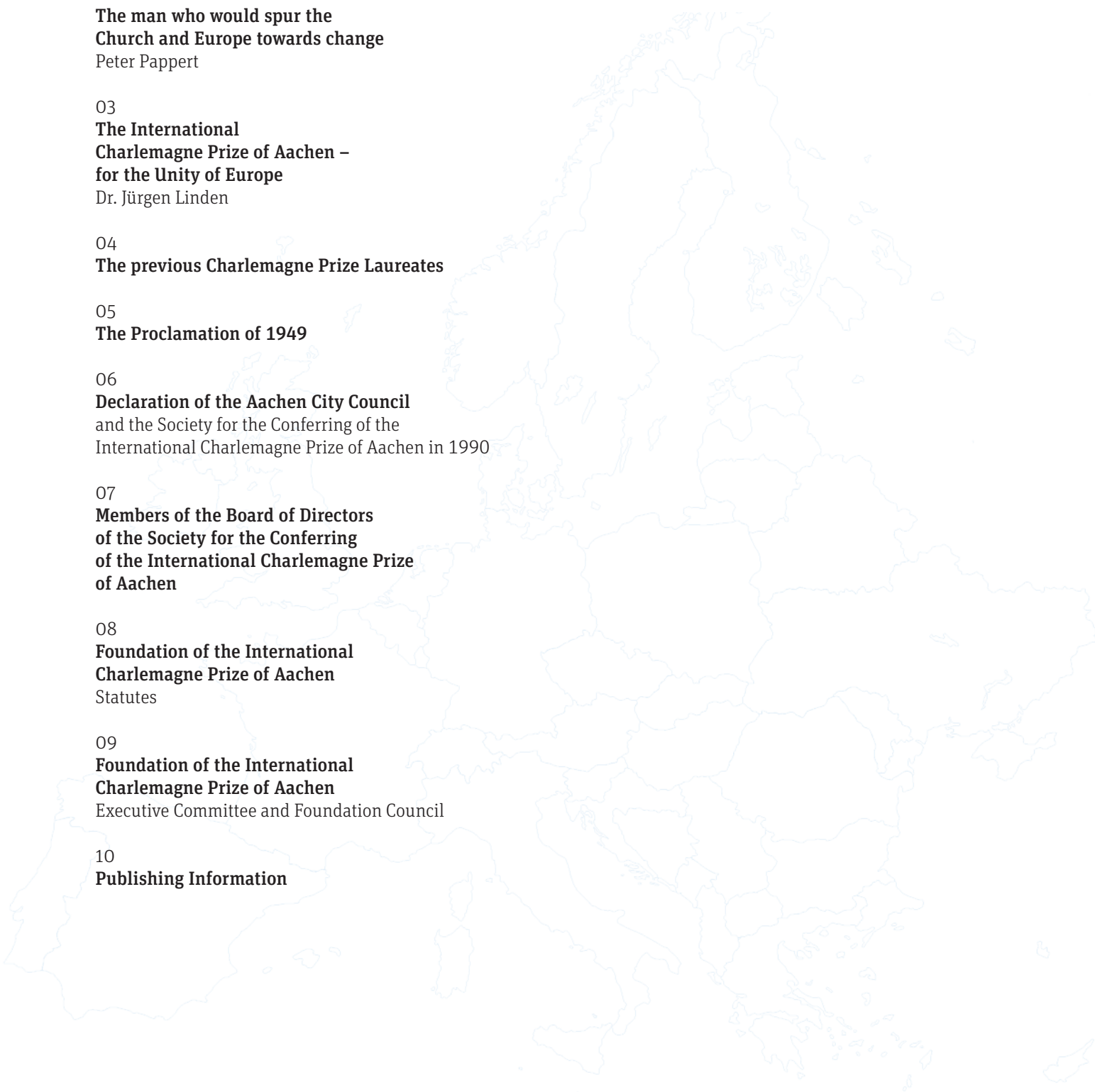
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The Charlemagne Prize Laureate of 2016
His Holiness Pope Francis



01

**Citation by the Board of Directors of the
Society for the Conferring of the
International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen
to His Holiness
Pope Francis**

The historical foundations of European mutual understanding lie in Europe's common spiritual heritage, in the values anchored in our Judaeo-Christian roots and enhanced by the rich influences of classical Greek and Roman culture, in the Carolingian Renaissance, the Enlightenment and the norms of democracies, and in respect for the uniqueness of human beings, their dignity and their inalienable rights – and our current endeavour to promote a sense of shared identity in Europe was, from the very start, motivated by one thing above all else: an ardent desire for peace.

Respect for human dignity and civil liberties

Out of the ruins of two world wars, Europeans have, over the past seven decades, created a region of respect for human dignity and civil liberties, a region of democracy and the rule of law. A system of tolerance and mutual respect; a system whose paramount point of reference is human rights.

In the history of European unification, we have already experienced many times the boundless force inherent in the desire for an end to repression, for respect for human rights. No wonder, then, that Greece after overcoming its military dictatorship, Spain after Francoism and Portugal after its "Carnation Revolution" all joined the European Communities, and that, after the collapse of Communism, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe from the very start envisioned a future for themselves under the auspices of the European Union. For it was not primarily a Europe of economic prosperity that they aspired to become part of, but a Europe of commonly-held values.

A message of hope

However, we cannot ignore the fact that, over the last seven years, Europe has experienced weaknesses, crises and setbacks that have pushed many of the achievements of the European process of integration into the background and, most importantly, have precipitated a dramatic loss of confidence. In these times in which many citizens in Europe seek orientation, His Holiness Pope Francis sends a message of hope and encouragement, a message of "hope, based on the confidence that our prob-

lems can become powerful forces for unity in working to overcome all those fears which Europe – together with the entire world – is presently experiencing," and an "encouragement to return to the firm conviction of the founders of the European Union, who envisioned a future based on the capacity to work together in bridging divisions and in fostering peace and fellowship between all the peoples of this continent. At the heart of this ambitious political project was confidence in man, not so much as a citizen or an economic agent, but in man, in men and women as persons endowed with transcendent dignity."

