Women of Europe Award – Germany
I am particularly pleased that this year, a few weeks before the European elections, the “Woman of Europe” award is going to a woman who has demonstrated great commitment over several decades – Katharina Wolf. She works in a region where Pegida first emerged, and where anti-European sentiment looms large. However, she has not let this intimidate her and has used her message to demonstrate that it is possible to be Saxon, German and European at the same time, and to do so with pride and conviction. She succeeded in creating the “Europe Union of Saxony”, thereby establishing a central location for pro-European forces in Saxony to come together. In her more than 30 years of commitment to Europe, Katharina Wolf has consistently managed to bring Europe to the local level, where it is sometimes barely visible and yet rooted in daily life. This pursuit of democracy at the local level is an inspirational example for the whole of Europe.

Richard N. Kühnel, representative of the European Commission in Germany

Europe’s future in sight – the winners of the “Women of Europe Awards”

Holders of the “Women of Europe Award” know what they want what they are fighting for. They build bridges, provide a human face for the concept of Europe and put equality into action. Daring and courageous, they never give up. They operate across borders.

They are justly honoured when the awards are presented. However, their network reaches far beyond the award ceremony – a summer meeting at the Bayreuth Festival, a music- and poetry-filled “Salon d’Automne”, the reinvigoration of the “Women of Europe Award” in different countries with local European movements – the commitment of the “Women of Europe” has an impact on Europe as a whole.

Curious? www.netzwerk-ebd.de/aktivitaeten/preis-frauen-europas

A big thank-you to everyone who makes this project possible.

Professor Gudrun Schmidt-Kärner, president of the Women of Europe Award

Sabine Overkämping, member of the EBD board of management

The “Women of Europe” network with the 2018 winner, Düzen Tekkal (4th from left) and Federal Minister Julia Klöckner, who paid tribute to her.
Woman of Europe 2019: Katharina Wolf

Explaining Europe and making it a tangible reality – that is probably the most important groundwork needed for European understanding. But this work is rarely in the spotlight; the many hours of voluntary work don’t often receive recognition. 2019’s Woman of Europe Katharina Wolf has been laying this groundwork for decades, quietly and always keeping her goal in mind. She focuses in particular on Saxony – a difficult setting for European politics. In 2014, when the authoritarian Pegida movement went on the march in Dresden (where she works), using its acronym to reclaim the word “Europe”, Katharina Wolf was incensed. “That’s not what patriotic Europeans look like!” was her response. This was the slogan on her placard at a counter-demonstration in the winter of 2014/2015.

But the official in the Saxon State Ministry for Economic Affairs, Labour and Transport did not stop there – together with her fellow campaigners, she founded the “Europa-Union Sachsen e.V.” (Europe Union of Saxony) in March 2015. She now chairs the newest State Association within Germany’s largest citizens’ movement for Europe.

That’s not what patriotic Europeans look like!”

Katharina Wolf’s work in this field dates back to 1988, when she joined the “Deutscher Juristinnenbund e.V.” (German Women Lawyers Association or DJB) and set up the first Kassel regional group. In later years she was also involved in establishing the DJB’s regional group in Dresden and the Saxony State Association. Her commitment to Europe was always closely linked with this – early on she was elected as the “Young Female Lawyers’” representative on the DJB’s federal board of management, and in 1994 she was nominated to the Association’s newly founded Commission for European Policy. In March 2000, Katharina Wolf was one of the founding members of the “European Women Lawyers’ Association”.

“Europe doesn’t just happen in Brussels. It happens anywhere where people are involved in actively shaping the idea of what Europe means,” says the lawyer, who works to promote Europe in a region where some areas still need someone to speak up for European integration and education about Europe.

The Women of Europe Award for 2019 goes to Katharina Wolf, for her use of civic methods in defence of European values.

www.europa-union-sachsen.de
What role does the former division of Europe play in the lives of the “children of German reunification” of 1989?

