

PRESS RELEASE

Background information

International Prize of Peace of Westphalia

Münster/Westphalia, October 5, 2016 - Religious peace, tolerance and federalism were the key points of the Peace of Westphalia concluded in Münster and Osnabrück in 1648, which ended the Thirty Years' War. As a symbol of the continued validity of these postulates, the Wirtschaftliche Gesellschaft für Westfalen und Lippe e. V. (WWL) established the International Peace of Westphalia Prize in 1998, on the 350th anniversary of the peace treaty. As the prize is awarded every two years, 2016 will be a "jubilee": The award ceremony will take place for the tenth time this fall.

The German Peace Prize, which has the highest endowment of 100,000 euros, is awarded in two equal categories (until 2010, the prize was endowed with 50,000 euros): It is awarded to personalities who have made an outstanding contribution to the federal organization of Europe, the implementation of the principle of subsidiarity and the peaceful reconciliation of peoples. The Youth Prize is awarded to young people or youth groups whose actions have set an example for reconciliation and peace. By awarding the Westphalian Peace Prize, the WWL aims to make a contribution to the discussion on the internal structures of Europe and the coexistence of people in a Europe of regions. The winners receive the Peace Prize in the form of a bronze sculpture of the Westphalian horse, which was designed by the Bielefeld artist Nina Koch.

In the past years, the prize has been awarded to:

1998: Václav Havel, former President of the Czech Republic Republic "Gesto por la Paz", Basque youth initiative

2000: Dr. Helmut Kohl, former German Chancellor Ekola-Gymnasium in Breslau and Conrad-von-Soest- grammar school in Soest

2002: Carla Del Ponte, Chief Prosecutor of the War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague "Students Helping Lives", student initiative for children and young people in the Balkans

2004: Professor Kurt Masur, Conductor The carol singers - children help children

2006: Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, former French President, The young people at the von Bodelschwingsche Anstalten Bethel

2008: Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Community of Young Maltese

2010: Daniel Barenboim, conductor and pianist, West-Eastern Divan Orchestra

2012: Helmut Schmidt, former German Chancellor, "Children for a better World e. V."

2014: Crews of the International Space Station ISS, German War Graves Commission (Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge e. V.) -Youth work