

PRESS RELEASE

OF THE INTERNATIONALE MARTIN LUTHER STIFTUNG

Erfurt, 16.08.2022

Margrethe Vestager receives the LutherRose 2022

The Internationale Martin Luther Stiftung (IMLS) will award the LutherRose 2022 for social responsibility and entrepreneurial courage to the Danish EU Executive Vice-President and Commissioner for Competition on 11th November 2022 in Rotterdam, NL.

Margrethe Vestager will receive the LutherRose 2022 for social responsibility and entrepreneurial courage at the 15th Luther Conference. With Margrethe Vestager, the Internationale Martin Luther Stiftung honours a personality "...who embodied the Reformation's tradition of freedom and responsibility for the common good in an exemplary way with her life and professional work."

As Commissioner for Competition at the European Union, Margrethe Vestager has been campaigning for tax justice and fair market conditions since 2014 and takes analytically clear and courageous action against violations of free competition. In order to protect the interests of consumers, Vestager fights the economically damaging formation of cartels as well as the monopoly position of companies that endanger the market. She also does not shy away from confrontations with large, international technology firms.

Since 2019, Vestager has also been one of the executive EU Vice-Presidents and Commissioner for Digital Affairs. With the digital strategy "Europe Fit for the Digital Age", Vestager and the European Union want to bring data security and equality on the internet to the population and businesses, but also contribute to climate neutrality in Europe.

"I am very honoured to receive the LutherRose. As a politician I aim to create more fairness and trust in society. But what every politician knows is that when our decisions meet the real world, control slips right out of our hands. So it can be hard to know exactly what effect our actions will have. We have to trust in our values, and have the courage to act on them. Just like Luther did in Wittenberg in 1517" Margrethe Vestager said.

The laudation for the laureate will be held by her compatriot Bishop Peter Skov-Jakobsen. The Evangelical Lutheran clergyman has been Bishop of the Diocese of Copenhagen since 2009 and thus has the function of *primus inter pares* among the bishops of the Danish people's church.

The LutherConference and the awarding of the LutherRose 2022 will take place on Friday, 11th November 2022 from 3.00 p.m. in the Hoflaankerk in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

The Internationale Martin Luther Stiftung is registered in Eisenach with its offices at the Evangelisches Augustinerkloster (St Augustine's) in Erfurt, the state capital of Thuringia. The aims of the foundation are to develop the basic impulses of the Reformation into a topic-related and outcome-oriented dialogue between Church, business, academia and politics

and each year it awards a personality who exemplifies social responsibility to a particular degree.



Margrethe Vestager

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Vestager, born in 1968 in Glostrup, Denmark, studied economics in Copenhagen and obtained a Master of Science in 1993. She then worked for two years at the Danish Ministry of Finance and from 1995 to 1997 as the Danish State Finance Agency. During the same period (1993-1997), Vestager was party leader of the social liberal party Det Radikale Venstre, which her great-grandfather had founded.

In her capacity as Minister of Education (1998-2001), Vestager was also responsible for the Danish Ministry of Churches until 2000.

When Vestager was appointed Minister of Economic Affairs and the Interior in 2011, she held the posts of Danish Minister of Economic Affairs, Minister of the Interior and Deputy Head of Government at the same time as chairing the party Det Radikale Venstre. She stepped down from her political posts in Denmark in 2014 when she took office as Competition Commissioner in Brussels.

Vestager grew up in a vicarage as the eldest of four children of a pastoral couple.

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The **Internationale Martin Luther Stiftung** (IMLS) is a private foundation registered in Eisenach with its offices at the Evangelisches Augustinerkloster (St Augustine's) in Erfurt, the state capital of Thuringia.

The IMLS was founded on 10th November 2007 in Wittenberg. Its aims are to develop the basic impulses of the Reformation into a topic-related and outcome-oriented dialogue between Church, business, academia and politics, in order to contribute to the development of a responsible and efficient business and civil society. It supports people, groups, ideas and initiatives that promote Christian values and ethical business practices based on the Reforming tradition and that use their talents for the general good.

The **LutherRose** will be presented to the IMLS on 11th November 2022 as part of the 15th Luther Conference on the Future of Business and Society. The prize will be awarded for the fifteenth time this year. The previous prize winners are: Dr Heinz Horst Deichmann (2008), Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dr.- Ing. h. c. Hans Peter Keitel (2009), Gabriela Grillo (2010), Dr. Dirk Ippen (2011), Jon Baumhauer (2012), Dr. Peter Gauweiler (2013), Dietrich Pestalozzi, Switzerland (2014), Ulla Unseld-Berkéwicz (2015), Niels Due Jensen, Denmark (2016), Dr. Nicola Leibinger-Kammüller (2017), Kenneth Bengtsson, Sweden (2018), Dr Friedhelm Loh (2019), Tandeand Rustandy, Indonesia (2021). Most recently, Prof. Dr Wolfgang Huber was awarded the LutherRose 2021.



The prize itself is a quality reproduction based on a pane from the medieval stained glass windows (from about 1310) of St Augustine's church in Erfurt. Martin Luther lived as a monk at St Augustine's monastery in Erfurt from 17th July 1505 until autumn 1511. He would have had this window in front of him each time he prayed, which would have been at least seven times every day and was the inspiration for his coat-of-arms. It portrays a rose between two lions. On 8th July 1530 Martin Luther described this rose as "a sign of my theology" and provided it with an

impressive, meditative explanation. Henceforth he used it as his seal for documents. Since then the Luther-Rose has become one of the important symbols of international Evangelical-Lutheran Christianity

15th LutherConference & Awarding of the LutherRose 2022

Free trade and free will.

Erasmus, Luther and current economic challenges

Date

Friday, 11th November 2022

LutherConference: 3.00 p.m.

LutherRose award ceremony: 6.00 p.m.

Venue

Hoflaankerk

Oudedijk 2

3062 AE Rotterdam, Niederlande

Registration:

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Registration closes on 31st October 2022

You can receive more information about the awardee and programme from:

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