The Board of Directors of the Society for the Conferring of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen are honoured to present the award in 2016 to His Holiness Pope Francis in recognition of the outstanding messages he has sent and examples he has set throughout his pontificate for peace and understanding, compassion, tolerance, solidarity and the safeguarding of creation.



"The time has come to work together in building a Europe which revolves not around the economy, but around the sacredness of the human person, around inalienable values. In building a Europe which courageously embraces its past and confidently looks to its future in order fully to experience the hope of its present. The time has come for us to abandon the idea of a Europe which is fearful and self-absorbed, in order to revive and encourage a Europe of leadership, a repository of science, art, music, human values and faith as well. A Europe [...] which cares

for, defends and protects man, every man and woman. A Europe which bestrides the earth surely and securely, a precious point of reference for all humanity!"

When, with these words, Pope Francis concluded his historic address to the European Parliament in November 2014, he had previously urged the parliamentarians to place human dignity and the ideals of the founders of Europe at the heart of their activities and, as legislators, to do their utmost to ensure that the great potential of the European idea, an idea for which the EU is envied in many parts of the world, is not jeopardised.

A qualified chemical technician

His Holiness Pope Francis PP was born Jorge Mario Bergoglio on 17th December 1936 in Buenos Aires as the son of an Italian immigrant. An Argentinian by birth, he also retained Italian nationality. After initially graduating as a chemical technician, he chose to follow the path of priesthood and, in 1958, joined the Society of Jesus.

begun in 1967 – he was ordained to the priesthood. After his tertianship, the standard tertiary spiritual training period for a Jesuit, which he absolved for the most part in Spain, and his profession of the solemn and perpetual vows, he was appointed Provincial Superior of the Society of Jesus in Argentina in 1973, an office he held until 1979.

266th Bishop of Rome and the new Pope

From 1980 to 1986, he served as Rector of the Colegio de San José, followed by several months spent abroad at the Jesuit Graduate School St. Georgen in Frankfurt/Main, before becoming the Spiritual Director of the El Salvador College in Buenos Aires and later in Córdoba. On 20th May 1992, Pope John Paul II appointed him Auxiliary Bishop of Buenos Aires and Titular Bishop of Auca. From 1993, he served as General Vicar of the Archdiocese, then in June 1997 became Coadjutor Archbishop and, in February 1998, Archbishop of Buenos Aires. In 2001, he was nominated to the office of Cardinal. From 2005 to 2011, he served as President of the Argentine Episcopal Conference.



He studied Humanities in Chile and Philosophy at the Colegio de San José in San Miguel near Buenos Aires and, from 1964 to 1966, taught Literature and Philosophy in Santa Fé and Buenos Aires. On 13th December 1969 – shortly after completing the theological studies he had

Finally, after the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI, Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected 266th Bishop of Rome and the new Pope on 13th March 2013. He is the first Latin American and the first member of the Society of Jesus to hold the office.

Exceptional closeness to the people

His particular choice of papal name and his first public appearance just minutes after the conclave already conveyed a clear idea about his perception of his new role: humility in demeanour and an exceptional closeness to the people – especially to those in need of help.

In early July 2013, he made his first official journey as Pontiff to Lampedusa, in remembrance of the tragic death of the boat refugees, "to offer a sign of my closeness, but also to challenge our consciences lest this tragedy be repeated". And he asked, "Has any one of us wept for these persons who were on the boat? For the young mothers carrying their babies? For these men who were looking for a means of supporting their families? We are a society which has forgotten how to weep, how to experience compassion – "suffering with" others: the globalisation of indifference has taken from us the ability to weep!"

Since then, he has regularly repeated his call for Europe to overcome indifference, to oppose it with a "culture of solidarity" and to review its legislation on migration so that it "can reflect a readiness to welcome migrants and to facilitate their integration". "Europe," he believes, "will be able to confront the problems associated with immigration only if it is capable of clearly asserting its own cultural identity and enacting adequate legislation to protect the rights of European citizens and to ensure the acceptance of immigrants."

Unity in diversity

In the meantime, it is not just the refugee crisis which is causing Europe to convey an impression "of weariness and ageing, of a Europe that is no longer fertile and vibrant", as Pope Francis has critically observed. The effects of the economic crisis, persistently high unemployment rates in parts of the Union and increasing estrangement between the citizens, on the one hand, and European institutions, on the other, have also prompted the Pope to ask Europe: "Where is your vigour? Where is that idealism which inspired and ennobled your history? Where is your spirit of curiosity and enterprise? Where is your thirst for truth, a thirst which hitherto you have passionately shared with the world? The future of the continent will depend on the answer to these questions."

The Holy Father has the answers at hand. He invokes the principles of solidarity and subsidiarity, of unity in diversity rather than intellectual and cultural uniformity, he affirms the humanistic spirit and the centrality of the human person, and he also calls on Europe to avail itself of its own religious roots.

"Europe has always been in the vanguard of efforts to promote ecology. Our earth needs constant concern and attention. Each of us has a personal responsibility to care for creation," the Holy Father admonishes, and has devoted his formidable encyclical "Laudato si" exclusively to this subject.



The title of the encyclical is a reference to his namesake Francis of Assisi, "the patron saint of all who study and work in the area of ecology," and to Assisi's "Canticle of the Creatures", from which the words of the title are taken. The release of "Laudato si" in June 2015 – about five months before the UN climate change conference scheduled for that December in Paris – was deliberately timed, since it was important to Pope Francis that "there is some time between the publication of the encyclical and the meeting in Paris, because it is to be a contribution to that". In the treatise, during the drafting of which the Pope consulted with numerous scientific experts from all over the world, the Pontiff then presents in great detail a wide range of far-reaching propositions for a climate policy centred firmly on sustainability and human beings.

The main themes that run throughout the whole encyclical include the intimate relationship between the poor and the fragility of the planet, the intrinsic value of each

and every creature, throwaway culture and the proposal of a new lifestyle, as well as a call to seek other ways of understanding the economy and progress. In his opinion, with good reason: "Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded."

His appeal for interreligious and intercultural dialogue is a recurring theme in the Pontificate of Pope Francis – be it in Turkey or in Israel, where, together with the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, he invited all Christians "to promote an authentic dialogue with Judaism, Islam and other religious traditions", or more recently in Kenya, Uganda and the Central African Republic. What he seeks is, first and foremost, what religions have in common, not what divides them. And what he sees as a fundamental element that closely relates Christianity with the other two Abrahamic Religions, Judaism and Islam, is mercy.

