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### **Prize of the Peace of Westphalia 2014**

#### **Closing remarks by Dr. Reinhard Zinkann**

#### **Chairman of the Economic Society for Westphalia and Lippe**

Dear prizewinners, ladies and gentlemen,

This year's ceremony to mark the awarding of the Peace of Westphalia Prize was once again a worthy and moving event that we will all remember fondly. Ladies and gentlemen, there are several reasons why this was also the case for the ninth time:

One of these reasons is certainly the historic location where we have come together today - Münster Town Hall: the Peace Hall as the site of the Peace of Westphalia, which was concluded in Osnabrück and Münster in 1648, is known far beyond the borders of Germany and continues to have an impact to this day. We are therefore delighted that Wolfgang Griesert, Lord Mayor of the City of Peace Osnabrück, also attended the ceremony alongside the Lord Mayor of the City of Peace Münster. This not only shows the close ties - it also shows how topical the issue is at the moment: the current conflicts in particular underline how important dialog, openness and tolerance are in order to reach peaceful agreements - we have also heard meaningful words on this today.

The fact that today's award ceremony has become such a wonderful event is of course due in particular to the exceptional award winners, who were and are all role models in their own very personal way: the crews of the International Space Station and the youth work of the German War Graves Commission.

The 2014 award ceremony was also special in that we honored two institutions whose work and actions keep the spirit of the Peace of Westphalia alive in the present day. The laudatory speeches and today's films made this impressively clear.

The Peace of Westphalia Prize is intended to remind the general public time and again that working for peace is a permanent and probably the most important task facing humanity. Peace and prosperity are mutually dependent. This is precisely why it is right and necessary to repeatedly honor outstanding role models who stand for these tasks and goals.

Ladies and gentlemen, our guests and our extremely intelligent speakers have made a significant contribution to the success of today's award ceremonies: I would

therefore like to thank Federal Foreign Minister Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier for his laudatory speech on the youth work of the German War Graves Commission and Tom Buhrow for his words to the crews of the ISS. Prime Minister Tillich, I would also like to thank you for coming and for your words here in Münster Town Hall. Special thanks also go to Lord Mayor Markus Lewe - not only for his words of welcome, but above all for his hospitality and the consistently good partnership between the City of Münster and the Wirtschaftliche Gesellschaft für Westfalen und Lippe.

Behind today's award is our international jury, whose members we are indebted to for their commitment to the Peace of Westphalia Prize in this way. The same applies to the Board of Trustees, which consists of 65 Westphalian business personalities. It is only thanks to their financial commitment that the Peace of Westphalia Prize, which is endowed with 100,000 euros, is possible. I would also like to thank the representatives of the media who have contributed to the fact that the Peace of Westphalia Prize is now internationally known and appreciated. In particular, I would like to praise and recognize the Westdeutscher Rundfunk's Directorate, Editor-in-Chief and Studio Münster for their cooperative partnership - in this context, I would like to expressly highlight Sabine Scholt, who once again guided us through the ceremony in a competent, entertaining and charming manner.

For the musical accompaniment today, I would like to thank Münster's Schallmännern, the brass ensemble Sinfonieorchester Münster - namely Gernot Sülberg, Guido Fröhlich, Michael Koch, Jochen Schüle and Alfred Holtmann. I would also like to thank my colleagues on the WWL board for their excellent cooperation in preparing and organizing today's award ceremony. And last but not least, on behalf of the Wirtschaftliche Gesellschaft für Westfalen und Lippe, I would like to thank everyone who supported the award ceremony. I expressly include all those whom I cannot mention by name at this time.

Thank you very much for your attention. I look forward to the next - then tenth - award ceremony with you in 2016.