This is the question that has been bothering Adriana Lettrari since 2009. She founded the “Netzwerk 3te Generation Ostdeutschland” (Third Generation East Germany Network) to investigate how experiences of German reunification can represent an opportunity.

The communication and political scientist was born in 1979, in Neustrelitz, and grew up in Rostock. After spending her childhood behind the Iron Curtain and her youth in the reunified Germany, Lettrari, like her contemporaries in neighbouring eastern European states, was “socialised twice” – they learned two cultural languages and are able to bridge the gap between two worlds. They know that everything can change suddenly and are able to play their part in bringing about change – they have the ability to transform. The network engages in international dialogue on this and other topics.

With its memorandum entitled “Wir fangen einfach an” (“Let’s just get started”), the “Generation of German Unity” makes the case for a pluralistic attitude towards solving current, and also pan-European, issues about the future.

www.netzwerk.dritte-generation-ost.de

When the so-called Islamic State committed genocide against the Yazidis living in northern Iraq in 2014, Düzen Tekkal made a documentary film – “HÀWAR – Meine Reise in den Genozid” (“HÀWAR – My Journey into Genocide”) – in order to expose the atrocities. In 2016, the political scientist and war correspondent published a book entitled “Deutschland ist bedroht – Warum wir unsere Werte verteidigen müssen” (“Germany is under threat – why we must defend our values”). She founded the HÀWAR.help association and, working with the Ministry for Development, launched the “Back To Life” project, which provides women who were once imprisoned by IS with a path back into society.

“There’s no way to do it that doesn’t involve women,” says Düzen Tekkal. “I firmly believe that no society can develop in a positive way if it suppresses women’s potential.”

At the heart of integration is the ability to reconcile diversity. And this can only happen when different cultures, religions and people of many different backgrounds are able to talk, live and shape society together. These are Düzen Tekkal’s values – values that represent Europe’s diversity.

www.hawar.help

Düzen Tekkal
Hawar.help e.V.

Adriana Lettrari
Netzwerk 3te Generation Ostdeutschland
Daniela Topp-Burghardt
Ring Europäischer Frauen e.V.

“Europe is not just a continent. Europe is a vision.”

Bringing together women from all over Europe and using dialogue to foster a sense of community – this is the idea that has driven Daniela Topp-Burghardt, chairwoman of the “Ring Europäischer Frauen e.V.” (European Women’s Circle), for more than a decade. Topp-Burghardt, who has a degree in economics, explains her conviction: “An in-depth knowledge of what we have in common leads to a sense of shared identity; by recognising our differences we can develop understanding or learn from each other.”

She set up the not-for-profit association in Cologne in 2003. As well as organising a wide range of talks and roadshows, the association also runs annual trips to countries around Europe to meet others – open exchanges of views and ideas with local parliamentarians and representatives of women’s associations provide a forum in which to consider commonalities such as economic, cultural, educational and social systems.

There’s one thing in particular that links the women of Europe, something that the native Frankfurter encounters over and over again – the struggle for equal rights in politics, economics and society. “We owe it to the younger generations to improve this situation.”

www.r-e-f.eu

Linn Selle
Junge Europäische Föderalisten e.V.

Sparking young people’s interest in Europe

Charisma and a clever choice of political methods – Linn Selle’s involvement in the 2014 European election campaign demonstrated that these two things can move the masses, as the saying goes. When German broadcasters ARD and ZDF only wanted to let the European leading candidates (“Spitzenkandidaten”) debate on the niche channel Phoenix, Selle used an online petition to mobilise almost 30,000 supporters within a very short space of time, and ensured the issue gained attention throughout Germany.

