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VDZ to award the “Ehren-Victoria” honour to Bundestag President, Wolfgang Schäuble

Christine Lagarde, President-designate of ECB, will give the laudatory speech for Dr. Wolfgang Schäuble at the Publishers' Night on 4th November 2019

Berlin, 30th September 2019 - With the “Ehren-Victoria”, the magazine publishers will pay tribute to Dr. Wolfgang Schäuble, the President of the German Bundestag, for his strong commitment to a united, democratic Europe and stable democracy in Germany. As the longest-serving member of the Bundestag, as minister for various departments and as President of the Bundestag, he stood and stands for the political stability of Germany and Europe and has always seen this as the essential basis for growth, prosperity and pluralism. Dr. Wolfgang Schäuble not only played a key role in German reunification, but also in the consolidation of a liberal Europe.

“With the “Ehren-Victoria”, the VDZ publishers will honour his outstanding political achievements in challenging times. Dr. Wolfgang Schäuble is an exceptional politician and source of ideas for Germany and Europe, who pursues his politics with passion. He serves a reminder when it comes to threats to the freedom of the press and he is an excellent observer of globalisation and its challenges for Europe’s democratic and liberal values,” is how VDZ President Dr. Rudolf Thiemann explains the award being conferred on Schäuble.

The President-designate of the European Central Bank, Christine Lagarde, will hand the “Ehren-Victoria” over to Dr. Wolfgang Schäuble and give the laudatory speech at the Publishers’ Night in Berlin. Prior to her nomination by the EU leaders in July, she had managed the International Monetary Fund since 2011 as the first woman in the role of Managing Director. “We are extremely pleased to have been able to recruit Christine Lagarde for the laudatory speech. As a political mediator, she stands for communication, independence and proven crisis management and as an international personality she has great creative power,” says Dr. Rudolf Thiemann.

The choice of winners and speaker sets the standard for a united, liberal Europe. Dr. Wolfgang Schäuble and Christine Lagarde both equally represent an open society of liberal values.

In addition to the “Ehren-Victoria”, at the 2019 Publishers' Night the VDZ will also award the “Golden Victoria 2019 for the Freedom of the Press” to outstanding personalities, who have worked with great commitment to the freedom of the press and free reporting. In the ongoing process of digital change, magazine publishers act as an indispensable pillar to a free and democratic society. The Publishers' Night sets an example for this.

Other winners of the “Ehren-Victoria” in past years have included Helmut Kohl (2007), Henry Kissinger (2011), Shimon Peres (2013), Daniel Barenboim (2015), Hubert Burda (2016), Wolf Biermann (2017) and Angela Merkel (2018).

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About the VDZ:

The VDZ (Association of German Magazine Publishers Association) represents the interests of the German magazine industry. As an umbrella organisation, which is organised into three professional associations (trade press, denominational press, popular magazines) and five regional associations, it has around 450 member publishers who, with more than 7,000 magazine brands, represent around 80 percent of the German magazine market. As a service association, the VDZ provides publishers with a wide range of consulting, information and other services in all areas of the publishing business (advertisements, sales, digital media, legal issues, business, the environment and paper). As an economic association, it is committed at both a German and European level to the ensuring and consideration of the interests of publishers. And as an employers' association, on behalf of the national associations, it conducts collective bargaining negotiations for the publishers with the editors' trade unions. Furthermore, by means of the VDZ Academy, the VDZ makes a substantial contribution to education and further training in the media industry. Further information can be found online at: www.vdz.de www.publishers-summit.de www.pz-online.de www.deutsche-fachpresse.de www.vdz-akademie.de www.editorial.media www.presse-verkauf.de