



The International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen

For the Unity of Europe



Charlemagne Prize Laureate 2015 Martin Schulz

President of the European Parliament

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Giving Europe an Identity



The meetings in recent weeks with Martin Schulz make me confident that the 2015 Charlemagne Prize award ceremony will be an extraordinary event with substantial impact. We are honouring a politician with a high profile, someone who has given Europe an identity, one who stands for the idea of this Europe we share in common.

The democratization of the EU is in full swing. The decision taken last year regarding the new Commission and the role of the European Parliament is a historic milestone along this path. The vote of the electorate has gained new influence on the EU's decisions on posts and appointments – and that benefits Europe.

Martin Schulz has espoused this cause. For years his voice has been decisive, and at times unabashedly loud, in arguing that the mandate of the Commission President should be legitimized by the people. For Schulz, Europe was never an abstract construction. He experiences and activates Europe from its base. He believes in a Europe of togetherness, of local encounters; and he counts on the power of words.

In its statement honouring this year's designate, the Charlemagne Prize Board of Directors underlined Martin Schulz's active engagement on behalf of "strengthening parliamentarization and democratic legitimation in the European Union and in recognition of his role as an important intellectual guide for the EU". The laureate is a striking personality with whom many people can identify, and like to debate. The mention of his name is instantly associated with "the people's Europe".

And Schulz will take a clear stand in Aachen, too, I am sure of that. He is fond of saying that democracy thrives on dispute, and he has demonstrated this truth in recent years. Dispute ensures that important issues will be aired; dispute reveals alternatives; dispute requires a strong stance and persistence. The President of the European Parliament wants a Europe that is appreciated by the people, a Europe that means something beneficial for them. Schulz can rightfully call for this; he comes from the middle of the citizenry. Active commitment, sincerity and credibility are his distinguishing characteristics.

I am glad that he is so glad – that he looks forward to this outstanding European prize, our Charlemagne Prize that will be awarded to him: to the guests from all over the world, to the friends from the Aachen region in which Martin Schulz is at home, and to the proud moment whose extraordinary atmosphere and excitement he witnessed as a child standing beside his mother in the marketplace on Charlemagne Prize day, the moment when the laureate steps to the balcony adjoining the Town Hall stairs and waves to the crowd – when it becomes clear that this European idea is fascinating and merits all support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Philipp', written over a light blue map of Europe.

Marcel Philipp
Mayor of Aachen

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The Charlemagne Prize Laureate of 2015

Martin Schulz



01

**Statement of the Board of Directors of the
Society for the Conferring of the International
Charlemagne Prize of Aachen honouring
the President of the European Parliament
Dr. h.c. Martin Schulz**

The decision taken in 2014 regarding the new Commission and the role of the European Parliament was a historic milestone in the democratization of the EU. The foremost question, extending far beyond the person of the Commission President or other members, was whether and to what extent the vote of the electorate would influence EU decisions on posts and appointments – this in turn raising the fundamental question: What form of democracy do we want in and for the European Union? And while to this day legal experts and commentators discuss the interpretation of the Treaty of Lisbon, according to

Democracy needs dispute

Visibility needs dispute

Dispute reveals alternatives

which the Council in its nomination for the President of the Commission shall “take into account” the results of the European elections, the European Parliament, actively and vocally urged by its President, has long decided this question. The Parliament has only accepted a candidate with a mandate legitimized by the people.

In tribute to his significant services on behalf of strengthening parliamentization and democratic legitimation in the European Union and in recognition of his role as an important intellectual guide for the EU, the Board of Directors of the Society for the Conferring of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen honours in the year 2015 the President of the European Parliament, Dr. h.c. Martin Schulz.

