



Court of Justice of the European Union

PRESS RELEASE No 56/15

Luxembourg, 13 May 2015

Press and Information

Award of the 50th Theodor Heuss prize to the Court of Justice of the European Union

The Court of Justice of the EU, with its president, Vassilios Skouris, welcomes the award of the 50th Theodor Heuss prize.

President Skouris, accompanied by members of the Court of Justice of the EU, will receive the prize from the German Theodor Heuss Foundation on Saturday 16 May 2015 in Stuttgart (Germany) before the German president, Joachim Gauck.¹

In this anniversary year, the theme of the prize, 'Europe: the future of hope', was chosen by the Theodor Heuss Foundation in the light of the considerable challenges faced by the EU and the concerns of many of its citizens regarding the activity of the European institutions.

The Theodor Heuss Foundation considers that hope lies, in particular, in strengthening European citizens' rights, which, by virtue of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, are binding on all European institutions. The Court of Justice of the EU is the guardian of these fundamental rights and the principles governing the rule of law. The Foundation considers that the Court enjoys a high degree of confidence and, through its case-law, reinforces fundamental rights in a globalised and digitised world, as can be seen in the judgments handed down in 2014 on the subjects of the right to be forgotten² and unjustified data storage.³

The Theodor Heuss Foundation consequently awarded the 50th Theodor Heuss Prize to the Court of Justice of the EU with its president, Vassilios Skouris, in recognition of its promotion of European citizens' rights as the guardian of legal unity and the rule of law in the EU.

The Theodor Heuss Foundation is politically independent and bears the name of the former president of the Federal Republic of Germany (1949–1959). It was founded in 1964, following his death, by Hildegard Hamm-Brücher, his son Ernst Ludwig Heuss, and a group of friends, in memory of the man and his political work, to recognise examples of social engagement, civic courage and actions to strengthen democracy. The Foundation thus intends 'to draw attention to something that needs to be accomplished and organised in our democracy which has not yet been achieved' (Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker, on the occasion of the award of the first Theodor Heuss prize in 1965). Since 1965, the Theodor Heuss prize has been awarded each year to persons or organisations that are clearly working towards this goal.

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¹ For further details of the event, see <http://www.theodor-heuss-stiftung.de/theodor-heuss-preis/>

² [C-131/12](#) *Google Spain and Google*, see also press release No [70/14](#).

³ [C-293/12](#) and [C-594/12](#) *Digital Rights Ireland and Seitlinger and Others*, see also press release No [54/14](#).