

## **Interlocutor**

*North Rhine-Westphalia state press conference, August 16, 2023, 10 a.m.*

**Armin Laschet** has been a member of the German Bundestag for the CDU since 2021 and Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe since 2022. Laschet took on his first political mandate as an 18-year-old on the council of his home town of Aachen. He was previously a member of the Bundestag from 1994 to 1998; this was followed by the European Parliament (1999-2005) and his appointment as a minister in the North Rhine-Westphalian state government (2005-2010). From 2010 to 2021, the Aachen native was a member of the North Rhine-Westphalian state parliament, and from 2017 to 2021 he was Minister President of North Rhine-Westphalia. Laschet led his party, the CDU, as chairman in NRW from 2012 to 2021 and in Germany from 2021 to 2022.

**Dr. Reinhard C. Zinkann** is Managing Partner of the Gütersloh-based household appliance manufacturer Miele. After studying in Freiburg, Harvard and Cologne, he completed his doctorate at the Technical University of Berlin with a dissertation on product liability. His first professional station before joining the family business, of which his great-grandfather was a co-founder, in 1992 was at Bayerische Motoren Werke (BMW) in Munich. In addition to his role as owner of Miele, Dr. Zinkann now holds a number of mandates in the business world. In Switzerland, for example, he is Chairman of the Board of Directors of Hipp Holding AG, in Germany he chairs the Supervisory Board of the Falke Group and is a member of the Supervisory Board of Drägerwerke. He chairs the advisory board of Nobilia-Werke and is a member of the advisory board of Krombacher Brauerei. Dr. Zinkann is also involved on a voluntary basis in many organizations in Germany. His commitment to the economy of his home region is documented by his many years as Chairman of the Economic Society for Westphalia and Lippe.

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