“Democracy needs dispute. Visibility needs dispute. Not for its own sake but in order to arrive at the best possible results. For dispute reveals alternatives....Yes, I am trying in my term of office to make the European Parliament more a locus of dispute – I’m doing this deliberately so that the gains benefit the institution as a whole, as well as European democracy.” When Martin Schulz refers to his understanding of his office, it very quickly becomes clear that he intended from the outset to be a President “who, if necessary, fights to gain the executive branch’s respect for the Parliament, who gets into the arena when the interests of the people are at risk”, and who takes on anyone and everyone who “believes that more Europe can

be achieved by less parliamentarianism”. Martin Schulz is strengthening representative democracy; by taking seriously the concerns of European citizens he is reinforcing the people’s identification with Europe.

Advancing project Europe

Martin Schulz was born on 20 December 1955 in Hehlrath (now Eschweiler) near the German-Dutch-Belgian border. After secondary school in Würselen he completed an apprenticeship in the book trade (1975-1977), working thereafter in various bookshops and publishing houses. From 1982 to 1994 he ran his own bookshop in Würselen.

A member of the SPD since 1974, Schulz joined the Würselen City Council in 1984, winning a seat on the Social Democratic ticket. In 1987, by Council election, the 31-year-old Schulz became the youngest mayor in North-Rhine-Westphalia (up to 1988). “That time,” recalls



Schulz, “moulded my enthusiasm for Europe and strengthened me in my conviction to help shape and advance ‘Project Europe’”. In this spirit the young mayor developed the town-twinning with Morlaix, France. That the multilingual Parliament President of today is fluent in French as well as speaking English and Dutch undoubtedly stood him in good stead back then.

In 1994 Schulz won his first seat in the European Parliament, where he was initially the Socialist coordinator on the Subcommittee on Human Rights (1994-96), later coordinator on the Committee for Civil Liberties, Justice and Interior Affairs (1996-2000).

In 1999 Schulz, having stepped down as mayor, managed the SPD's European election campaign. In the same year he was elected to the Executive Committee and the Presidium of the Social Democrats. In 2000 he became chair of the 35-member SPD delegation in the European Parliament, additionally becoming in 2002 the vice-chair of the Socialist Group.

A powerfully eloquent European

The self-image – and self-confidence – that Schulz joined to his new office became evident only a few months later when the Barroso Commission was appointed. In the parliamentary committee hearings on the Commission's Interior and Justice post, the Italian Conservative candidate Rocco Buttiglione did not secure a majority, and other candidates also failed to make a convincing showing. De-

After the European elections of 2009, when the man from Würselen stood again as the SPD's leading candidate, he was re-elected chair of the (renamed) Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament (S&D). On the national level he gained additional authority by virtue of his appointment as the SPD Executive Committee's representative for EU affairs. The pinnacle to date of his political career was reached on 17 January 2012 when the European Parliament elected Schulz on the first ballot to succeed Jerzy Buzek as its president. In his inaugural speech, the "powerfully eloquent European" (Jürgen Habermas on Schulz) made it clear that he would oppose "the persistent trend towards summit-fixation and renationalization" and intended to boost "negotiations on equal terms with the Council" and "to make the Parliament more visible and audible as a locus of democracy and of debate including controversy".



spite this, Barroso initially stuck to his choice, risking a power struggle with the Parliament. Schulz together with his Green and Liberal colleagues thereupon organized a campaign of resistance and threatened to refuse approval of the entire Commission. Only a few hours before the impending vote, Barroso backed down, requesting time for a new proposal. For the first time in EU history, the Parliament had blocked a designated Commission's assumption of office and had forced a reshuffle. In the judgement of the media this was "a shift in the European balance of power", but Schulz simply called it a "victory for democracy"; and ultimately even Barroso had to acknowledge "that this Parliament...plays a vital role in the government of Europe".

In his inaugural speech before the European Council, he urged that "the Parliament [should] participate in all euro summits and European summits", also broaching his ideas on introducing a transaction tax, a European rating agency and a European growth initiative.