Appeal for interreligious dialogue

Mercy is at the heart of the message Pope Francis is sending. Many of the outstanding aspects of his Pontificate are closely related to this virtue: the humility of his demeanour; the closeness he seeks to the people, to believers and non-believers alike, and particularly to the disadvantaged and the socially marginalised; his respect for nature, which also reminds us that human beings themselves are a fundamental part of it. "The Church has an endless desire to show mercy. Perhaps we have long since

forgotten how to show and live the way of mercy," he points out. And, most recently, he has proclaimed a Holy Year of Mercy in which he calls upon all Catholics to be instruments of mercy – knowing that they will be judged on this.

"The Church has an endless desire to show mercy"

In a time when the European Union is facing the greatest challenge of the 21st century, it is the pope 'from the end of the world' who orients millions of Europeans to what the European Union brings together at its core: a valid system of values, respect for human dignity and civil liberties, the uniqueness of human beings whatever their ethnic, religious or cultural background, and respect for our natural resources.

The Board of Directors of the Society for the Conferring of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen are honoured to present the award in 2016 to His Holiness Pope Francis, as a voice of conscience that urges us to place people at the centre of all our actions, and as an outstanding moral authority who, acting as both cautioner and mediator, reminds us that Europe has the task and the duty to build on the ideals of its founders and to achieve peace and freedom, justice and democracy, solidarity and subsidiarity, and the safeguarding of creation.





Text of the Certificate of Honour:

On 6th May, 2016,
in the Vatican in Rome,
The International Charlemagne Prize
of the City of Aachen
was awarded to

His Holiness Pope Francis

in appreciation of his distinguished service
on behalf of peace, understanding and mercy
in a European society of values.

Inscription on the Medal:

International Charlemagne Prize
of Aachen 2016

Pope Francis

Europe – a Society of Values



02

The man who would spur the Church and Europe towards change

By Peter Pappert

Unrest is not a state that the Catholic Church or a united Europe would consider desirable. Yet Francis is rocking the boat. For him, both institutions are too complacent and too self-centred, too old and too tired. He has made this clear to his Church, repeatedly and in no uncertain terms, while – so far – maintaining a more diplomatic tone towards the European Union. But that could easily change. The Pope is not at all pleased with Europe. He does not have the impression that the grand old continent is aware of its own values and strengths, nor that it is behaving towards the weak and the marginalised in a manner commensurate with its resources and its capabilities.

It is precisely to the weak and the marginalised that Jorge Mario Bergoglio has dedicated the whole of his work as Pastor. When it comes to their interests, Francis does not mince his words. In his first Apostolic Exhortation "Evangelii gaudium" (2013), he combines an appeal for mercy with a scathing philippic against Capitalism which culminates in the much-criticised statement: "Such an economy kills." He deplores "the absolute autonomy of the marketplace and financial speculation", a system which, in his view, exploits people, excludes them and throws them away.

"We have become accustomed to the suffering of others," he said in July 2013 on the island of refugees Lampedusa. "It doesn't concern us, we are indifferent, it's none of our business." The resonance was weak. It was not until two years later that Europe woke up. Today, refugees from the Middle East on the so-called Balkan Route come up against closed borders and are forced to camp out under pitiful conditions. "How is it possible that so much suffering can befall innocent men, women and children? They are there at the border because so many doors and so many hearts are closed," says the Pope.

Mercy is the keyword of his pontificate. In this year – the Holy Year of Mercy – this virtue is the yardstick against which he measures what his Church, what Europe and its wealthy states are doing for the poor, the refugees and other underdogs. He yearns for a Church "which is poor and for the poor". He prefers "a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security." (Evangelii gaudium)

Go forth! Listen! Commiserate!

This has perspective always characterised his work as a priest. Bergoglio shared the goal of the Latin American liberation theology, but rejected its class analysis. Statements about his role during the military dictatorship in Argentina in 1976-83 are contradictory; that he helped the persecuted has been repeatedly attested. As the Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Bergoglio lived modestly in a two-room apartment instead of in the Bishop's residence and travelled by public transport. After the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI, he caused a substantial stir behind closed doors in the "Pre-Conclave" when he called for a radical reorientation of the Church and criticised its narcissism.



Go forth! Listen! Commiserate! For the Pope, his Church and Europe are too immobile. He demands involvement. He is political, and thus more similar to John Paul II than to Benedict XVI, his immediate predecessor. Instead of immersing himself in lofty, sophisticated theology, he chooses the language of the people – direct, worldly and open-minded. With his own personal humility and goodness, he is reminiscent of John XXIII (1958-63) and John Paul I, who was Pope for 33 days in the year 1978.

On the other hand, what makes him different to the Pole Karol Wojtyła is his conviction that papal teaching authority neither can nor must give definitive and complete answers to all questions. For decades now, the Catholic Church has suffered from an unresolved controversy about the relationship between papal primacy and episcopal collegiality, about what is the responsibility of the Universal Church (i.e. Rome) and what falls within the competence of local churches. This fundamental issue has repeatedly led to vigorous conflicts within the Church.

Francis has raised hopes that this paralysing condition will change. He takes the "Communio Ecclesiarum" seriously in the sense of the Second Vatican Council: the community of autonomous churches in which the bishops no longer take orders from but are colleagues of the Bishop of Rome. Francis has repeatedly stressed the principle of synodality – with particular emphasis during the Synod of the Family in October last year in Rome, when he said that he was conscious of "the need to promote a sound 'decentralisation'". This is important to him, and,

last three years, a fresh breeze of "aggiornamento" has been blowing through the Catholic Church.

Francis makes waves in world politics

But the Church is not the only place where this fresh breeze has been stirring up the dust. Francis has also been making waves in world politics: Cuba, the Middle East, Bosnia . . . In the media, he has been dubbed a 'relationship chemist' and an 'embrace strategist'. "There are few



not least, to those who, with regard to sexual morals and pastoral care for families, expect more consideration from their Church for the wishes and needs of those affected.

