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Press Office

Press Release

Chemnitz, 18th October 2016

## **City of Chemnitz awards Stefan Heym Sponsorships**

### **Additional funding of 20,000 euros for projects and initiatives**

As part of the City of Chemnitz International Stefan Heym Prize, Mayor Barbara Ludwig is awarding Stefan Heym Sponsorships for the first time. The sponsorships have a total value of 20,000 euros and are awarded in the form of grants alongside the International Stefan Heym Prize to fund 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. The City of Chemnitz's aim is to introduce Stefan Heym's work to future generations and simultaneously to further increase the impact and significance of the prize.

Mayor Barbara Ludwig: "In his works, Stefan Heym engaged in social and political debate. He fought for, and represented, moral values. We want to encourage young people to get to know Stefan Heym and his work. This is why we will also support initiatives, research and projects in future. I warmly invite all school pupils, undergraduates and graduate students to apply for a Stefan Heym Sponsorship. We are particularly keen to encourage young people to connect with Stefan Heym's life as he was a young man himself when he took his first literary steps."

The sponsorships have been made possible by an amendment to the statutes relating to the award of the International Stefan Heym Prize, as approved by Chemnitz City Council in June of this year.

Applications are open to individuals, initiatives, institutions, public and private bodies and associations. Successful projects will have until the time the next Stefan Heym Prize is awarded to come to fruition – around three years. Applicants for sponsorship must submit a description of the project to be supported (max. two A4 sides) and a statement of costs. The application form is available to download from:

[www.stefan-heyms-preis.de](http://www.stefan-heyms-preis.de)

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The deadline for applications is 31st January 2017.

Sponsorship recipients will be decided by the International Stefan Heym Prize Award Committee. The committee patron is Inge Heym, and from now on, the committee will comprise nine members with equal voting rights:

- the Mayor of the City of Chemnitz
- the President of the German PEN Centre
- the President of the Goethe-Institut
- the Director of the C. Bertelsmann publishing group
- the Chair of the German Section of the International Society for Human Rights (ISHR)
- two members of the City of Chemnitz Culture Committee
- the Chair of the International Stefan Heym Society and
- Professor Bernadette Malinowski, Professor of Modern German Literature and Comparative Literature at Chemnitz University of Technology

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). In April 2017, the International Stefan Heym Prize will be awarded to the Polish writer and commentator Joanna Bator.

(More on this topic in Press Release 599).