

*Begrüßung Hannes Androsch Preis*

Dr. Androsch, hohe Festversammlung!

Wegen der zahlreichen hochrangigen ausländischen Gäste wollen wir uns beim heutigen Festakt der englischen Sprache bedienen.

It is a great pleasure to welcome you on behalf of the Austrian Academy of Sciences on the occasion of the Hannes-Androsch-Prize awarding ceremony. The Academy is very grateful to Hannes Androsch for establishing this prestigious price devoted to outstanding work in the field of social sciences.

From the beginning of the Academy there have always been persons who demonstrated their commitment and affection to the sciences by their donations to the Academy – for prizes for young researchers or in order to finance research projects. Unfortunately, this tradition has almost vanished in the last 70 years and was only recently revived for example by Alfred and Isabel Bader from the United States, and particularly by Hannes Androsch.

I am pleased to welcome you in our festive hall dedicated to the founders of this building, Maria Theresia and her husband emperor Franz Stephan of Lorraine. The ceiling fresco depicts in its center the apotheosis of the imperial couple. All patrons of our Academy should actually have their place there. The medallion showing the portraits is carried by Kronos, the god of time. A putto holds the laurel wreath of glory over them, whereas the eagle breaks the scythe of Kronos, thereby expressing eternal imperial glory. The four groups of statues represent allegories of imperial virtues: Generosity, Wisdom and Vigilance, Faith, Constancy and Fortitude and finally Peaceable and Martial Power.

I wish you a pleasant evening in this nice and adequate setting.