The political science graduate was an active member of the “Junge Europäische Föderalisten e.V.” (Young European Federalists) federal board of management for many years, among other things serving as deputy federal chairwoman and federal secretary. The native Westphalian explains the reason behind her voluntary work: “We young people have a special connection with Europe – completely unlike even the generation before us. That’s why I want to take a stand and make my voice heard, so that one day we can live in a real European community.” Since last year she has been president of the European Movement Germany, and the youngest-ever holder of that office.

www.jef.de
10

The fight against silence about Chernobyl and for civil society in dictatorial Belarus

1986 – the year of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. In Belarus, it meant silence from the state and efforts to play down the impact. Professor of German studies Irina Gruschewaja was not willing to accept this and, together with her husband, set up the “Den Kindern von Tschernobyl” (For the Children of Chernobyl) initiative.

“Irina Gruschewaja
Den Kindern von Tschernobyl

“Irina Gruschewaja's sense of civic duty links many thousands of people in the east and west alike. Her life's work uniquely bridges the divide between people.”

www.bag-tschernobyl.net

www.anwaeltinnen-ohne-grenzen.de

Jasmina Prpić was born in Banja Luka, in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The lawyer and feminist came to Germany as a war refugee in 1992. One part of her career involved spending three years in Kosovo, working with potential witnesses to crimes of rape to enable them to come to the Hague Tribunal, and providing them with legal support. While there she realised how much women and women’s organisations need legal help – and how much human rights depend on enforcement by the courts.

In 2007, together with eleven female colleagues from Germany and a number of other countries, Jasmina Prpić LL.M. founded the “Anwältinnen ohne Grenzen e.V” association (Women Lawyers Without Borders). She has been its chairwoman ever since. The association is currently involved in setting up a network of local female lawyers in the countries its members come from, and uses legal means to fight for the promotion and enforcement of human rights for women, as well as for the abolition of all types of unequal treatment or discrimination, both at home and abroad. This is a cause that Jasmina Prpić has devoted more than half her life to, with persistence and creativity.

“Jasmina Prpić
Anwältinnen ohne Grenzen e.V.

“If human rights are to be enforced, the legal system must defend them.”

Jasmina Prpić

www.anwaeltinnen-ohne-grenzen.de

2011

2012
Necla Kelek
Social scientist and publicist

Integration and self-determination for Muslim women

In 21st century Europe, a Muslim woman’s freedom to determine for herself how she lives her life is still not something that can be taken for granted. Necla Kelek fights against the oppression of these women and pushes forward the conversation about cultural and political aspects of the integration of Muslim women and men in Germany and Europe, sometimes putting forward provocative demands.

Necla Kelek was born in 1957 in Istanbul and came to Germany at the age of ten. She studied economics and sociology at university, graduating with a thesis on Islam in daily life. Kelek won the Geschwister-Scholl prize for her 2005 bestseller, “Die fremde Braut” (“The Foreign Bride”). From 2005 to 2009 she was a permanent member of the German Islam Conference and sits on the senate of the “Deutsche Nationalstiftung” charity (German National Foundation).

Necla Kelek lives in Berlin, where she works as a freelance author.

Inge Bell
Journalist

The fight against human trafficking and abuse of defenceless women and girls in the Balkans

Look and act – this is Inge Bell’s motto. During her time as a foreign correspondent for broadcaster ARD, the Slavicist and historian of eastern Europe saw a great deal of suffering as she spent months travelling in (south-)eastern Europe, filming and carrying out research. It wasn’t enough for her just to report on it. For Inge Bell, the logical consequence was to start up humanitarian aid projects to eliminate social injustices. One such project offered protected accommodation, mental health support and vocational training to underage girls who had been forced into prostitution.

The media entrepreneur and human rights activist supports and oversees this and other aid projects, for example for disabled people, with a keen eye and unrivalled dedication. Today, as an expert, author, lecturer and public speaker, Inge Bell is just as devoted to fighting human rights abuses. In 2012, the German president Joachim Gauck awarded her the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

www.ingebell.de
Magdalena Baur †
europafels e.V.

