



24 January 2013

## Günter Geyer appointed Papal Knight Commander of the Order of St Gregory the Great

On 23 January **Günter Geyer**, Chairman of the Managing Board of **Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein**, was made a **Papal Knight of the Order of St Gregory the Great**. The decoration, one of the highest papal awards, was presented by **Cardinal Christoph Schönborn** at a ceremonial act held at the palace of the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Vienna. Caritas director **Monsignor Michael Landau** delivered a speech in honour of Mr Geyer.

In his role as Chairman of the Managing Board of Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein, the Vienna Insurance Group's main shareholder, **Günter Geyer** is closely involved in determining the strategy as well as steering the **social and cultural activities of the Group** he has headed for more than a decade.

**Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein's** targeted **sponsorship** initiatives have benefited numerous social projects and organisations, such as Caritas and Volkshilfe charities, Zweite Sparkasse (a bank that provides accounts and support services to the needy), Dreikönigsaktion donation campaign and Hospizverein Steiermark, a network of hospices in the province of Styria.

Mr Geyer was the driving force behind **VIG Social Active Day**, which was launched in 2011 with the aim of raising social awareness throughout the Vienna Insurance Group. Under the scheme, employees from Group companies in Austria and Central and Eastern Europe spend one working day a year doing voluntary work for charities and social institutions. The event serves as a clear reminder of the Group's standing as a dedicated corporate citizen.

When Mr Geyer laid down his mandate as Chairman of the Vienna Insurance Group Managing Board, the Supervisory Board of Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein passed a resolution introducing the **Günter Geyer Awards for Social Conscience**. Prize money totalling annually EUR 100,000 is awarded to Group companies in recognition of their commitment to social responsibility and to support their continued involvement in community initiatives.

Günter Geyer's exemplary work for social causes as the head of a leading Austrian company at the height of the financial crisis was also acknowledged in 2011, when he was awarded the **Karl Leitl Prize for Partnership with the World of Work**. The accolade was presented by Christoph Leitl, President of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber and son of the benefactor, entrepreneur Karl Leitl.

Günter Geyer has received numerous distinctions in Austria and abroad for his successful leadership of the Vienna Insurance Group – during his tenure the Group grew to become the leading insurer in Austria as well as Central and Eastern Europe.

WIENER STÄDTISCHE WECHSELSEITIGER VERSICHERUNGSVEREIN, MAIN SHAREHOLDER OF VIENNA INSURANCE GROUP

VIENNA INSURANCE GROUP: Wiener Städtische (AT) • Donau (AT) • s Versicherung Gruppe (AT, CZ, HR, HU, RO, SK) • InterAlbanian (AL) • Intersig (AL) • Sigma (AL) • Bulstrad (BG) • Bulstrad Life (BG) • Jahorina (BIH) • Kupala (BY) • Kooperativa (CZ) • CPP (CZ) • VIG RE (CZ) • InterRisk (DE) • Compensa Life (EE, LT, LV) • GPIH (GE) • IRAO (GE) • Kvarner (HR) • Helios (HR) • Union Biztosito (HU) • Vienna-Life (LI) • Wiener Städtische Podgorica (ME) • Winner (MK) • Winner Life (MK) • Compensa (PL) • InterRisk (PL) • Benefia (PL) • Polisa (PL) • Omnisig (RO) • Asirom (RO) • Wiener Städtische Beograd (RS) • Kooperativa (SK) • Komunálna poisťovňa (SK) • Ray Sigorta (TR) • Kniazha (UA) • Globus (UA) • Jupiter (UA) • UIG (UA) • Branches: Donau (IT), Wiener Städtische (IT), Wiener Städtische (SI)

Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein is the main shareholder of the Vienna Insurance Group (VIG) and provides support for the Group's cultural and social activities, with a focus is on enhancing cross-border, intercultural exchange. The emphasis is also on creating an environment in which individual cultures can thrive. Partnerships and initiatives are geared towards supporting the activities of social organisations, especially in the Central and Eastern European countries in which the Vienna Insurance Group has a presence. As the main shareholder, Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein is also concerned with key strategic matters within the Group.

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