



Ansprache von Dr. Heiner Köster  
an die Eugen-Biser-Preisträger  
am 22. November 2008  
bei der Übergabe der Preisurkunden

*(Es gilt das gesprochene Wort.)*

Distinguished Recipients of the Eugen Biser Prize,

Your Excellency Dr. Cerić,

Your Excellency Mr. Ayyoub,

Ambassador of the Kingdom of Jordan,

in representation of

His Royal Highness Prinz Ghazi bin Muhammad bin Talal,

and

Your Excellency Shaykh Al Quassimi,

in representation of

His Excellency Shaykh Habib Ali Al-Jifri.

Sehr verehrter Herr Bundesminister Dr. Schäuble,

Hohe Festversammlung,

His Royal Highness Prinz Ghazi and His Excellency Shaykh Habib Ali Al-Jifri had unfortunately to cancel their flight from Amman to Munich on Friday evening because they had been informed by the Munich Airport, that snow storms are expected in Munich for Saturday morning which would cause long landing delays.

His Excellency Dr. Mustafa Cerić will kindly include in his address the speech we have already received from His Royal Highness Prinz Ghazi on the theological motives and expectations of the Common Word. He will also add the Thank-You-Note by His Excellency Shaykh Habib Ali Al-Jifri.

Professor Biser has asked me to give you his heartfelt greetings and he conveys his cordial blessings on all of us. He regrets deeply that the state of his health prevents him from taking part in this ceremony. He had hoped to be able to award the Prize in person. He is following the ceremony live on television, with great interest and sympathy. Let us send him our very best wishes for a successful recovery.

# EUGEN – BISER – STIFTUNG

Dialog aus christlichem Ursprung



On behalf of the Eugen Biser Foundation it is an honour and a great joy to confer the Eugen-Biser-Prize on

His Royal Highness Prinz Ghazi bin Muhammad bin Talal,

His Excellency Shaykh Al Habib Al-Jifri

and on

Your Excellency Dr. Mustafa Cerić.

I remember Prinz Ghazi's first recommendation that the Eugen Biser Foundation should honour all 138 original signatories with the Prize. The effectiveness of the commitments expressed in the Open Letter required their continuing support and goodwill as well as the dedicated cooperation of all the others from countries across the world who have signed since October 2007 or will later add their signatures.

At our request His Royal Highness has kindly agreed to a representative, highly distinguished Triumvirate of signatories accepting the Eugen Biser Prize. The three Recipients of the Prize are essential contributors to the important invitation to dialogue offered by the Open Letter. This invitation includes the obligation on all those in authority, whether Muslim, Christian or Jew, to assist in creating the conditions under which we all can live together in peace, mutual respect and with equal human rights.

Please let me read out the wording of the Prize Document, which has been drawn up in both Arabic and in German.

With your permission I shall read it in English:

“In recognition of his decisive contribution to the Open Letter to the Christian Churches of October 13, 2007 entitled “A Common Word between Us and You” and in recognition of his promotion of Muslim-Christian dialogue and his consequent blessed endeavours towards peace among the nations, the Eugen Biser Price is conferred upon

Your Royal Highness, Prinz Ghazi bin Muhammad bin Talal,

Your Excellency, Shaykh Al Habib Al-Jifri,

Your Excellency, Dr. Mustafa Cerić.”

Congratulations.

Thank you very much.