

# PRESS RELEASE

## Background information

### WWL - Economic Society for Westphalia and Lippe e. V.

**Münster/Westphalia, March 3, 2023** : Westphalia and Europe are the cornerstones between which the Economic Society for Westphalia and Lippe e.V. (WWL) is active. It has been in existence for over 100 years and is primarily supported by small and medium-sized businesses and thus also by many globally operating family businesses in this region. As a non-partisan organization, the WWL overcomes barriers between politics, business and professional associations in order to promote a federal Europe and international understanding as well as to strengthen the voice of Westphalia in the competition between regions. The International Peace of Westphalia Prize, which it sponsors, documents how politics and economics, peace, stability and prosperity are interrelated, mutually influential and interdependent. The society underlines this awareness with this prize.

The WWL continues to focus on socio-politically and economically relevant issues with the aim of preserving and promoting the free economic order and the social market economy in Europe and the world. In cooperation with representatives of the scientific community and by promoting research work, the WWL analyzes economic interrelationships and makes them transparent. At the regional level, it represents Westphalia as a unified economic area with established structures.

Socio-political and economic interests are bundled and communicated beyond the boundaries of the IHK districts.

The work of the WWL goes back to the predecessor organizations founded in 1919, the "Westfälisch-Lippischer Wirtschaftsband" in Bielefeld and the "Wirtschaftswissenschaftliche Gesellschaft" in Münster. Forced to merge in 1934, the new association resumed its work after the Second World War with a series of publications on economic policy issues. Since 1981, the WWL has been promoting communication and cohesion within the regional business community with its Entrepreneur Days. The International Peace of Westphalia Prize, awarded for the first time in 1998, honors individuals and groups and, in its second part, young people who have campaigned for a federal Europe, peace, sustainability and the implementation of the principle of subsidiarity.

## **WWL - Economic Society for Westphalia and Lippe e. V.**

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