

PRESS RELEASE MARKING THE ANNUAL PRESS CONFERENCE OF THE FOUNDATION "REMEMBRANCE, RESPONSIBILITY AND FUTURE" 2009

FOUNDATION PROPOSES "INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP OF RESPONSIBILITY" FOR SURVIVING VICTIMS OF NATIONAL SOCIALISM

ECONOMIC CRISIS LEADS TO SEVEN PERCENT LOSS IN FOUNDATION CAPITAL– FUNDING VOLUME
FOR 2009 TOTALS EUR 6.3 MILLION

Berlin, 25 June 2009. – Improving the social situation of the victims is one of the priority themes of the Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future" (EVZ). In the countries of Eastern Europe and in Israel many of those affected live under frequently extremely difficult conditions. They are harder hit than other elderly persons by illness, traumas and isolation and need perceptible material, medical and social improvements. Addressing this matter in Berlin today, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Foundation, Dr. Martin Salm, declared, "The Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future" can promote model initiatives in Central and Eastern Europe and in Israel. A European partnership of responsibility is necessary to bring about sustained improvements in the social situation of the victims of National Socialism. The social systems of the countries in which the victims live today must be strengthened."

An international government "Holocaust Era Assets Conference" attended by 49 states and at the same time marking the end of the Czech EU Council Presidency is set to start in Prague on 26 June. The Foundation EVZ is contributing as co-organiser of a forum on improving the social situation of survivors with a view to mainstreaming this theme in European cooperation even beyond the conference.

In 2008 the Foundation EVZ supported 57 humanitarian projects in ten countries with funding worth EUR 2.9 million. This amount forms part of the total funding of EUR 9.1 million in the year 2008. Altogether the Foundation provided funding support for 333 projects in its three activity areas.

Furthermore, the Foundation aims to strengthen the fields of remembrance and education internationally. In the 70th year after the outbreak of WW II, the Foundation is working to keep remembrance of the victims of National Socialism alive, to promote a critical examination of history and to support initiatives that engage against human rights violations today. Consequently the Foundation's programmes also foster commitment against anti-Semitism, Antiziganism and racism. *"The critical examination of suppressed happenings in the past, the dealing and coming to terms with injustice are the prerequisites for reconciliation and restoring dignity to the victims. Those wishing to show that they have learned lessons from history must face up to challenges today, for instance discrimination of minorities or infringements of human rights",* stated Günter Saathoff, Member of the Board of Directors of the Foundation "Remembrance, Responsibility and Future".

At its meeting yesterday the Board of Trustees of the Foundation approved the annual financial statements for 2008. As a result of the crisis in the financial markets these showed a loss of value of seven percent in the Foundation's capital. The Chairman of the Board of Directors, Dr. Martin Salm, explained, *"Thanks to very conservative asset management last year's loss lies well below the average losses with which other foundations have to cope. However, the financial situation forces us to economise and to review our expenditures. We handle the capital entrusted to us by industry and the taxpayer – in other words by the whole of society in Germany – very carefully."* Funding totalling EUR 6.3 million is planned for 2009.

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