She set up an extensive network linking educational institutions in various countries, in order to implement the idea of “learning from each other” at a practical level. This involves bringing people into direct contact with each other as part of international seminars and projects, providing teachers, and the people that train them, with ideas and help to make European co-operation in the field of education a reality.

The europafels association (European association for education, lifelong learning and studies) was founded at Magdalena Baur’s instigation and supports transnational initiatives aimed at developing schools.

www.europafels.eu

Gesine Schwan
Dialogue between Germany and Poland

“In trust, the foundation on which friendship between Germany and Poland is built, can only grow out of personal encounters between people.”

In keeping with this motto, professor Gesine Schwan has been working to establish and expand cultural exchanges and contact at the civil society level, primarily between young people in Germany and Poland, for more than 30 years.

Gesine Schwan was an early supporter of the “Solidarność” (Solidarity) trade union movement in Poland, has helped a wide range of German-Polish initiatives to establish contacts and structures and continues to support ongoing dialogue today. Her goal is to bring people together and make a difference.

Gesine Schwan was president of the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt an der Oder from 1999 until 2008. She was a co-founder of the Humboldt-Viadrina School of Governance and was its president from 2010 until 2014.

www.gesine-schwan.de
Maria del Rosario Hickmann
More than 25 years of voluntary work for German-Spanish cultural exchange

Dr. María Rosario Hickmann came to Kiel in 1976 when she got married, and since then she has been involved in cultural exchanges between Germany and Spain.

In 1977 she founded a women’s group to help Spanish “guest worker” families integrate. Then, in 1980, she set up language courses at the “Deutsch-Iberoamerikanischen Gesellschaft” (German-Ibero-American Society) which was subsequently at the heart of her masterpiece in 1991 – the “Institut für Spanische Sprache und Kultur” (Institute for Spanish Language and Culture”) in Kiel. The institute rapidly developed into a centre for German-Spanish communication. For Spaniards, it’s a “home away from home”; for Germans, it’s the ideal place to learn Spanish and experience Spanish culture. Alongside her work as a lecturer at Kiel University’s Institute of Romance Studies, she has also published the German-Spanish cultural journal “Solera” since 2002. In 1997 she was awarded the Spanish Order of Merit “Lazo de Dama de Isabel la Católica” for her outstanding commitment to voluntary work, and in 2000 she received the Medal of Merit from the Federal Republic of Germany.

www.solera-difusion.de

Regina Hellwig-Schmid
Visual artist/curator

As a way of thinking about war and peace, she organised the “pax danubiana – Flaschenpost für den Frieden” initiative (“pax danubiana – a message in a bottle for peace”), in which 1,856 artists in ten countries on the banks of the Danube entrusted a personal message of peace to the river on 23 September 2000.

In 2001 she set up the first International Danube Conference on Art and Culture in Regensburg, which was followed by further conferences in the Danube region. One example of her many projects was “donumenta”. Running from 2003 to 2012, it reached its peak with “14 x 14 Survey of the Danube Region. Positions in Contemporary Art”.

www.donumenta.de
www.regina-hellwig-schmid.de

Building bridges with art and culture

Since 1992, Regina Hellwig-Schmid has worked to promote international understanding in a unique way – using art and her skill at bringing people together. Acting as a catalyst and facilitator of ideas, she is the driving force behind international projects dealing with cultural, scientific and artistic co-operation in the Danube region.
Philomena Franz

Remembrance of the Holocaust

Appealing for humanity and tolerance among the younger generation

Philomena Franz comes from a Sinti family that has lived in Germany for centuries. In 1943 she was arrested and deported to the Auschwitz extermination camp. She has experienced hatred, humiliation, agony and fear. Many members of her family did not survive the Holocaust.

When we hate, we lose. When we love, we become rich.

