



## PRESS RELEASE

### SAKHAROV PRIZE 2017 FOR FREEDOM OF THOUGHT – AWARD CEREMONY LIVE FROM STRASBOURG

Wednesday 13 December 2017, 11.00-13.00

Refectory, Badia Fiesolana, Via dei Roccettini 9, I-50014 San Domenico di Fiesole (FI)

The [Historical Archives of the European Union](#) invite you to attend the live streaming of the award ceremony of the Sakharov Prize 2017, organized by the European Parliament Liaison Office in Italy in collaboration with the European University Institute (EUI). The event will take place on Wednesday 13 December 2017 (11:00-13:00) at the Badia Fiesolana in Florence.

The award ceremony will start at 11 a.m. with a speech by **Hans-Gert Pöttering, former President of the European Parliament (2007 – 2009)**. **120 high-school students**, participants in educational programmes offered respectively by the European Parliament's Representation in Rome and the Historical Archives of the European Union in Florence, have also been invited to attend and engage with President Pöttering in a question and answer session on human rights and freedom of thought. **Stefano Polli, vice-director of ANSA News Agency**, will moderate the event.

From 12 p.m. onwards, the award ceremony in the European Parliament in Strasbourg will be live streamed at the Florence event, and a reception will follow. The programme and more information can be downloaded [using this link](#).

#### About the Sakharov Prize

The European Parliament has awarded the "Sakharov Prize" annually since 1988. The award, named in honour of the Soviet physicist and political dissident Andrei Sakharov, seeks to recognise individuals and organisations who have dedicated their lives to defending human rights and fundamental freedoms.

#### About the European University Institute

The European University Institute was set up in 1972 by the six founding member states of the then-European Communities. Its aim is to provide advanced academic training for doctoral and post-doctoral researchers, and to foster research in fields of particular relevance for the development of Europe. With 22 contracting states, the Institute hosts around 1000 academic members in its departments of Economics, History, Law, and Political and Social Sciences; the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies; the School of Transnational Governance; and the Historical Archives of the European Union.

#### Press Office – EUI Communications Service

Nora Martin

e-mail: [eui.press@eui.eu](mailto:eui.press@eui.eu) | phone: +39 055 4685 437

[www.eui.eu](http://www.eui.eu) | twitter: @EuropeanUni | facebook: @EuropeanUniversityInstitute