Bergoglio is not, however, one of those who view greater forbearance in questions of sexual ethics as a top priority. It remains to be seen whether he will make own personal stance – in this regard rather conservative – the exclusively applicable standard for the whole of the Universal Church. In any case, a marked change of position compared to previous pontificates can be clearly seen here. For the

leading figures that inspire us to want to be a better person," says US President Barack Obama. "Pope Francis is one of them."

The manner in which Jorge Mario Bergoglio lives and works as Pope is not a matter of style but an expression of his profound conviction and his entirely personal attitude towards life. After his election in March 2013, he chose to remain in the Casa Santa Marta, which serves as a guest house for the Cardinals during the Conclave. He uses the rooms of the Apostolic Palace for ceremonial

occasions in his role as Pope, but sees them as inappropriate for Bergoglio the man. He rejects the pomp and splendour of the Papal Court because they increase the distance to those to whom he wants to be close.

Stubborn resistance in the Vatican

Thirty years after their appearance in the Kremlin, Glasnost and Perestroika are experiencing a renaissance in the Vatican. The Pope sees it as his mission – assigned to him by the Cardinals in the Pre-Conclave in 2013 – to change the Curia both structurally and spiritually, and to improve its delicate relationship with the local churches. There is stubborn resistance in the Vatican, which is why it is taking so long. But Francis is prepared for the proverbial long haul. As he told the former Cardinal of the Roman Curia, Walter Kasper, he wants the reforms he is striving for to be irreversible.

The Franciscan Revolution has only just begun – how it will end remains to be seen

The Pope and his demands are by no means undisputed – neither within the Church nor in the outside world. He has been accused of political and economic naivety. Within the Church he is criticised for his popstar-like image, his inadequate theological education, and some of his gestures of openness towards the Russian Orthodox Church, the Evangelists or the traditionalist Society of Saint Pius X.

If the Universal Church and Europe want to meet the demands of this pope, they will have to go through radical – revolutionary – changes. In his Encyclical Letter "Laudato si" (2015), Francis launches a criticism at Europeans designed for maximum impact. He maintains that Europe with its lifestyle and its all-embracing throwaway mentality is perpetrating abuse on the world's poorest and on God's creation. The Pope's stern rebukes are greeted with praise in political, social, scientific and ecclesiastical circles throughout Europe – and promptly ignored.

The Franciscan Revolution has only just begun; how it will end remains to be seen. In the three years of his Pontificate, the Catholic Church has become more charitable

and more modest. It is still too early to say whether Francis will succeed in setting it on an enduring new course. In the words of Ralf Miggelbrink, Professor of Systematic Theology in Essen, the Pope is beginning "to bridge the schism between the world in which grassroots Christians live and the world of beliefs."

In a time in which a united Europe is in a fragile state of health, in which the peoples of this continent see no promising perspectives coming from the European Union, in which the EU – in spite of all the hustle and bustle – is still at a loss as to how it should respond to the continuing misery of the refugees, Pope Francis is quite possibly the only authority that all conflicting forces recognise equally as pertinent. Everyone listens to him; he reaches the widest audiences. People trust him; people understand him.

A pastor from the poor South of the world, an amiable revolutionary is telling rich Europe what it has to do.

The author, Peter Pappert, is the Senior Editor (Politics) of the newspapers "Aachener Zeitung" and "Aachener Nachrichten"





03

The International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen For the Unity of Europe

Dr. Jürgen Linden

When outstanding personalities, heads of government, heads of state and even the Holy Father himself are honoured to accept an award which was originally brought into being by a lowly citizens' initiative, in the best sense of those words, then the idea behind such a prize simply must have inherent greatness. And the fact that, years ago, former Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Honorary Citizen of Europe, already praised the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen as the "most important political award" that Europe could bestow is a clear indication of just how far this citizens' accolade for great Europeans has developed since its inception amid the ruins left by the Second World War.

The small reading circle, "Corona Legentium Aquensis" – where the seed of the Charlemagne Prize was sown

Soon after the end of the war, after years under the influence of mental manipulation and indoctrination, the Aachen merchant Dr. Kurt Pfeiffer and several of his friends founded a small reading circle, the "Corona Legentium Aquensis", a circle in which the idea of the Charlemagne Prize was destined to germinate and bear fruit. Thanks to Pfeiffer's financial support, the group gained increasing importance and influence in Aachen, and was soon able to organise exhibitions and series of lectures with politicians, scientists and creative minds from all over Europe. The discussions that took place in the Corona prompted Pfeiffer to think about ways in which citizens could play an active and media-effective part – outside of parties and parliaments – in political developments in Europe, and make their own contribution towards the shaping of a peaceful future.

On 19th December 1949, a few days before Christmas, Pfeiffer used a meeting of the Corona to propose the foundation of an Aachen prize "for the most valuable contribution in the services of Western European understanding and work for the community, and in the services of humanity and world peace". The proposal was greeted with exceptionally positive resonance – from the general public and high-ranking figures alike. Encouraged by this

response, Pfeiffer wasted no time in convening representatives from politics and city council, from business, science and the Catholic Church, for the proclamation of the "Charlemagne Prize of the City of Aachen".

Positive response in the media – at home and abroad

About three months after that memorable Corona meeting, the "Society for the Conferring of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen" was created, on 14th March, 1950, to deal with all the tasks involved in the annual awarding of the prize. The society's first Board of Directors consisted of the twelve signatories of the proclamation.

In the very same year, on Ascension Day 1950 – just nine days after the announcement of the Schuman Plan – the first Charlemagne Prize was awarded to the founder of the Pan-European movement, Count Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi. The award ceremony in the Coronation Hall of Aachen's historic Town Hall left a lasting impression. For the first time since the end of the war – and still bearing evident traces of it – the former Imperial Palace was the venue for an important civic and European ceremony. The positive response in the media at home and abroad motivated the Board of Directors to play an even bolder part



in the process of European unification. The award of the prize to the Italian Prime Minister Alcide de Gasperi in 1952 brought the international breakthrough.