Philomena Franz encourages her readers and listeners to face the unknown and learn to understand it. She fights for reconciliation and understanding, and in so many ways spreads the message that tolerance must come from the heart.

www.karo-ev.de

Since 1994, KARO has been working in the border region between Germany and the Czech Republic against forced prostitution, human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children. Ludmilla Irmscher and Cathrin Schauer-Kelpin provide vital assistance to affected children, young people and women. Alongside the provision of psycho-social and medical care, building relationships and establishing a trusted network of contacts on both sides of the border are at the heart of their work.

In 2004, what was once a social project became the not-for-profit association KARO e.V. In 2008, Ludmilla Irmscher stepped down. Cathrin Schauer-Kelpin continues to spread the word about the unthinkable, gives victims a voice and challenges people to take responsibility for their actions and their fellow human beings. She ventures into the most difficult terrain, where our society has only a limited number of solutions to offer.

Her message: “We survivors bear the scars. But my life has taught me one thing – When we hate, we lose. When we love, we become rich.”
Professor Dagmar Schipanski has been involved with many international bodies, such as the UNESCO World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology and the International Scientific Advisory Committee of the United Nations University in Tokyo.

Between 1999 and 2004, in her role as Thuringia’s Minister for Science, Research and the Arts, she helped Thuringian universities expand their various relationships with partner institutions in central and eastern Europe. From 2004 to 2009 she was the president of Thuringia’s state parliament. In this capacity she worked hard to promote relationships with partner parliaments throughout Europe. Between 2011 and 2013 Dagmar Schipanski was the principal of the European “Studienkolleg” in Berlin.

www.dagmar-schipanski.de

Professor Gudrun Schmidt-Kärner is concerned with promoting understanding of the different living situations and ways of thinking that can be found in western and eastern Europe.

She was behind the founding of the “Hanse-Büro” (Hanse Office) in 1992, and today’s “Schleswig-Holstein Informationsbüro” (Schleswig-Holstein Information Office). The association she founded (“Förderverein für Kaliningrad/Russland” or Kaliningrad/Russia Development Association) works with young people to promote voluntary work, solidarity and individual responsibility for shaping communities. This helps them to learn the importance of these fundamental European values in human interaction.

As well as mentoring former interns, who today are successful businesspeople, Gudrun Schmidt-Kärner also works to promote the integration of disadvantaged young people into society.

www.gsk-russlandpartner.de
Sister Lea Ackermann
SOLWODI e.V. – Solidarity with women in distress

In 1985, Sr. Lea Ackermann founded SOLWODI e.V. – an abbreviation for “Solidarity with women in distress” – in Mombasa, Kenya. Germany now also has 16 advice centres which provide seven safe apartments, as well as with psycho-social counselling and advice on legal matters and mentoring services. The assistance on offer is also available to women from other countries who have fallen victim to violence and exploitation, whether they have entered the country as migrant workers or through marriage, or as a result of forced prostitution and human trafficking.

The aim is to use education and training to help the women achieve financial independence and thereby open up new perspectives on life for them, or to use contacts with NGOs in the women’s countries of origin to support their future reintegration in that country, for those women who want it.

Solwodi is a human rights organisation whose clear goal is to achieve dignity for women within German society and in a united Europe. In 2014, Sr. Lea Ackermann was awarded the Augsburg Peace Prize for her work in this field.

www.solwodi.de

Sissy Thammer
“A stage where the world’s youth can rehearse”

Committed to international cultural exchange

Dr. h. c. Sissy Thammer has headed the Bayreuth Young Artists’ Festival since 1986 and has put into practice her vision of a broader understanding of the word “Europe” from the outset. For her, Europe is not “east” or “west”, Muslim, atheist, Jewish or Christian, but rather a system of values based on culture, art and music.

It is in this spirit that she creates a unique place for intercultural learning in Bayreuth every August – a place to experiment with new developments in the world of art, a place for active and committed peace-building.

The Bayreuth Young Artists’ Festival is a unique blend of many things – it is an arts event that offers a nurturing environment for young artists, provides training and social work, and promotes international understanding. All these things make it a cultural event that is European in its scale and reach, imbued with passion and a spirit of sustainability.

