

Press Release

**Robert Menasse wins the German Book Prize 2017 for his novel
“Die Hauptstadt” (“The Capital”)**

The Börsenverein honours the best German-language novel of the year / Award ceremony held before 300 guests at the Frankfurt Römer

The winner of the German Book Prize 2017 is Robert Menasse for his novel “Die Hauptstadt” (Suhrkamp).

Statement from the jury:

“The humane is always worth striving for; it is never reliably given: With his novel 'Die Hauptstadt', Robert Menasse vividly shows that this also applies to the European Union. With great dramaturgical skill, he light-handedly digs into the deepest layers of this world we call our own – making unmistakably clear that, among other things, the economy alone will not be able to guarantee us a peaceful future. Those who are undermining the peace project that is Europe are among us – not infrequently, 'the others' are we ourselves. With 'Die Hauptstadt', Robert Menasse has achieved the goal he set for himself: In the novel, contemporaneity is realised with such literary ability that contemporaries will recognise themselves in it and those born later will be better able to understand these times.”

The members of the jury for the German Book Prize 2017 are: Silke Behl (Radio Bremen), Mara Delius (*Die Welt*), Christian Dunker (autorenbuchhandlung berlin), Katja Gasser (Österreichischer Rundfunk), Maria Gazzetti (Casa di Goethe, Rome), Tobias Lehmkuhl (independent critic, Berlin) and Lothar Schröder (*Rheinische Post*).

“In today’s times, how can we reach people with books? By bringing literature into the conversation through a wide variety of channels. The fundamental idea behind the German Book Prize is to encourage discussions about literature, to spur debate and conversations. For 13 years, the award has successfully been shining a spotlight on contemporary novels”, said Heinrich Riethmüller, Chairman of the Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels (German Publishers and Booksellers Association) at the award ceremony today.

The other novels that were nominated for the award are: Gerhard Falkner (“Romeo oder Julia”, Berlin Verlag), Franzobel (“Das Floß der Medusa”, Paul Zsolnay), Thomas Lehr (“Schlafende Sonne”, Carl Hanser), Marion Poschmann (“Die Kieferinseln”, Suhrkamp) and Sasha Marianna Salzmann (“Außer sich”, Suhrkamp).

Robert Menasse will receive 25,000 euros in prize winnings; the five finalists will receive 2,500 euros each. The winner was determined in several stages. The seven members of the jury reviewed a total of 200 titles published between October 2016 and 12 September 2017. A longlist was compiled of 20 of these novels, from which the jurors then selected six titles for the shortlist.

The Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels Stiftung (the foundation of the German Publishers and Booksellers Association) is awarding the German Book Prize 2017 to the best German-language novel of the year to coincide with the start of the Frankfurter Buchmesse. The German Book Prize is financially supported by the Deutsche Bank Foundation. Other partners are the Frankfurter Buchmesse and the city of Frankfurt am Main. The television network Deutsche Welle supports the German Book Prize in its media activities both at home and abroad.

On www.deutscher-buchpreis-blog.de, the “Book Prize Bloggers” present reviews of all the longlisted titles, as well as background information and contributions for critical debate. More information is available on the Facebook page of the German Book Prize and under the hashtag **#dbp17**.

Exclusive English translations of excerpts from the six shortlisted titles along with an English-language dossier are available at www.new-books-in-german.com.

Further information, including the dates and times of the winner’s appearances at the Frankfurter Buchmesse, can be found at www.deutscher-buchpreis.de.

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Contacts for the media:

Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels e.V.

Thomas Koch, Director of Press and Public Relations

Tel. +49 (0) 69 1306-293, e-mail: t.koch@boev.de

Cathrin Mund, PR Manager

Tel. +49 (0) 69 1306-292, e-mail: mund@boev.de