The growing importance of the European Parliament became evident thereafter in the consultations and decisions on the 2014-2020 financial framework, bank supervision and the unified settlement mechanism, the financial transaction tax and – perhaps the most prominent example – in July 2012 the rejection by a large majority of the anti-piracy agreement (ACTA), whose wording, in the opinion of many observers, would have been an open invitation to abuse.

Awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize

Schulz himself was meanwhile making his mark as one of the best-known leaders in the EU: in the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to the European Union, which he used for a symbolically significant visit to the island of Utøya in order to commemorate the young victims of a radical-right mass murderer a year before; in the Greek parliament which he visited only a few weeks after his election to pay tribute to the representatives of the Greek people; in addressing the Knesset where he issued a clear commitment – the EU would always stand by Israel – while by no means evading thorny issues; and repeatedly

”Commission President to be the majority-winner in Parliament”

in the sessions of the European Council where he represented the interests of the only directly elected institution of the EU. Time after time he included the European people’s representatives in the major EU decisions: the euro stability crises, the conflicts about the eastern European bridge-states, the wars and hostilities in the Middle East, the refugee problems – and also the peace initiatives of the Pope, the OSCE, inter alia, as well as the efforts to improve EU relations with other continents.

In all this, pitting the three major Brussels institutions against one another is by no means what Schulz has in mind: “With the persisting debates on institutions, we are merely putting ourselves at the mercy of those whose declared aim is the destruction of the EU in its present form....So I say: Even without a new European treaty or a constitutional convention and without getting into a ratification process lasting for years we can begin, within the existing framework, a relaunch of European democracy.”



In a speech at the Humboldt University in Berlin in May 2012 –elaborated in his book *Der gefesselte Riese* (The Shackled Giant) published a year later – Schulz described an important building-block for such a relaunch. “The crucial thing is for the European parties each to put up for



the 2014 European election their leading Europe-wide candidate to stand for the post of Commission President. After the election the person with a majority in Parliament will become Commission President.”

Schulz today outstandingly represents the invigoration of European democracy.

What kind of Europe do we want?

Earlier European elections – in the polemic judgement of Jürgen Habermas – were “distorted, owing to cowardice in the face of unpopular issues, into exhibition fights about national issues, and about persons who were not even up for election”. Schulz by contrast saw the leading Europe-wide candidates as a means of advancing the European debate on European topics – a debate in which clear options for EU policy would crystallize for the voters. “Instead of invoking the supposed ‘Europe without alternatives’ and getting deadlocked in outdated pro-and-con rituals, we should begin a debate entitled, ‘What kind of Europe do we want?’ Such a debate is future-focused rather than persisting in an attitude of mute reverence before Europe’s fateful past.”

By the time that the European Social Democratic parties jointly and officially nominated Schulz (on 1 March 2014) as their first leading candidate in EU history, he had long put the other party alliances in a tight spot pressing them to agree likewise on a European election candidate for the office of Commission President

The German word Spitzenkandidat

The German word Spitzenkandidat (top or leading candidate) spread thereafter to many European languages; and in 2014 – unlike the previous European election campaigns conducted almost exclusively on the national level – political leaders who for the first time jointly represented the European party alliances publicly debated Europe’s political direction and vied for a majority to form a Commission.

Following the victory of the EPP, Jean-Claude Juncker was accordingly elected the new Commission President. And although Martin Schulz did not achieve his personal election goal – becoming instead the first Parliament President in EU history to be elected to a second term – he was able to claim that “this has brought to a good conclu-

sion that which we began with the process of the Spitzenkandidaten....The European Council and the European Parliament have managed together to initiate a historic and democratic turning-point in the European Union. This we did by instituting a new constitutional practice – without having to amend the European Treaties.” This constitutional practice makes the parliamentary election of the Commission President a real political election, thus giving the European executive branch a strong mandate, coming not only from the heads of state and government but also and primarily from the people and their directly elected representatives – a democratic achievement that the Parliament will not relinquish.