Sissy Thammer, international youth worker, arts manager and lecturer, is the holder of prestigious awards from the Federal Republic of Germany and the Free State of Bavaria.

www.vorsicht-Leidenschaft.de
Supporting traumatised women and girls in war zones and crisis areas

The news of mass rapes in the former Yugoslavia in 1993 led gynaecologist Dr. Monika Hauser to work with female doctors, psychologists and nurses in Bosnia to found Medica Zenica – a centre for medical and psychosocial therapy for women traumatised by war in the Bosnian city of Zenica.

Her work in this field expanded to include the foundation of further projects in Kosovo, Albania, Liberia and Afghanistan. As well as providing medical care, medica mondiale helps to give traumatised women a new perspective on life again, through psychosocial support, legal advice and also political human rights work.

medica mondiale operates internationally and is part of a transnational network opposing violence against women. In 2008, Monika Hauser received the Alternative Nobel Prize for her work.

www.medicamondiale.org

Christine Grotensohn
AKIK – Aktionskomitee Kind im Krankenhaus

AKIK represents the rights of children and their parents before, during and after hospital treatment for children and young people.

As the mother of one such child, Christine Grotensohn was involved with the “Aktionskomitee Kind im Krankenhaus” (Action Committee for Children in Hospital, or AKIK) from 1977 onwards, and made it her goal to see the introduction of unrestricted visiting hours and free accommodation for one parent in hospitals. She also supported the integration of parents into daily hospital life.

She played a major part in the “Charta für Kinder im Krankenhaus” (Charter for Children in Hospital) that was drafted during the first European Conference of AKIK Initiatives in 1988, and today enjoys support throughout Europe from professional associations, paediatricians and the World Health Organisation.

In 1993, Christine Grotensohn played a decisive role in the establishment of the European Association for Children in Hospital (EACH), which works to implement the rights of hospitalised children in Europe.

www.akik.de

www.medicamondiale.org
Susanne Tiemann was also president of the “Bund der Steuerzahler” (German Taxpayers’ Association) and president of the European Secretariat for the Liberal Professions (SE-PLIS) in Brussels. She was a professor of management science at the Catholic University of Applied Sciences in North Rhine-Westphalia and an honorary professor of social law at the University of Bonn. From 1994 to 2002 she was a member of the Bundestag, the lower house of the German parliament.

Susanne Tiemann
Promoting the interests of freelance professionals at the European level

Professor Susanne Tiemann is concerned with giving a broad range of professionals an understanding of what European unification means and the opportunities it brings.

Between 1987 and 1994 she represented the “Bundesverband der Freien Berufe” (German Association of Liberal Professionals) on the European Union’s Economic and Social Committee. She was president of that committee from 1992 to 1994. Working on a voluntary basis, she developed, among other things, a “Europäische Charta der Freiberuflichkeit” (European Charter for Liberal Professionals).

Supporters of the Catholic University of Lublin), she has been promoting German-Polish dialogue since 1987, through exchange programmes between German and Polish universities. With the “Verein für deutsch-polnische Managerfortbildung” (Association for German-Polish Manager Training) she has demonstrated her commitment to economic co-operation between Germany and Poland since 1990.

Since 1983, Princess zu Sayn-Wittgenstein has also been involved in the social sector as co-founder and chairwoman of the “Malteser-Johanniter-Johanneshaus” (Maltese Knights of St. John of Jerusalem Care Centre), which runs a group of long-term homes for people suffering from mental illness.

A commitment to German-Polish understanding

Recognising that education and training are key starting points for the integration of Poland into Europe, Irina, Princess zu Sayn-Wittgenstein, supports initiatives in the field of student exchange programmes, training and further education.

As chairwoman of the “Verein der Freunde und Förderer der Katholischen Universität Lublin e.V.” (Association of Friends and Supporters of the Catholic University of Lublin), she has been promoting German-Polish dialogue since 1987, through exchange programmes between German and Polish universities. With the “Verein für deutsch-polnische Managerfortbildung” (Association for German-Polish Manager Training) she has demonstrated her commitment to economic co-operation between Germany and Poland since 1990.

