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**Sixth International Convention of Environmental Laureates:  
From 9–12 March 2017, Freiburg will be the venue for the  
world’s leading environmental experts**

### **Theme: “Environmental Policy in a Politically Changing World”**

**Opening speech by former President of Germany Horst  
Köhler**

**Participation of Bangladesh’s Deputy Minister of  
Environment Abdullah Al Islam Jakob**

**Participation of actress and B.A.U.M. laureate Marie-Luise  
Marjan**

From 9–12 March, Freiburg is once again playing host to environmental and climate experts from around the world. Under the patronage of Klaus Töpfer, the European Environment Foundation (EEF) invited the winners of the most renowned international environmental awards to the sixth International Convention of Environmental Laureates in Freiburg.

Among the 100 environmental laureates from more than 40 nations are dedicated animal rights activists, civil rights activists, energy experts and scientists. The main theme of this year's event “Environmental Policy in a Politically Changing World” focuses on the persecution of environmental activists and award winners around the world. Special highlights are the public speeches by former President of Germany **Horst Köhler** as well as by **Felix Finkbeiner**, founder of the “Plant-for-the-Planet” initiative and **Tristram Stuart**, international award-winning author and expert on “food waste”.

The numerous environmental laureates returning to the event after having taken part in previous years as well as the many activists attending it for the first time are a testament to the increasing significance of the Convention of Environmental

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Laureates. The participants also include representatives of science, business and politics.

The European Environment Foundation is especially pleased to announce the participation of Bangladesh's Deputy Minister of Environment **Abdullah Al Islam Jakob**, who travelled to the convention on such short notice. Abdullah Al Islam Jakob has already participated in the United Nation's General Conference, the UN RIO-20 Conference and the International Conference on Climate as a representative of the Government of Bangladesh. He is committed to social, cultural and development-related areas.

The participation of **Marie-Luise Marjan** shows the range of this year's participants. Marie-Luise Marjan, who is mainly known for her role as "Helga Beimer" in the television series Lindenstraße, is participating for the first time in the environmental convention. Among other awards, the benefactress received the Great Cross of Merit and the B.A.U.M. Environmental Award for her social and sustainable commitment.

**Germany's former President Horst Köhler** is opening this year's environmental convention with a speech on the sustainable use of resources and the necessary transformation of society and the economy – "Countering the narrative of decline: The great transformation as a global story of hope" – on 9 March at 6:00 pm at the Historisches Kaufhaus in Freiburg. In addition, Freiburg's Mayor **Dieter Salomon** and the chairman of the European Environment Foundation **Eicke R. Weber** will present speeches as well. The opening ceremony is open to the public (Tickets: 8 € / reduced: 5 €).

The second day of the Convention is dedicated to the **transfer of knowledge and networking**, as the environmental laureates are given the opportunity to present their projects and attend workshops. Under the guidance of Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker, Rainer Grießhammer, Sigrid Jannsen and Peter W. Heller, 22

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environmental laureates will present their projects throughout the day. In addition, there will be workshops on the following topics:

- Social Media for small budgets
- GM-free, sustainable and local soybean production
- “Cradle to Cradle” concept towards a waste-free economy
- Strategies of the global divestment movement, which requires the deduction of investments in fossil fuel companies and, if possible, the reinvestment in sustainable investments.

Following the workshops, the participants of the convention will discuss and adopt a resolution – “Call to end repression”. This resolution is addressed to the governments around the globe to end the political persecution of environmental activists worldwide.

In the evening of 10 March, a further public event with Tristram Stuart and Felix Finkbeiner will take place at the Konzerthaus Freiburg: **Tristram Stuart** will present the ecological and social impacts of food waste in his speech “**The cost of food waste**”. Tristram Stuart is an international award-winning author, speaker and expert on “food waste”. In December 2009, he launched the food waste campaign “Feeding the 5000” at Trafalgar Square in London, in which 5,000 people were served free food, that would otherwise have been wasted, to raise awareness to reducing food waste. Meanwhile the event model has been replicated in several countries.

Another successful environmental project is the children’s and youth initiative “Plant-for-the-Planet”, which was founded in 2007 by the then nine-year-old student **Felix Finkbeiner**. In his speech “**Planting one trillion trees – Why we need a trillion more trees**”, he presents his foundation which follows the objective of raising awareness among children and adults towards global justice and climate change and actively fights the latter through tree planting campaigns. The two speeches are in English, will take place at the Konzerthaus Freiburg on Friday 10 March at 8:00pm and are open to the public (Tickets: 8 € / reduced: 5 €).

