PRESS RELEASE

Dr. Wolfgang Schäuble announced as keynote speaker at the M100 Sanssouci Colloquium

Potsdam, 22 August 2019. Potsdam-based M100 Sanssouci Colloquium is pleased to announce Dr. Wolfgang Schäuble (President of the German Bundestag) as political keynote speaker for the upcoming M100 Media Award ceremony on 17 September 2019.

„From Pipedream to Reality – Democracy and the European Public Sphere“ is the title of this year’s M100 Sanssouci Colloquium, inviting international thought leaders from the realms of media, politics, and academia to discuss the future of the European public sphere.

Dr. Wolfgang Schäuble, a dedicated proponent of Europe, has been involved in numerous important European decisions over the course of almost 50 years in politics. He believes communication is a vital ingredient of political opinion-forming processes within democracies.

In order for Europe to move forwards, “we must ensure a common communication space and debate openly”, Schäuble said. “This cannot be achieved without a common European public sphere and a culture of listening. To this extent, the crises of recent years have also had a positive side effect: Europe has long ceased to be an issue guaranteed to turn readers off, to ‘kill’ circulation. Disputes over the euro, refugee policy, Brexit, the EU’s ‘crisis mode’ – all of these are issues which politicise people, polarise opinion and are relevant. Yet a European public sphere is, at best, in its infancy. So this is a major task for all of us – in politics, society and the media. The International Media conference in Potsdam provides an excellent platform for discourse on this task.”

Dr. Wolfgang Schäuble will be the political keynote speaker at the M100 Media Award ceremony for the third time. In 2007, he spoke as Federal Minister of the Interior at the award ceremony of Bob Geldof about the "Freedom and Responsibility of the Media in the Process of Migration and Integration". In 2012, as Federal Minister of Finance, he opened the award ceremony to ECB President Mario Draghi.

Launched in 2005, the M100 Media Award has been presented to personalities who have left their mark on Europe and the world and have provided outstanding service to strengthening democracy and freedom of the press as well as outstanding achievements in promoting European understanding and communication. Previous laureates include Lord Norman Foster, Dr. Bernard Kouchner, Bob Geldof, Ingrid Betancourt, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Kurt Westergaard, Charlie Hebdo, Roberto Saviano, Natalia Sindeeva and Deniz Yücel. This year’s laureate will be announced in due course.

The participants will be welcomed by the Minister President of Brandenburg Dr. Dietmar Woidke. The opening speech will be held by the award-winning US-American sociologist and globalization theorist Prof. Saskia Sassen. The welcoming speech for the ceremony of the M100 Media Award in the evening will be held by the Lord Mayor of Potsdam Mike Schubert.
About 60 editors-in-chief, academics and politicians will participate in the unique M100 roundtable discussions, including Sven Afhüppe (Editor-in-chief, Handelsblatt), Beata Balogova (Editor-in-chief, SME), Agnon Bajrami (Editor-in-chief, Koha Ditorë), Stephan-Andreas Casdorff (Publisher, Der Tagesspiegel), Nikos Chrysoloras (Bureau Chief in Brussels, Bloomberg News), Kai Diekmann (Founder, storymachine and DFG), Gergely Dudás (Editor-in-chief, Index.hu), Sven Gössmann (Editor-in-chief, dpa), Espen Egil Hansen (Editor-in-chief, Aftenposten), Tanit Koch (CEO, ntv), Martin Kotyniek (Editor-in-chief, Der Standard), Rasa Lukaityte-Vnarauskiene (Editor-in-chief, Delfi), Almut Möller (Head of ECFR Berlin), Mathias Müller von Blumencron (Editor-in-chief, Der Tagesspiegel), Catherine Nicholson (European Affairs Editor, France 24), Prof. Kalypso Nicolaïdis (University of Oxford), Natalie Nougayrède (Columnist, The Guardian), Dr. Bruno Patino (Director of TV, ARTE France TV), Dr. Julie Posetti (Senior Research Assistant, Reuters Institute), Dr. Christian Rainer (Editor-in-chief, profil), Dagmar Rosenfeld (Editor-in-chief, Die Welt), Eric Schérer (Director of Innovation and Future Media, France Televisions), Dr. Veselin Vačkov (Director, Lidové Noviny), Prof. Claes de Vreese (University of Amsterdam), Mary Wilkinson (Head of Editorial Board, BBC) and many more. Ali Aslan (TV Presenter and Journalist), Lisbeth Kirk (Founder, EU Observer), Annalisa Piras (CEO, The Wake Up Foundation) and Dr. Leonard Novy (Co-Director, ifM) will be moderating the three sessions.

M100 will also host the M100 Young European Journalists Workshop in the run-up to the conference and the award ceremony. 25 young journalists from Europe, the countries of the Eastern Partnership and Russia will be invited to Potsdam and Berlin for an intensive nine-day training on "Reading in the Digital Age - Innovative Journalism".

M100 is an initiative of Potsdam Media International e.V. and is mainly financed by the State Capital of Potsdam. Other supporters include the Federal Foreign Office, medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, Federal Press Office, Friedrich Naumann Foundation, National Endowment for Democracy and United Europe e.V.. Cooperation partners include the Stiftung Preußische Schlösser und Gärten, Reporters without Borders and the Verband Deutscher Zeitschriftenverleger (VDZ).

For more information, please visit our website: http://www.m100potsdam.org/en
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