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Irina, Princess zu Sayn-Wittgenstein
For Poland’s integration into Europe
Gundi Gompf †
Kinder lernen europäische Sprachen e.V.

A contribution to international understanding and the unification of Europe

From 1969 onwards, Professor Gundi Gomp was scientific adviser to the “Englisch ab 3. Grundschuljahr” (“English from the 3rd year of primary education”) pilot project in Hesse. In 1970, Hesse’s then education minister charged her with developing new university courses that dealt with foreign language learning in primary schools. She was appointed professor of English Language Teaching and Literature at the University of Frankfurt am Main in 1976, a position which she held until her retirement in 2005.

In 1989 Gundi Gompf founded the not-for-profit association “Kinder lernen europäische Sprachen e.V” (Children Learn European Languages”, in order to bring about reform of foreign language teaching in terms of education policy. She believed that moving the point at which foreign languages are first taught into primary schools was of the utmost importance in order to give children better professional opportunities and achieve better understanding within European business. Gundi Gompf died in the autumn of 2013.

www.kles.org

Csilla Freifrau von Boeselager †
Founder of the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta

Through the Charity Service of the Order of Malta, Csilla Freifrau von Boeselager organised the transport of relief from Germany to Hungary, providing particular assistance to hospitals, retirement homes and homes for disabled people.

In 1989, shortly before German reunification, she used the organisation she founded to implement a dramatic relief operation – she took in thousands of GDR citizens, in a hastily organised camp in Budapest.

In 1989, shortly before German reunification, Csilla Freifrau von Boeselager organised the transport of relief from Germany to Hungary, providing particular assistance to hospitals, retirement homes and homes for disabled people.

Up until her untimely death in 1994, Csilla Freifrau von Boeselager, holder of the European Human Rights Prize, helped to promote international understanding through her involvement in numerous cross-border humanitarian initiatives, with the help of more than 9,000 volunteers.
Strong women for a united Europe – since 1991, the European Movement Germany (EBD) has been conferring the “Women of Europe Award” on women who make a special commitment to the further integration of Europe, and have shown courage, creativity and persistence in their voluntary work.

The winner is selected each year by a panel made up of the award’s president, two members of EBD’s board of management, two former holders of the award and representatives – both female and male – of the EBD’s member organisations. The EBD appeals to its member organisations and partners to publicise the call for entries for the “Women of Europe Award” within their networks and submit their own nominations.

The president of “Women of Europe” is professor Gudrun Schmidt-Kärner; her deputies are Sissy Thammer, the 1997 winner, and Adriana Lettrari, who received the award in 2016.

On 28 November 2018, in conjunction with the European Women’s Lobby (EWL), the European Movement International (EMI) organised its “Women of Europe Awards” for the third time in a row, recognising the achievements of women in four categories. EU Commissioner Marianne Thyssen received the “Woman in Power” award for her political leadership in the field of social justice in Europe. Awards also went to the women behind the “Together for Yes” campaign in Ireland, which in 2018 secured the liberalisation of abortion law. Axelle Lemaire, France’s former Minister for Digital Affairs, who currently works for Roland Berger, received the “Woman in Business” award for her efforts as a businesswoman to push forward the digital transformation in France and Europe. Sigrid Friis Proschowski, who works to improve young people’s understanding of the EU in Denmark, received the “Woman in Youth Activism” award. This year the seven-person panel was headed by EMI president and MEP Eva Maydell.

www.europeanmovement.eu/women-of-europe/
You can contact the Women of Europe Award’s network of award winners, candidates and supporters by email at: frauen-europas@netzwerk-ebd.de

Further information can be found at: www.netzwerk-ebd.de/aktivitaeten/preis-frauen-europas