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### **International Prize of Peace of Westfalia 2018**

Welcome by Dr. Benedikt Hüffer

2nd Chairman of the Economic Society for Westphalia and Lippe

Dear Mr. Federal President

dear Mrs. Büdenbender

Dear Prime Minister Laschet,

It is a great honor for us to welcome you together with the President of the Republic of Lithuania, H.E. Mrs. Dalia Grybauskaitė, the President of the Republic of Latvia, H.E. Mr. Raimonds Vējonis together with his wife, as well as the President of the Republic of Estonia, Mrs. Kersti Kaljulaid, here in the Historic Town Hall in Münster. It is an outstanding event that we are able to present you, the heads of state of the three Baltic states, with the eleventh International Peace of Westphalia Award on behalf of your peoples. Welcome to the city of the Peace of Westphalia!

We look forward to the laudatory speech by our Federal President, who will pay tribute to our international award winners. At the same time, I would like to thank you, Federal President Steinmeier, for your active participation in our jury during your time as Foreign Minister and for your continued support as Honorary Chairman of the jury.

It also gives me great pleasure to welcome our other award winners here in the ballroom today: Jakob Westarp, Lena Simosek, Rebekka Jaumann and Lina Graumann as the Scouts and Guides who will receive the 2018 Peace of Westphalia Youth Award today on behalf of the approximately 200,000 young people in their organizations.

We particularly appreciate the fact that you, Mr. Prime Minister, are not only representing our federal state today during this ceremony, but will also be giving the laudatory speech for the Youth Award winners. A warm welcome and many thanks, Mr. Laschet, also for being a member of our jury.

I would also like to welcome all the guests at this ceremony: the members of the European Parliament, the German Bundestag, the state parliament and the municipal representatives of our region. I would particularly like to welcome the members of the delegation, the ambassadors, consuls and other representatives and friends of the Baltic states.

We are delighted and grateful that we will once again be awarding our prize winners here in Münster's historic town hall. Dear Lord Mayor, dear Mr. Lewe, you have once again opened the doors of the town hall for us today. We are very grateful for this. We have the pleasure of being able to gather at this historic location for the eleventh

time for the ceremonial awarding of the International Peace of Westphalia Prize. We are delighted that your counterpart, the Lord Mayor of Osnabrück, the other city of the Peace of Westphalia, Mr. Griesert, is also here today, thus underlining the commonality of the cities of peace. There are now 74 Westphalian business personalities who, as curators of this prize, ensure that we are able to offer and award this not only nationally but also internationally renowned prize every two years within this framework and with the impressive total endowment of 100,000 euros.

I would like to welcome the members of our Board of Trustees as well as the members of our jury - in addition to our Minister President, his former counterpart from Saxony, Mr. Stanislaw Tillich, and Georg Friedrich Prince of Prussia. Thank you very much for your cooperation and your presence!

A warm welcome to everyone and to representatives of important institutions. I am delighted that you, ladies and gentlemen, have gathered here today. I would like to extend a special greeting to the many people outside in the city, especially those watching the outdoor broadcast on the large screen in Stubengasse. Warm greetings from Münster to the viewers of Westdeutscher Rundfunk, the radio listeners and users of the Internet live stream worldwide. The growing national and international echo in the media confirms that we are on the right track.

I would particularly like to point out that this ceremony will also be broadcast live to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. This allows me to address the award winners directly: These are the people in the three Baltic states who have succeeded in establishing functioning democracies within a short space of time, who are firmly committed to the principles of the rule of law and universal human rights and to a free market economy and the European Union. In this context, I would like to remind you of the so-called "Baltic Chain", which the citizens of these three countries formed together more than 20 years ago as the longest human chain in history. It was the trigger for a great movement - for independence, for freedom and the path to democracy within the European Union. This all happened under strong international pressure.

It is fitting that this year marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the republics of Estonia and Latvia and the re-establishment of the Republic of Lithuania. It is therefore a particular pleasure for me that the highest representatives of the Baltic countries, their heads of state, are personally presenting the certificates and sculptures of the 11th International Peace of Westphalia Prize here in Münster to the citizens of their respective countries. We are honoring them on behalf of the people of the three Baltic states for their strong commitment to a common liberal system of values and their enduring exemplary dedication to a united Europe.

We have repeatedly been asked why the Westphalian business community, of all people, a large number of leading entrepreneurs, award this prize. This is now the eleventh time it has been awarded every two years. Sustainability and a predominant focus on international markets are part of the DNA of our entrepreneurs and in particular the so-called hidden champions who are at home in this region of the Peace of Westphalia and operate worldwide.

That is why the economy's call for peace and stability is almost self-evident. However, many people are not aware of this connection. This is what motivates us to send out a strong signal with this prize - that we must never give up the dream of

eternal peace; that prosperity and freedom can only exist in peaceful conditions; that peace is possible. We want everyone to stand up for a common system of values in mutual tolerance. As recent political debates have shown, this begins right on our doorstep.

The current reference to the principles of the Peace of Westphalia, i.e. today the "Westphalian System", is becoming ever clearer - after all, this is the first time that the idea of tolerance has been enshrined in a treaty. And we are delighted those various renowned academics, currently for example the Körber Foundation, are currently working intensively on this topic.

In this context, I would like to remind you of our last award ceremony in 2016, when the Jordanian royal couple made an overwhelming impression here in the hall. The award from King Abdullah II bin al Hussein and the young people from Aktion Sühnezeichen do justice to this, as do the new award winners today: we are honoring people and institutions that have rendered outstanding services in the sense described above and have acted in an exemplary manner. After all, people need role models to guide them. We want to encourage and call on them to do so again and again. That is why a youth prize is an important and absolutely equal component of the International Peace of Westphalia Prize. If the future belongs to the youth of today, then it is particularly important to honor the commitment of this young generation to responsibility in coexistence, tolerance and thus to sustainably stable conditions. The signal effect that this sends out and the impact that such work has on the character and life path of young people cannot be overestimated. Those who live in this mindset at an early age also learn to overcome boundaries at an early age and not only refuse to be taken in by extremism in any form, but also consciously oppose it.

So we are now looking forward to our award winners and this ceremony and its impact, which we hope will radiate far and wide and last for a long time.

We would like to thank you all for coming here today, and especially those of you who are not here, but who are with us live outside.

Thank you very much!