In the person of the President of the European Parliament, Dr. h.c. Martin Schulz, the Board of Directors of the Society for the Conferring of the International Prize of Aachen honours in the year 2015 an outstanding intellectual guide for United Europe, who has made a significant and enduring contribution to the strengthening of the Parliament, of parliamentarianism and of democratic legitimation in the EU. President Schulz has given important impetus to the European Idea. The task before us is to strengthen this idea for the future.





Text of the certificate:

On Ascension Day, the 14th of May 2015, in the Coronation Hall of the Aachen Town Hall, the former Imperial Palace, the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen was awarded to the President of the European Parliament,

H.E. Martin Schulz,

in tribute to his significant services in strengthening the Parliament and democratic legitimization in the EU.

Inscription on the medal:

Charlemagne Prize of Aachen 2015

Martin Schulz

Strengthening the citizens of Europe



02

Martin Schulz
President of the European Parliament

Biography

Martin Schulz was born on 20 December 1955 in Eschweiler-Hehlrath near the German-Dutch-Belgian border. After secondary school he decided to turn his passion for books into his occupation and did an apprenticeship in the book trade. In 1982, following a few years in the publishing business, he started his own bookshop in Würselen, running it for twelve years.

When he was 19 he joined the SPD, starting with the Young Socialists. At age 31 he was elected mayor of his home town, Würselen. The youngest mayor in North Rhine-Westphalia at that time, he held the office for eleven years. Referring to his career as a local politician, Schulz said: "This time moulded my enthusiasm for Europe, and strengthened me in my conviction to help shape and advance 'Project Europe.'"

Since 1994 Martin Schulz has been a member of the European Parliament, serving on various committees, e.g. Human Rights, Interior Affairs and Justice. At the turn of the millennium he was elected chair of the SPD's German MEPs and vice-chair of the European Social Democrats in the European Parliament.

The arena – throwing and taking punches

He is known as a man who stands by his convictions. This sometimes sets off criticism. A well-known example is the abuse of Schulz by the then Prime Minister of Italy, Silvio Berlusconi, in 2003. Berlusconi was addressing the European Parliament as EU Council President, whereas Schulz had criticized him for his legal entanglements in Italy.

Following the 2004 European elections Schulz was elected head of the European Social Democrats in the European Parliament. Since 2009 he has also been the SPD's representative for European affairs. His views on Europe have shaped his party's European policy.

On 17 January 2012, Martin Schulz was elected president of the European Parliament by 387 out of a total of 670 valid votes for a 2 ½ year term. He was re-elected on 1 July 2014 by 409 votes, becoming the first president in the history of the European Parliament to be elected to a second term.

While active for years in European politics, Schulz says he has not lost touch with his home town: "I worked for many years as mayor of my town, and my daily tasks included listening to the people's concerns and answering their questions. That is still an important part of my tasks today."

A passion for books ... and soccer

Schulz and his wife Inge, a landscape architect, have two children. Asked about his hobbies, he names books and soccer. He is a fan of the Cologne team 1.FC Köln. His favourite books include *The Leopard* by Tomasi di Lampedusa and all the works of the historian Eric Hobsbawm.



Career

Bookseller apprenticeship (1975-1977)
Work in various bookshops and publishing houses (1977-1982)
Bookshop proprietor (1982-1994)
Member of the SPD Presidium and Executive Committee (from 1999)
SPD representative for European affairs (from 2009)
Municipal Councillor, Würselen (1984-1999)
Mayor of Würselen (1987-1998)
Member of the European Parliament (from 1994)
Coordinator, Socialist (PES) Group Subcommittee on Human Rights (1994-1996)
Coordinator, Socialist (PES) Group Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Interior Affairs (1996-2000)
Chair, SPD delegation in the European Parliament (2000-2004)
First vice-chair, Socialist Group (2002-2004)
Chair, Socialist Group (2004-2009)
Chair, S&D Group (from 2009)
President of the European Parliament (from January 2012)



03

The International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen For the Unity of Europe

Dr. Jürgen Linden

An idea of behalf of which outstanding personalities, heads of government and state and even the Holy Father accept a prize deriving solely from a citizens' initiative in the best sense of the word – such an idea must be an important one. And the tribute paid years ago by Helmut Kohl, former Chancellor and honorary citizen of Europe, to the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen as “the most important political award” that Europe has to confer clearly indicates the historical development of the citizens' prize for great Europeans, a prize that was born amid the ruins of the Second World War.

