

theodor heuss stiftung
Zur Demokratie ermutigen
Für Demokratie begeistern

The Theodor Heuss Prize 2026
is awarded to

Margrethe Vestager

in recognition of her outstanding commitment to a fair and open Digital Single Market and for her resolute leadership in addressing the power of dominant technology companies.

As Executive Vice-President of the European Commission and during her many years as European Commissioner for Competition, Margrethe Vestager has played a defining role in shaping a digital environment that is fairer, more transparent, and more conducive to innovation. Through her leadership in landmark legislation such as the Digital Markets Act, and through a series of high-profile enforcement actions, she has set global standards for the fair and transparent regulation of digital platforms. Under her influence, Europe has emerged as a pioneer of responsible digital governance.

Her work has strengthened the principles of democracy, the rule of law, and equal opportunity in the digital age. Her example shows how a rules-based order can be upheld with determination and clarity even in times of profound technological and political change.

With her courage, independence, and clear vision, Margrethe Vestager has inspired many across Europe. In particular, she has succeeded in engaging younger generations and strengthening their confidence in the European project.

In awarding the 61st Theodor Heuss Prize to Margrethe Vestager, the Theodor Heuss Foundation honors not only her professional excellence but also her enduring contribution to shaping a digital future that brings together innovation and competition with social responsibility and the values of Europe.

Stuttgart, 18. April 2026

Prof. Dr. Ludwig Theodor Heuss
Chairman of the Executive Board

Prof. Dr. Gesine Schwan
Chair of the Board of Trustees