Famous names reflect the ideals of the prize

The political founding fathers of a united Europe, Jean Monnet, Conrad Adenauer, Robert Schuman and many others, followed in the Italian's footsteps and were honoured in Aachen for their services towards the building of a United Europe. This endowed the Charlemagne Prize with greater political importance and international prestige. As Paul Henri Spaak rightly observed regarding the list of previous recipients of the accolade in his acceptance speech in the Coronation Hall in 1957: "These are the most famous names in politics in Post-War Europe."

Through its awards, the Charlemagne Prize vividly charts the history of the European unification process. The founding fathers of the ECSC were followed by the beacons of hope for enlargement and consolidation of the Community, by those responsible for the establishment of democratic institutions, by the key players in the reunification of East and West, and by European thinkers, doers and initiators throughout the cultural and social spheres.

In the meantime, the prize, originally conceived for Western Europe, now applies to all aspects of European integration, to the spreading of community values, to the protection of natural resources, to the North-South divide, and to action both within the Union and towards the now globalised world beyond.

The ideals of the prize are reflected in political personalities like Simone Veil, Leo Tindemans, François Mitterrand and Helmut Kohl, Václav Havel, Jacques Delors, Jean-Claude Juncker, Angela Merkel, Donald Tusk, Martin Schulz, and even Pope John Paul II, who, in 2004, became the first personality to be awarded an Extraordinary Charlemagne Prize in recognition of his outstanding life's work.

Pro-European impulses

In 1997, the Foundation of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen was created. Its mission: to provide pro-European impulses through a wide range of events and to help win the hearts and minds of citizens, especially

young people, for the European idea. Since 2008, the Foundation, in cooperation with the European Parliament, has annually awarded the European Charlemagne Youth Prize, as a complement to the International Charlemagne Prize. The Charlemagne Youth Prize picks up on the very idea that Kurt Pfeiffer once presented to his reading circle, and expands and enhances it. The prize is



awarded to young people who are living examples of the community spirit of Europeans, who carry out projects aimed at integration and who thus demonstrate an impressive commitment to the continuation of the great European project.

The crises, weaknesses and setbacks of the European Union only go to show just how important it is at present – and will continue to be – to promote more commonality in Europe and to actively support the European project. Peace, freedom and democracy are the unshakeable milestones of our endeavours so far, as are all the material advances and benefits that the process of European

unification has already brought us. After the sorrowful history of our continent over so many centuries, we know full well that integration is the only way, and we want and need to work consistently to consolidate and deepen this integration.

The signal that the award of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen sends out – year for year – represents an ideal and at the same time an inspiration for the future society of Europe and the coexistence of all citizens on our continent.

What sort of Europe will be able to recapture the confidence and the conviction of its citizens?

In recent years, the Charlemagne Prize award ceremonies have – at least superficially – been overshadowed by crises. The sovereign debt crisis and the crisis of confidence, which both seem to be spreading ever outwards, are increasingly obliterating the grand achievements of the Union from its citizens' memory while forcing the focus of public opinion exclusively onto Europe's problems. But during these same years, the Charlemagne Prize has also been predominantly overshadowed by the key question of how we can successfully meet the challenges of the future, and of what sort of Europe will be able to recapture the confidence and the conviction of its citizens.

Inspiration for the future society of Europe

In their acceptance speeches when receiving the Charlemagne Prize, Jean-Claude Trichet and Wolfgang Schäuble, Dalia Grybauskaitė, Herman Van Rompuy and Martin Schulz all took the opportunity to present significant and sometimes visionary suggestions for the further development of a United Europe. And – like so many other laureates before them – they used the Charlemagne Prize as a platform from which to develop ideas beyond the order of the day and introduce them into the European debate.

The International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen and its committees are not, in themselves, political. The citizens who have worked for the prize for decades are all pro-

European; they support all political and social activities that promote the unification of the continent; and they award the accolade to personalities, institutions or movements that work to the same end.

Ideas beyond the order of the day

Through the ceremony, the laureates, tribute speakers and other speakers, and also increasingly through the media coverage and the messages associated with the individual award ceremonies, the Charlemagne Prize helps



to promote a positive image of Europe among the population and create a kind of European public forum. In this sense, the Charlemagne Prize accompanies the process of European unification, reinforcing and supporting it, sometimes questioning it critically, but first and foremost offering encouragement.

"Europe ... is not a place, it is an idea," says the French cultural philosopher Bernard-Henri Levy, adding, somewhat more philosophically: "It is not a category of being, but of spirit."

While this may be true, we also need to remind ourselves that, pragmatically speaking, the European Union today is faced with a complex conglomeration of tangible problems which actually have to be solved first. If Europe fails to do this, the idea of European integration will be lost for many decades to come.

In the view of the Board of Directors of the Society for the Conferring of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen, an enlarged Europe can only maintain the vitality

of European nations and the creative diversity of its cultures if it succeeds in promoting the ethnic, religious, national and cultural identities of its citizens as the true wealth of a European identity.



The true wealth of a European identity

An enlarged Europe can only form the peace model for the whole of Europe and its states if it succeeds in helping to bring current wars and crises to an end, if it gives its citizens security and stability, if it provides effective instruments for conflict prevention, and, especially, if it finally manages to apply a common and effective security and foreign policy.

An enlarged Europe will only become the key factor in the solution to our shared problems if we can succeed in strengthening the decision-making capabilities of the Union, in renewing the balance among the Member States, between large and small, rich and poor, and in creating scope for action for those states who want to achieve a greater density of integration.

And, ultimately, an enlarged Europe will only be able provide the ignition spark for pan-European prosperity if we can manage to effectively regulate conflicts about distribution, and shape economic modernisation along socially responsible lines.

Europe's distinctive image

Especially today, when we all feel such a longing for peace and understanding, for freedom, acceptance and harmony, we cannot afford to throw away this golden opportunity to achieve unity.

For this reason, the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen will do its best – now more than ever, as Europe goes through one of its deepest crises – to ensure that the future goals of a united Europe are never lost from sight.

A longing for peace and understanding, for freedom, acceptance and harmony

The recipient of the International Charlemagne Prize in 2016 is His Holiness Pope Francis – in recognition of his outstanding dedication to peacekeeping, humanity, mercy and solidarity. The signal this is intended to send to the European political sphere and to all of Europe's citizens is that Europe urgently needs to remind itself of the ideals of its founding fathers, and to see itself as a community of values.