A small literary society called the “Corona Legentium Aquensis” becomes the embryo of the Charlemagne Prize

Soon after the end of that war, following years of mental manipulation and indoctrination, the Aachen merchant Dr. Kurt Pfeiffer, together with a few friends, founded a small literary society called the “Corona Legentium Aquensis”, which would become the embryo of the Charlemagne Prize. With Pfeiffer's financial support the literary society, growing in importance and influence in Aachen, was able to stage exhibitions and lecture series with politicians, scholars and creative artists from all over Europe. The discussions in the Corona inspired Pfeiffer to think about possible ways to take part in the political process in Europe – outside of political parties and parliaments but actively and with public impact – and to participate in a peaceful shaping of the future.

A few days before the Christmas of 1949, Pfeiffer used a meeting of the Corona on 19 December to present his idea for the endowment of an Aachen Prize “for the most valuable contribution in the service of West European understanding and joint endeavour and in the service of humanity and world peace”. The initiative met with an extraordinarily positive response, both in the press and on the part of important personalities. This encouraged Pfeiffer to mount a vigorous campaign for his plans. Within a short time he assembled senior representatives of the political sector and the city administration, the business and academic communities and the Catholic church for

the proclamation of the “Charlemagne Prize of the City of Aachen”.

Aachen's European past

Participating for the city were Mayor (Oberbürgermeister) Dr. Albert Maas, City Manager Albert Servais, and Bürgermeister Ludwig Kuhnen. They saw the Prize as a way to revive Aachen's half-forgotten European past and to focus the attention of European-minded people on the Imperial City. The fact that Pfeiffer assigned high priority to the economic aspects of the joint undertaking was probably the reason for particularly vigorous support by those founders representing the business community. Among them were the President of the Chamber of Commerce (and later Mayor of Aachen), Hermann Heusch; the Luxembourgian head of the Vereinigte Glaswerke, Dr. Jean Louis Schrader; the head of the Philipswerke, Carel Nieuwenhuysen of the Netherlands; and the textile manufacturer Erasmus Schlapp. Along with Bishop Dr. Johannes Josef van der Velden, who was in charge of the Charlemagne church and mausoleum, the signatories of the Proclamation included three university professors: the Rector of the University of Technology, Dr. Wilhelm Müller; Dr. Franz Krauß; and Dr. Peter Mennicken.

Some three months after the noteworthy meeting of the Corona, the “Society for the Conferring of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen” was founded on 14 March 1950;



it was to carry out all tasks connected with the conferring of the Prize, and its first Board of Directors was made up of the twelve signatories of the Proclamation.

The energy with which Pfeiffer and his friends went to work is shown by the fact that on Ascension Day in 1950 – nine days after the proclamation of the Schuman plan – the first Charlemagne Prize was conferred on Richard Count Coudenhove-Kalergi, the founder of the Pan-European movement. The award ceremony in the Coronation Hall of Aachen's Town Hall left an indelible impression. For the first time since the war, the former Imperial Palace – still marked by war damage – was the scene of an important municipal and European celebration. The positive media reaction at home and abroad inspired the Board of Directors to take an even bolder part in the process of European unification. The awarding of the Prize in 1952 to Italy's Prime Minister Alcide de Gasperi was the international breakthrough for the award.

