



EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

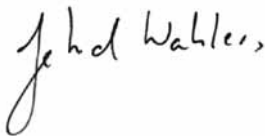
The founding of the Institute for International Solidarity in July 1962 marked the beginning of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung's international activities. This year therefore we are celebrating "50 Years of Democracy Worldwide". This is why the July edition of the International Reports is a little different. We have produced a commemorative issue in which we take the unusual step of reflecting on our own work and achievements.

The work of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung began in Latin America, driven forward by the personal commitment of Konrad Adenauer himself. In this anniversary edition, Peter Molt, co-founder and first head of the Institute for International Solidarity, tells us about the early days and the political considerations that formed the basis of the Stiftung's work. In 1961, it was he who made contact with August Vanistendael, General Secretary of the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions. Together, Molt and Vanistendael campaigned for the Stiftung to begin working in developing countries. In the beginning, it was a question of opposing the influence of the communist trade unions and standing up for a democratic future for Latin America. Contacts were made with Christian trade unions, and in 1963 the first KAS Resident Representatives travelled to Venezuela and Chile. They sought contact with democratic organisations and engaged in the provision of political education.

In 1964, the first KAS offices in Africa opened their doors in Cameroon and Tanzania. In the same year, foundations were laid for future activities in Asia with the opening of an office in the Philippines. By 1970, the KAS had 60 Resident Representatives in 14 countries in the Latin America/Caribbean region, with additional representation in 6 countries in Africa and a further 6 in Asia.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the international work of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung under Lothar Kraft and Josef Thesing focused on consolidating and expanding its main areas of interest. New offices opened up in Europe which championed the cause of European integration, as advocated by Adenauer, Schumann and de Gasperi, and worked to strengthen transatlantic relations. Toward the end of the 1980s, when the East-West conflict came to its happy conclusion and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe faced massive political, social, and economic upheaval, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung resolutely pursued this path. In this issue, the Stiftung's former Chairman, Bernhard Vogel, who is today Honorary Chairman, describes how this direction was set and the concrete steps taken to promote European integration.

Adding to the many challenges faced by Europe during this process of transformation was the increasing significance of globalisation. The Stiftung's international activities became even more complex, with new actors striding the international political stage and ambitious emerging nations changing the global balance of power. In the face of these changes, the Stiftung realised that it was no longer enough to simply pass on knowledge based on its own experience. Today it is of critical importance to find partners who share our basic convictions in order to achieve lasting solutions to global challenges on the basis of a common value system. Today we have more than 80 offices around the globe. We work tirelessly to make a lasting contribution to peace, freedom and democracy – a contribution that is always based on creating a partnership of equals.



Dr. Gerhard Wahlers
Deputy Secretary General

gerhard.wahlers@kas.de