

PRESS RELEASE

Tribute to Otto Graf Lambsdorff for his achievements in compensating forced labourers

Berlin, 7.12.2009. “55 years after the end of the war and under great political and public pressure, Otto Graf Lambsdorff played a pre-eminent role as chief negotiator in reaching a compromise that secured legal peace for German enterprises and, above all, compensation for former forced labourers under National Socialism. And it was also thanks to his unstinting efforts that the Foundation ‘Remembrance, Responsibility and Future’ was created in 2000 in the negotiations that preceded this unique historic project,” said Dr Martin Salm, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Foundation EVZ on the death of Otto Graf Lambsdorff.

“We extend our condolences to Graf Lambsdorff’s family at this difficult time,” added Dr Salm in Berlin on Monday. “We commemorate Graf Lambsdorff and his work in establishing the Foundation ‘Remembrance, Responsibility and Future’.” As Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Graf Lambsdorff was committed to the objectives of the Foundation from its creation in 2000 until 2008.

The Foundation EVZ was established in 2000 after the conclusion of the international negotiations. This paved the way for the process of coming to terms with historical injustice and honouring the memory of victims, who had not received any material benefits up to that time. In 2001, the Foundation started making payments to former forced labourers and other victims of National Socialism. Up to 2007, a total of EUR 4.7 billion was disbursed to over 1.7 million people. A further result of the negotiations was the provision of long-term support for international projects that work to promote understanding and reconciliation.

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