Famous names

The political founding fathers of a United Europe – Jean Monnet, Konrad Adenauer, Robert Schuman and many more – followed the Italian and were honoured in Aachen for their outstanding service on behalf of building a United Europe. The Charlemagne Prize thus gained political influence and international prestige. Paul Henri Spaak, commenting in his speech of thanks in the Coronation Hall in 1957 on the list of past laureates, rightly noted that “these are the most famous names in political postwar Europe”.

The Charlemagne Prize and its laureates vividly reflect the history of the European unification process: The founding fathers of the European Coal and Steel Community were followed by the torchbearers of enlargement and deepening, the custodians of the democratic institutions, those working for the reunification of East and West, the European thinkers and doers and energizers on the cultural and social level.

Originally comprising western Europe, the scope of the award now includes all facets of European integration, communicating values, protecting our vital natural resources, addressing North-South imbalances, as well as action within the European Union and vis-à-vis the now globalized world.

Political personalities standing for the ideals of the Prize include such names as Simone Veil, Leo Tindemans, François Mitterrand and Helmut Kohl, Václav Havel, Jacques Delors, Bronislaw Geremek, Jean-Claude Juncker, Angela Merkel, and Pope John Paul II, who in 2004 in a



unique ceremony in the Apostolic Palace in Rome became the first personality to be awarded a Charlemagne Prize Extraordinary, in tribute to one's outstanding life work.

Pro-European impetus

In 1997 was launched the Foundation of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen, which by a wide range of events aims to generate pro-European impetus and to help enlist citizens, especially young people, for the idea of Europe. So, along with the International Charlemagne Prize, the Foundation together with the European Parliament has since 2008 awarded the European Charlemagne Prize for Youth. With the Charlemagne Youth Prize the idea first presented by Kurt Pfeiffer to his literary society is being supplemented and augmented: for it honours

young people who exemplify the community of Europeans and who carry out integration projects, thus impressively continuing the great work of unification.

Peace, freedom and democracy are inviolable standards for the work in Europe

Crises, weaknesses and even setbacks of the European Union show how important it is and will continue to be to promote more common ground in Europe and to be active on behalf of Europe. Peace, freedom and democracy are inviolable values for our work, likewise the substantial material progress and benefits that have accrued so far from the process of European unification. Given our continent's deeply scarred history extending over many centuries, we know that integration is the only way; its consistent deepening is what we seek and must pursue.

Impetus for Europe's future society

The signal sent out annually by the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen aims to be both an ideal and an impetus for Europe's future society and for the cohabitation of the people on our continent.

In the years past, the awarding of the Charlemagne Prize increasingly took place – on the surface at least – against a background of crisis: the crisis of state indebtedness, and also the crisis of confidence that seemed to spread more and more, during which public opinion grew less impressed by the European Union's achievements than by its problems. But looming behind the Charlemagne Prize in these years was above all the question of how to successfully meet the challenges of the future. Which Europe would be able once more to make a convincing impression on its citizens?

In their acceptance speeches, the Charlemagne laureates Jean-Claude Trichet, Wolfgang Schäuble, Dalia Grybauskaitė and Herman Van Rompuy contributed important suggestions, some of them pointing the way for the further development of United Europe. And like many other

laureates before them, they used the Charlemagne Prize as a platform to develop ideas going beyond the concerns of the day, and to bring these ideas into the European debate.

Ideas going beyond the concerns of the day

The awarding of this year's Charlemagne Prize was preceded by two powerfully symbolic anniversaries – the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War on 8 May and, only a day later, the 65th anniversary of the "Schuman Declaration", the revolutionary proposal to found a European coal and steel community, laying the cornerstone for the unity of our continent. These anniversaries



have once more called to mind something very essential: The longest period of peace in our history is by no means something to take for granted; it had to be earned by hard work. And if today we still have to face conflicts escalating in our immediate vicinity, safeguarding the peace is and remains the pre-eminent contribution of a United Europe.

