

## PRESS RELEASE

### 52nd Theodor Heuss Prize awarded to Timothy Garton Ash

STUTTGART. In December 2016, at the selection meeting of the non-partisan Theodor Heuss Foundation, the foundation's Board of Directors and Board of Trustees elected to award the 52nd Theodor Heuss Prize to the British historian, author and commentator Timothy Garton Ash. For many years, Garton Ash, Professor of European Studies at St. Anthony's College, Oxford University and Senior Fellow of Stanford University, has been researching and writing about freedom of speech and expression in a connected world. According to Garton Ash, "Free speech is the oxygen of all freedoms. It is the freedom that makes all other freedoms possible". On his website, [freespeechdebate.com](http://freespeechdebate.com), and in his published book "Free Speech: Ten Principles for a Connected World", Garton Ash makes an important contribution to a much-needed public debate. The atmosphere of cultural and religious conflicts and the new degree of offensiveness in expressing prejudice, hate and malice when faced with differences of opinion are rocking free speech to its very core. This raises the question of how to pursue a sensible discourse with different-minded people. For a democratic civil society, dispute recognition and fairness could provide the answer. This approach is promoted both by this year's Theodor Heuss prize winner, Timothy Garton Ash, as well as the worthy Theodor Heuss medal-winners for 2017.

The theme of the 52nd Theodor Heuss Prize is "**Dispute recognition – the idea of a democratic public**". Winners of the 2017 Theodor Heuss medal include Turkish writer, physicist and human rights activist **Asli Erdogan**, politician **Patrick Dahlemann** from Mecklenburg-Vorpommern in recognition of his exemplary democratic engagement in a hostile environment, spokesman for the Munich police force **Marcus da Gloria Martins**, whose calm and competent crisis communication following the Munich shooting in July 2016 gave comfort and succour to a traumatised public and the journalist **Dunja Hayali**, whose considered coverage of many demonstrations of the AfD party demonstrated the idea of a democratic public.

The 52nd Theodor Heuss Prize awarding ceremony takes place on Saturday, 1 April 2017, at 10:30 at the Haus der Wirtschaft in Stuttgart. After welcome addresses by Prof. Dr. Ludwig Theodor Heuss, Petra Olschowski, Baden-Württemberg State Secretary in the Ministry for Science, Research and the Arts and Fritz Kuhn, Lord Mayor of Stuttgart, the General Director of the Swiss radio and television company (SRG SSR), Roger de Weck, will provide a laudatory speech. Prof. Dr. Timothy Garton Ash will give an acceptance speech. Federal Minister of Justice a.D. Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger will moderate a panel discussion with the prize and medal winners. A closing speech will be provided by Prof. Dr. Gesine Schwan. The day before the ceremony, on Friday 31 March 2017, the traditional colloquium will be held on this year's theme in the attendance of Timothy Garton Ash, Marcus da Gloria Martins and Patrick Dahlemann.

Stuttgart, 7 February 2017

The non-partisan Theodor Heuss Foundation is named after the first President of the German Federal Republic (in office from 1949 to 1959). It was founded in 1964 after his death by Hildegard Hamm-Brücher, his son, Ernst Ludwig Heuss, and a circle of his friends, in order to honour examples of social engagement, civil courage and commitment to strengthening our fundamental democratic principles in memory both of Theodor Heuss as an individual and of his political life's work and achievements. By conferring these prizes, the Foundation aims to "point out something that has to be done and fashioned in our democracy without it being completed yet" (Carl Friedrich v. Weizsäcker, on the occasion of the first Theodor Heuss Award Ceremony in 1965). The Theodor Heuss Prize has been awarded every year since 1965 to individuals and organizations who have made ground-breaking achievements in the pursuit of this goal.

[www.theodor-heuss-stiftung.de](http://www.theodor-heuss-stiftung.de)

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