Problems can become powerful forces for unity

The Holy Father sends a message of hope and encouragement, "based on the confidence that our problems can become powerful forces for unity in working to overcome all those fears which Europe – together with the entire world – is presently experiencing." The Pope's message is an "encouragement to return to the firm conviction of the founders of the European Union, who envisioned a future based on the capacity to work together in bridging divisions and in fostering peace and fellowship between all the peoples of this continent." He admonishes us to restore "the heart of this ambitious political project ... confidence

in man, not so much as a citizen or an economic agent, but in man, in men and women as persons endowed with transcendent dignity." Now is the time "to work together in building a Europe which revolves not around the economy, but around the sacredness of the human person, around inalienable values. In building a Europe which courageously embraces its past and confidently looks to its future in order fully to experience the hope of its present." It is time for us all "to abandon the idea of a Europe

Europe: a precious point of reference for all humanity

which is fearful and self-absorbed, in order to revive and encourage a Europe of leadership, a repository of science, art, music, human values and faith as well." He calls for "a Europe [...] which cares for, defends and protects man, every man and woman. A Europe which bestrides the earth surely and securely, a precious point of reference for all humanity!"

In recognition of the outstanding messages he has sent and examples he has set throughout his pontificate for peace and understanding, compassion, tolerance, solidarity and the safeguarding of creation, the Board of Directors of the Society for the Conferring of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen are honoured to present the award in 2016 to His Holiness Pope Francis.



The author, Dr. Jürgen Linden, is the Chairman of the Charlemagne Prize Board of Directors.





Der Internationale Karlspreis zu Aachen

Für die Einheit Europas



04

The Charlemagne Prize Laureates

1950 – 2015



1950
Richard Graf Coudenhove-Kalergi
 Founder of the Pan-Europe Movement



1951
Prof. Dr. Hendrik Brugmans
 Rector of the European College in Bruges



1952
Alcide de Gasperi
 Prime Minister of the Republic of Italy



1953
Jean Monnet, President of the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community



1954
Dr. Konrad Adenauer
 Federal Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany



1955
Sir Winston Churchill
 Former Prime Minister of Great Britain, Secretary General of NATO



1957
Paul Henri Spaak
 Secretary General of NATO



1958
Robert Schuman
 President of the European Parliament



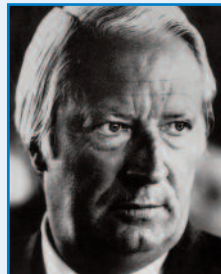
1959
George C. Marshall
 Former Secretary of State of the United States of America



1960
Dr. Josef Bech
 Honorary State Minister, President of the Luxembourg Chamber of Deputies



1961
Prof. Dr. Walter Hallstein
 President of the Commission of the European Economic Community



1963
The Rt. Hon. Edward Heath, M.B.E., M.P.
 British Lord Privy Seal



1964
Prof. Dr. Antonio Segni
 President of the Republic of Italy



1966
Jens Otto Krag
 Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Denmark



1967
Joseph Luns
 Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands



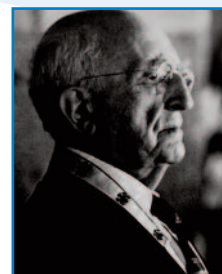
1969
The Commission of the European Communities, Represented by Jean Rey, Präsident der Europäischen Kommission



1970
François Seydoux de Clausonne, Former French Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany



1972
The Rt. Hon. Roy Jenkins, P.C., M.P.
 Politician



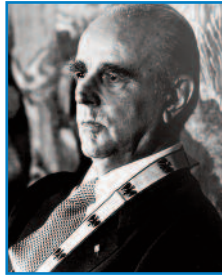
1973
Don Salvador de Madariaga
 Philosopher, sociologist, historian



1976
Leo Tindemans
 Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Belgium



1977
Walter Scheel
 Federal President
 of the Federal Republic
 of Germany



1978
Konstantin Karamanlis
 Prime Minister
 of the Republic of Greece



1979
Emilio Colombo
 President of the
 European Parliament



1981
Simone Veil
 President of the
 European Parliament



1982
**H.M. King
 Juan Carlos I
 of Spain**



1984
Prof. Dr. Karl Carstens
 Federal President of
 the Federal Republic
 of Germany



1986
**The People
 of Luxembourg**



1987
**Prof. Dr.
 Henry A. Kissinger**
 Former Secretary of
 State of the United States
 of America



1988
François Mitterrand
 President of the French
 Republic & **Dr. Helmut Kohl**,
 Federal Chancellor of the
 Federal Republic of Germany



1989
Frère Roger
 Founder of the
 Communauté of Taizé



1990
Dr. Gyula Horn
 Minister of Foreign
 Affairs of the Republic
 of Hungary



1991
Václav Havel
 President
 of the Czech and Slovak
 Federal Republic



1992
Jacques Delors
 President of the
 Commission of the
 European Communities



1993
Felipe González Márquez
 Prime Minister
 of the Kingdom of Spain



1994
Gro Harlem Brundtland
 Prime Minister
 of the Kingdom
 of Norway



1995
Dr. Franz Vranitzky
 Federal Chancellor
 of the Republic of Austria



1996
**H.M. Queen Beatrix
 of the Netherlands**



1997
Prof. Dr. Roman Herzog
 Federal President
 of the Federal Republic
 of Germany



1998
**Prof. Dr.
 Bronislaw Geremek**
 Foreign Minister of the
 Republic of Poland



1999
**Anthony Charles
 Lynton Blair**, Prime
 Minister of the United
 Kingdom of Great Britain
 and Northern Ireland



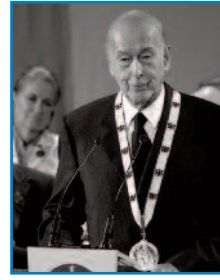
2000
William Jefferson Clinton
 President
 of the United States
 of America



2001
György Konrád
 President of the
 Academy of Arts Berlin,
 writer and sociologist



2002
The Euro
 Represented by
Wim Duisenberg,
 President of the ECB



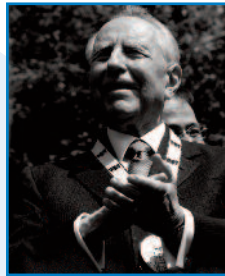
2003
**Valéry Giscard
 D'Estaing**
 President of the
 European Convention



