

DEAR READER,



Continuity and sustained engagement are essential preconditions for long-term political success. This applies especially in an institution like the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, which is actively involved in a broad spectrum of issues. The emphasis within each of the key points may shift when new challenges call for new priorities. But the slogan "Mission: Democracy", which the foundation is committed to – with its focus on the Christian idea of humankind and its attendant values – remains at the centre of all its activities, regardless of the current flash-points in world affairs.

This annual report, which takes stock of the events and efforts of 2009, while looking ahead to the challenges of 2010, underscores once again the broad range of projects the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung takes on to fulfil its mission of spreading democracy worldwide. We need to have done our homework in Germany if we want our efforts and solutions to succeed abroad. The Social Market Economy, with its twin approach combining economic sense with social justice, has clearly gained in international stature because of the global financial and economic crisis – in part since Germany has received high marks for dealing with the crisis. Another example is "networked security". That approach can only be a credible part of the foundation's agenda if Germany faces up to its international obligations whenever it can. Escapism is simply not an option in this age of globalisation.

People also play a big part in shaping continuity and long-term engagement. So when the chairmanship of a political foundation changes after many years, as it did at the KAS general assembly in December 2009, it marks a turning point. But the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung can confidently face the challenges ahead, thanks in no small part to Anton Pfeifer. For twenty years, even in difficult times, the deputy chairman helped ensure that the foundation remained on course. We owe him a debt of gratitude for his tireless efforts. Anton Pfeifer decided not to run again as one of the foundation's three deputy chairs, but he will remain a member of the board.

Professor Johanna Wanka has filled his position. In addition, Professor Beate Neuss and the president of the German Bundestag, Professor Norbert Lammert, were confirmed in their positions.

Now in its 56th year of existence, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung is as good as the sum of its parts. Our work in more than 100 countries around the world would simply not be possible without the foundation's 550 staff at home and abroad, along with its many local staff. They have all contributed to the foundation's ongoing success, with project results that speak for themselves. This annual report showcases their political expertise and reflects our confidence in our worldwide commitment to freedom and democracy.

Sankt Augustin/Berlin,
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Hans-Gert Pöttering


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