Notwithstanding all progress made by the EU, from the foundational Community of Six to the Union of 28 member states, what seems unmistakable is that the euphoria accompanying Project Europe has largely faded, giving way to a chastened mood virtually without precedent. The economic situation in the crisis-ridden countries, the varying assessments of the Euro-bailout policy, the growing egotism of EU member states, lack of consensus in major policy sectors, migration and social security issues, questions of institutional structure and of finality – in many policy sectors the European Union today is pre-occupied first and foremost with itself, and is increasingly drifting away from the people.

Martin Schulz, this year's Charlemagne Prize laureate, is fond of quoting the film director Wim Wenders in this context: "People are for the idea of Europe. But then the idea turned into administration, and now people think that administration is the idea, and this Europe they reject."

Does Schulz conclude from this that we should abandon the "idea of Europe"? Not at all. Instead, it is for him an incentive to change the European Union and bring it back to the people. As President of the European Parliament



he is virtually unmatched in his support for an EU of more democracy and more parliamentarianism. For him "the legitimacy of our political system depends among other things on whether we succeed in overcoming the crisis in the framework of national and European democracy. Those who believe that the crisis justifies a suspension of democracy will only make it worse."

Interests of Parliament

On the strength of this conviction he brings the interests of Parliament to bear – sometimes loudly, always unmistakably – vis-à-vis the Commission and above all the Council and the national governments. It was decisively due to Schulz and the strength of his conviction that the European party alliances put up joint leading candidates for the European elections last year.

Loud and unmistakable

What mattered chiefly to him was for the people to see that their vote has a real influence on the shaping of European politics and policy, regarding both content and personalities. And that is just what happened; and in retrospect the European elections of 2014 may perhaps be assessed some day as a historic turning point, the genesis of truly all-European parties with all-European candidates and programmes.

The re-election of Martin Schulz as President of the European Parliament was a unique event in the parliament's history. It also shows the esteem in which Schulz is held by his fellow-parliamentarians, and their feeling of being well represented by him. It shows the distinctive mark he has made on behalf of a democratic and parliamentarian Europe.

A distinctive mark on Europe

Whatever is at stake – be it the further development of the Economic and Monetary Union, the negotiations on the new free trade agreement with the USA, the difficult situation in the east-European states neighbouring the EU, or the conflict in the Middle East – Martin Schulz together with the heads of the Council and Commission, the Charlemagne Prize laureates Donald Tusk and Jean-Claude Juncker, is the voice of the EU inside and outside its borders; he stands for its values, for peace and freedom, for a democratic model of society, and for a Europe of social engagement and solidarity, a Europe that lives up to its international responsibility.

When the Charlemagne Prize was awarded last year to Herman Van Rompuy, the Charlemagne Prize Board of Directors decided with him to waive what had been up to that time the "classic" speech in tribute to the laureate, and instead to extend the opportunity to the heads of government of Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine to focus attention on the European Union as a whole and simultaneously on the ambitions of their native countries.

In coordination with Martin Schulz we are continuing this practice in 2015, and we are very glad that outstanding statesmen are doing us the honour of speaking to us about the importance of deeper integration from a German and European perspective as well as from the perspective of

our neighbours. We hope in this way to be able to provide an impetus for further European unification and to contribute to deeper understanding. For, as in the past, the 2015 Charlemagne Prize aims not only to express thanks for outstanding service on the road to United Europe; it is to be a platform for the discussion of urgent questions – and also a wake-up call, a signal to persevere in following the European pathway.

The Charlemagne Prize is enduringly contemporary and relevant

In keeping with this purpose, the scope of the Charlemagne Prize itself and the activities of its institutions have long comprised much more than the ceremony on Ascension Day. With the establishment of the Foundation and the Charlemagne Prize Europe forums, with extensive ancillary programmes organized year by year as well as numerous presentations at other venues, the Charlemagne Prize today communicates its European aims and ambitions much more vigorously than the initiators of the award were able to do in their day. And so the presentation ceremony in the historic Town Hall is the climax of a large programme of events – lectures, readings, discussions, concerts and performances – during which the diversity of Europe is resident in Aachen.