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During the **“Young Talents Day”** on 11 March, students from 15 schools of the Freiburg Regional Council as well as students from the University of Freiburg’s Faculty of Environment and Natural Resources and the UWC Robert Bosch College have the opportunity to meet the international environmental laureates. Round table discussions enable the participants to talk about the latest environmental policy issues and topics.

At the Laureates Dinner in the Restaurant “Feinhaid” on the M10 Solar Campus in Freiburg, **Moritz Schulz** and **Michael Sladek** present the trailer of their film **“Roadside Radiation”** on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of Fukushima’s nuclear disaster. In their documentary, the two film makers report about everyday life after the Chernobyl disaster. The film will soon be shown in cinemas in Germany.

## **AT A GLANCE**

### **Overview of public events:**

Opening Ceremony of the “6th International Convention of Environmental Laureates”

Speech by former President of Germany Horst Köhler (in English)

Date: Thursday, 9 March 2017, 6:00pm

Location: Historisches Kaufhaus

Tickets: 8 € / reduced: 5 €

Speeches by Felix Finkbeiner and Tristram Stuart (in English)

Date: Friday, 10 March 2017, 08:00pm

Location: Konzerthaus Freiburg

Tickets: 8 € / reduced: 5 €

Tickets are available at [www.reservix.de](http://www.reservix.de) and at all ticket agencies, such as the BZ-Kartenservice and Tourist-Information Freiburg, as well as at the box office.

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## **About The European Environment Foundation (EEF):**

Founded in 2011, the European Environment Foundation aims to give new impetus to environmental and climate policy. It has set itself the objective of promoting communication and expert discussions between members of society and those involved in politics, research and industry worldwide and across all disciplines.

The **Foundation's Board of Trustees** comprises 17 distinguished figures from the field of environmental and climate protection:

Manuel Collares-Pereira	Jeremy Leggett
Amalio de Marichalar	Antonio Luque
Monika Griefahn	Giovanna Melandri
Rainer Grießhammer	Marcello Palazzi
Peter W. Heller	Dieter Salomon
Sigrid Janssen	Virginia Sonntag-O'Brien
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	Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker

Eicke R. Weber is the chairman of the Board of Trustees. Founders and directors of the foundation are Bernd Dallmann and Rolf Hiller. For more information, visit [www.european-environment-foundation.eu](http://www.european-environment-foundation.eu).

## **EnviroNetwork.eu:**



The project is funded by the DBU (German Federal Environmental Foundation) and provides digital networking to environmental laureates, companies, NGOs, environmental activists, students and to the media and press. Those interested can get information on the website or create profiles and projects

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themselves. For more information, visit [www.environetwork.eu](http://www.environetwork.eu).

## **Previous International Conventions of Environmental Laureates:**

- 08-11 March 2012      1st International Convention of Environmental Laureates  
Main theme: On the way to Rio+ 20  
Keynote speaker: Jeremy Rifkin  
Adoption: "Declaration on Rio+20"
- 14-17 March 2013      2nd International Convention of Environmental Laureates  
Main theme: New coalitions to address limits to growth  
Keynote speakers: Ashok Khosla, Hans Joachim Schellnhuber  
Adoption: "Call for action to policy makers and pioneers of change"
- 10-13 April 2014      3rd International Convention of Environmental Laureates  
Keynote speakers: Jeremy Leggett, Gunter Pauli, Monika Griefahn  
Joint appeal by the 160 environmental laureates in the New York Times: "An appeal to the world's foundations and philanthropists by the world's environmental prize winners"
- 09-12 March 2015      4th International Convention of Environmental Laureates  
Main theme: Adaptation to Climate Change  
Keynote speaker: Bianca Jagger  
Adoption: "Environmental Laureates' Call for a CO2 Emissions Tax"

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10-13 March 2016      5th International Convention of  
Environmental Laureates  
Main theme: Governance for real  
sustainability  
Keynote speaker: Michael Wadleigh  
Film premiere: POWER TO CHANGE –  
The Energy Rebellion  
Adoption: "Call to the government of  
Honduras"

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