2004
**His Holiness
 Pope John Paul II**
**Charlemagne Prize
 Extraordinary**



2004
Pat Cox
 President of the
 European Parliament



2005
**Dr. Dr. Carlo
 Azeglio Ciampi**
 President
 of the State of Italy



2006
Dr. Jean-Claude Juncker
 Prime Minister
 of the Grand Duchy
 of Luxembourg



2007
Dr. Javier Solana Madariaga
 High Representative for the
 Common Foreign & Security
 Policy and Secretary General
 of the Council of the EU



2008
Dr. Angela Merkel
 Federal Chancellor
 of the Federal
 Republic of Germany



2009
Prof. Dr. Andrea Riccardi
 Historian and Founder
 of the Community of
 Sant'Egidio



2010
Donald Tusk
 Prime Minister of the
 Republic of Poland



2011
**Dr. h.c.
 Jean-Claude Trichet**
 President of the
 European Central Bank



2012
Dr. Wolfgang Schäuble
 Federal Finance
 Minister of the Federal
 Republic of Germany



2013
Dr. Dalia Grybauskaitė
 President of the
 Republic of Lithuania



2014
Herman Van Rompuy
 President of the
 European Council



2015
Martin Schulz
 President of the
 European Parliament



**The International
 Charlemagne Prize
 of Aachen**

For the Unity of Europe



05

Proclamation

1949

The city of Aachen, once the centre of the entire Western world, becoming thereafter a border town, has always been aware of the historical task of true border-existence: "To mediate and communicate, and to overcome boundaries". The inhabitants of our city were joined by blood-ties to the people of the neighbouring states, and in Aachen there have always been men of superior mind and vision, who in the face of all national parochialism and supposed interests have endeavoured to find the common and binding elements of the Occident and Western civilization.

After two world wars during which the effects of the border situation of our city were especially detrimental and in which the honest efforts of several generations to overcome imaginary national antitheses proved futile, our city, submerged in its own rubble, has striven for its right to survival. But with the broader perception deriving from its dreadful experience, it is more willing than ever actively to engage in the cause of Western unification, and that of economic unity as the indispensable preliminary stage.

Since human progress has always been initiated by individual personalities of genius who despite all opposition totally dedicated themselves to their idea, it must indeed be useful and beneficial to point to these men as examples, and to urge emulation and realization of their ideas.

A number of citizens of our city of Aachen, forever bound to it by birth or by fulfilment of their life vocation, have therefore decided to establish an International Prize of the city of Aachen which in memory of the great founder of Western culture is to be named the "Charlemagne Prize of the City of Aachen".

It will be awarded annually to deserving personalities who have fostered the idea of Western unification in political, economic and intellectual-spiritual regard.

With the participation of the Mayor, the Oberstadtdirektor (chief executive official), the Bishop of Aachen, the Rector of the Technical University and eight other representatives of the business and intellectual life of our city, a Society has been founded which shall be the executive body implementing the tasks in connection with the awarding of the "Charlemagne Prize of the City of Aachen". This Society, which will speak and act on behalf of our great historic tradition and commitment, will in 1950 nominate an award-winner and after the election will announce his name to the public. It aims thereby not only to point in repeated admonition to the unresolved problem of European unification; it will also seek to indicate approaches to the practical solution of this urgent question. In so doing, it seeks the sympathetic cooperation not only of the citizenry of Aachen but the entire Western world.

Aachen, Christmas 1949

Dr. Albert Maas, Mayor
Albert Servais, Oberstadtdirektor
Dr. Johannes Josef van der Velden, Bishop of Aachen
Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Müller,
Rector of the University of Technology
Dr. Kurt Pfeiffer, Merchant
Hermann Heusch, President of the Chamber of Commerce
Dr. Franz Krauss, University Professor
Ludwig Kuhnen, Bürgermeister
Dr. Peter Mennicken, University Professor
Carel Nieuwenhuysen, Company Director
Erasmus Schlapp, Textile Manufacturer
Dr. Jean Louis Schrader, Company General Director



06

Declaration of the Aachen City Council and the Society for the Conferring of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen 1990

In respect for the founders of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen and in recognition of the historic proclamation of 1949, the Aachen City Council and the Society for the Conferring of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen declare:

Like the founders of the Charlemagne Prize, we believe that the City of Aachen, by virtue of its age-long border situation, its history, and its current situation in the heart of Europe, has a special commitment to our continent's growing together, to the overcoming of borders and to the friendship of the peoples of Europe.

Given the developments in Germany and eastern Europe since 1989, a comprehensive form of joining together is no longer a utopian venture. In addition, a special role will accrue to Europe in the settlement of the North-South antithesis; and the problem of conserving our vital natural resources by the protection of the environment in Europe and our overpopulated earth will loom ever larger.

The City of Aachen and the Society for the Conferring of the International Charlemagne Prize therefore reaffirm their resolve to award, on Ascension Day in the historic Coronation Hall of the Aachen Town Hall, the

International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen

to personalities and to organizations fostering in a special way the aforementioned goals. The prizewinners will be selected by the Board of Directors of the Society for the Conferring of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen, an independent organization.

Aachen, 14 November 1990

Dr. Jürgen Linden

Mayor of the City of Aachen

Konsul Hugo Cadenbach

Spokesman of the Society for the
Conferring of the International Charlemagne Prize

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Members of the Board of Directors of the Society for the Conferring of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen

Ex Officio Members:

Marcel Philipp

Lord Mayor of the City of Aachen

Manfred von Holtum

Dean of Aachen Cathedral

Prof. Dr.-Ing.

Ernst Schmachtenberg

Rector of the RWTH Aachen University

Elected Members:

Dr. Jürgen Linden

Chairman of the Charlemagne Prize Board of Directors

Paul Neeteson

Delegate-General of the Compagnie de Saint Gobain (ret.)