Sixty-five years after the conferring of the first International Charlemagne Prize, we are well aware today that on the road to United Europe there is still a long way to go –

Outstanding statesmen address the importance of further integration

and that the European Union is not an end in itself, existing only for its member states, but also bears great international responsibility. Thus more than six decades after its initial proclamation, the Charlemagne Prize is still today enduringly contemporary and relevant. The nation states on their own are in no way equal to the challenges of a globalized world. Whatever is at stake – peace and freedom, economic welfare and social justice, or energy security and climate protection – the only choice left to the Europeans is the choice between independence without influence and the merging of their regional and national interests into a common European position. Only in this way can Europe achieve something for itself; and only in this way can Europe muster the necessary strength enabling it adequately to live up to its international responsibility.

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





04

The Charlemagne Prize Laureates

1950 – 2014



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 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



**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

Mayor of the City of Aachen

Manfred von Holtum

Dean of the Cathedral

Prof. Dr.-Ing.

Ernst Schmachtenberg

Rector of the Aachen University
of Technology (RWTH)

Elected Members:

Dr. Jürgen Linden

Chairman of the Charlemagne
Prize Board of Directors

Paul Neeteson

General Delegate (retd.) of the
Compagnie de Saint Gobain

Dieter Philipp

President of the
Aachen Chamber of Crafts

Irene Schulte-Hillen

President of the German
Foundation of Musical Life

Michael Westkamp

Chairman of the Board,
AachenMünchener

Michael Wirtz

Consul,
Partner Grünenthal GmbH

Members Named by the Parties Represented on the City Council:

Armin Laschet

Member of the
State Parliament,
Minister of State (retd.),
Chairman of the CDU,
North Rhine-Westphalia

Heiner Höfken

Member of the SPD,
Aachen City Council

Hermann-Josef Pilgram

Member of the GREENS,
Aachen City Council

Georg Helg

Chairman of the FDP,
Aachen Municipal-Regional
Council

Members Proposed by the Aachen City Council:

Johanna Holzhauser

Senior Editor, WDR

Hon.-Prof. Dr.

Hans-Gert Pöttering

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

Members Delegated by the Foundation of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen:

Dr. Michael Jansen

Spokesman of the Foundation
Executive Committee

Wilhelm Bonse-Geuking

Chairman of the
Foundation Council

(as of April 2015)

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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. the King of the Belgians, Philippe
H.M. the King of Spain, Felipe VI
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

Honorary Chairman:

Dr. h.c. André Leysen
Honorary Chairman of AGFA GEVAERT N.V.

Members of the Executive Committee:

Dr. Michael Jansen
Permanent Secretary (retd.); 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

Dr. Jan Huyghebaert
Honorary Chairman of the Board, KBC Groep N.V.

Dr. Bettina Leysen
medical doctor

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 (retd.);
President of the Rheinischer Sparkassen- und Giroverband

Uwe Fröhlich
President of the BVR cooperative banking group, Bundesverband der Deutschen Volksbanken und Raiffeisenbanken

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

Dr. Ulrich Hermann
Chief Executive Officer, Wolters Kluwer Germany Holding GmbH

Hubert Herpers
Chairman of the Board of the Aachen Sparkasse

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

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

Wolfgang Kopf
Senior Vice President, Public and Regulatory Affairs, Deutsche Telekom AG

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

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

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
Senator; Honorary President of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly

Marcel Philipp
Mayor of the City of Aachen

Prof. Dr. Thomas Prefl
Managing Director, P3 Ingenieurgesellschaft mbH Aachen

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Hans-Werner Sinn
President of the ifo Institute for Economic Research at the University of Munich

Dr. h.c. Roger de Weck
General Director, SRG SSR

Klaus Welle
Secretary General of the European Parliament

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

(as of April 2015)



Charlemagne Prize 2015

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