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Press Office
Press Release

Chemnitz, 16th June 2016

International Stefan Heym Prize: Award Committee will be able to sponsor additional projects and initiatives in future

City Council approves amendment of its statute

At a meeting yesterday, the City Council approved an amendment of the statutes of the City of Chemnitz relating to the award of the International Stefan Heym Prize. In future, the winner of the City of Chemnitz International Stefan Heym Prize will receive a prize of 20,000 euros. A further 20,000 euros will be awarded in the form of grants to school and university-level projects and initiatives with a particular focus on research on the life and work of Stefan Heym, and on keeping his legacy alive.

Experience with the first three prizes awarded has demonstrated that, in addition to an international literary award to recognise writers and journalists with the courage to criticise our times, initiatives, research and school and university-level projects are also worthy of funding and support.

In future, the winner of the City of Chemnitz International Stefan Heym Prize will receive an award certificate and prize money of 20,000 euros. A further 20,000 euros will be awarded to projects, initiatives, and research proposals and projects.

As previously, an award committee will decide on the recipient of the International Stefan Heym Prize. The same committee will decide which projects or initiatives to support. The committee patron is Inge Heym, and from now on, the committee will comprise nine members with equal voting rights. Ex officio members of the committee include the Mayor of the City of Chemnitz, the President of the German PEN Centre, the President of the Goethe-Institut, the Director of the publishing house C. Bertelsmann Verlag and the Chair of the German Section of the

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International Society for Human Rights (ISHR). Two members of the City of Chemnitz Culture Committee also form part of the committee. To extend cooperation with the International Stefan Heym Society and the Philosophy Faculty at Chemnitz University of Technology, the Chair of the International Stefan Heym Society and Professor Bernadette Malinowski from Chemnitz University of Technology will also be represented on the committee from now on.

The City of Chemnitz International Stefan Heym Prize is awarded in remembrance of the son and honorary citizen of the city to individuals with the courage to criticise our times and who like Stefan Heym have produced outstanding literary and/or journalistic works that will stand the test of time. Previous prizewinners are Amos Oz (2008), Bora Ćosić (2011) and Christoph Hein (2013).