Dieter Philipp

President of the Aachen Chamber of Trades and Crafts

Christoph Schmallenbach

CEO of AachenMünchener AG

Irene Schulte-Hillen

President of the German Foundation for Musical Life

Michael Wirtz

Consul, Partner Grünenthal GmbH

Members Nominated by the Parties Represented in the Aachen City Council:

Armin Laschet MdL

Minister (ret.), Chairman of the CDU North Rhine-Westphalia and of the North Rhine-Westphalian CDU state parliamentary group

Heiner Höfken

Member of the SPD party in the Aachen City Council

Hermann-Josef Pilgram

Member of the GREENS party in the Aachen City Council

Georg Helg

Chairman of the FDP party in the Aachen City and District Council

Members (“Citizens of the World”) Nominated by the Aachen City Council:

Johanna Holzhauser

Editor-in-Chief

Hon.-Prof. Dr.

Hans-Gert Pöttering

President of the European Parliament (ret.), Chairman of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation

Delegates of the Foundation of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen:

Dr. Michael Jansen

Spokesman of the Executive Committee

Wilhelm Bonse-Geuking

Chairman of the Foundation Council

As of: April 2016

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Foundation

of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen Excerpts of the Statutes

§ 2 Purpose of the Foundation

1. The purpose of the Foundation is the promotion of the unification of Europe, understanding and communication among the states, the peoples, and the citizens, in particular also
 - the promotion of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen: its importance, its independent conferment, and the further development of its tradition,
 - the collection, preservation and study of the documents of the Charlemagne Prize awards, in an archive to be established for this purpose; and the founding of a scholarly library covering European topics,
 - cooperation and shared sponsorship in arranging programmes and events accompanying the award ceremonies of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen, especially as relating to the person of the Charlemagne Prize awardee, his homeland and his activity in European politics and policy,
 - the organizing and holding of meetings and events promoting the European cause and instilling public awareness of Europe in the political, economic, scientific-academic, cultural and social sectors.
2. The Foundation pursues solely and directly public service aims as defined in the relevant tax-relief laws.
3. The Foundation's activities are altruistic and not primarily for its own economic ends. Its funds may be used only for purposes in accordance with the statutes.

§ 5 Organs of the Foundation

1. Organs of the Foundation are: the Executive Committee and the Foundation Council.
2. The Foundation has a management body.

6 Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee consists of four persons.
2. The term of office is five years. Re-appointment is permissible. The Executive Committee appoints its Spokesman and Deputy Spokesman itself.

§ 12 Foundation Supervisory Authority

1. The Foundation Supervisory Authority is the Cologne Regional Administration; the highest Supervisory Authority is the Interior Ministry of North-Rhine-Westphalia.
2. The Supervisory Authority is to be informed upon request about the affairs of the Foundation at any time.
3. Information about changes in the make-up of the Executive Committee and of the Foundation Council, as well as the annual accounts and report of activities, are to be submitted automatically to the Foundation Supervisory Authority.

Preamble

Proclaimed in 1949 by citizens of Aachen and since 1950 awarded to great Europeans in spirit and in deed, the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen is to be enhanced in its importance for international understanding and the life together of the citizens, peoples, nations and states in Europe; and is to be fostered spiritually and materially in all political, economic, academic-scientific, intellectual-cultural and social sectors as an arousing and inspiring signal.

To this end the undersigned, the Mayor of the City of Aachen, Dr. Jürgen Linden, and the former Spokesman of the Board of Directors of the Charlemagne Prize of Aachen, Consul Hugo Cadenbach, Aachen, hereby initiate the establishing of the Foundation of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen with headquarters in Aachen.

4 December 1997

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Patrons and Members of the Executive Committee and the Council of the Foundation of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen

Patrons:

H.M. King of the Belgians Philippe

H.M. King Felipe VI of Spain

H.R.H. Grand Duke Henri of Luxembourg

H.E. Dr. Heinz Fischer, President of the Republic of Austria

Joachim Gauck, President of the Federal Republic of Germany

Members of the Executive Committee:

Dr. Michael Jansen
Permanent Secretary (ret.);
Spokesman of the Executive Committee

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dr. h.c. mult. Dipl.-Wirt. Ing. Walter Eversheim
Former Spokesman of the Charlemagne Prize Board of Directors

Baron Dr. Jan Huyghebaert
Honorary Chairman of the Board of the KBC Groep

Dr. Bettina Leysen
Physician

Members of the Foundation Council:

Wilhelm Bonse-Geuking
Chairman of the Foundation Council

Chevalier Alfred Bourseaux
Président Administrateur
Délégué Cablerie d'Eupen S.A.

Michael Breuer
Minister of State (ret.);
President of the Savings Bank and Giro Association of the Rhineland

Uwe Fröhlich
President of the Federal Association of German Cooperative Banks (BVR)

S.E. Juan Pablo Garcia-Berdoy y Cerezo
Spanish Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany

Dr. Ulrich Hermann
Chairman of the Managing Board of Wolters Kluwer Germany GmbH

Hubert Herpens
Chairman of the Board of the Sparkasse Aachen

Dr. Werner Hoyer
Minister of State (ret.);
President of the European Investment Bank

Prof. Dr. Renate Köcher
Managing Director of the Allensbach Institute for Public Opinion Research

Wolfgang Kopf
Head of the Central Unit for Political and Regulatory Affairs of German Telekom

Hannelore Kraft
Prime Minister of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia

Dr. Dietmar Kuhnt
Chairman of the Board RWE AG (ret.)

Dr. Kurt Liedtke
Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Robert Bosch Foundation

Dr. Jürgen Linden
Chairman of the Charlemagne Prize Board of Directors

Drs. René van der Linden
Honorary President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Marcel Philipp
Lord Mayor of the City of Aachen

Prof. Dr. Thomas Prefl
Managing Director of the P3 Group – Aachen

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Hans-Werner Sinn
President (ret.) of the Ifo Institute – Leibniz Institute for Economic Research at the University of Munich

Dr. h.c. Roger de Weck
Director General of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation (SRG SSR)

Klaus Welle
Secretary General of the European Parliament

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Ernst-Ludwig Winnacker
Former Secretary General of the Human Frontier Science Program Organisation

As of: April 2016



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Charlemagne Prize 2016

Charlemagne Prize 2016: Award Ceremony on 6th May in the Sala Regia in the Apostolic Palace of the Vatican

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