



## **ECEC Medal**

### **Award to Professor Karl Kling at the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the European Council of Engineers Chambers (ECEC)**

#### **The ECEC medal**

On the occasion of its 10th anniversary celebration the ECEC presents an ECEC medal which is meant to be awarded to persons **who made a special contribution to the values of ECEC.**

At such an occasion it is important to look back and to remember all those people who have invested a countless amount of time, energy and enthusiasm to bring the project “ECEC” on its way. Without these contributions the ECEC might never have been founded - but definitely its standing would not be as good as it is today.

In regard to current European developments – for example in view to professional deregulation – the existence of a strong European representation of the interests of European Chartered Engineers is more important than ever.

At the moment over 300.000 Chartered Engineers in 16 countries directly benefit when the work of ECEC is successful. Therefore the ECEC Executive Board decided that it is more than just and equitable to honour those persons, who made, make and will make outstanding and essential contributions to build up such a strong and effective representation.

The use of this award shall not be inflationary or automatically. It will focus on very extraordinary and exceptional achievements only in order to make the ECEC medal a very special award.

This shall in no way imply that all the other numerous valuable contributions from many different people within the ECEC that were, are and will be indispensable for the functioning of the ECEC are not appraised and valued.

#### **Award to Prof. Karl Kling**

The ECEC Executive Board has decided unanimously to award the first ECEC medal to Prof. Dr.-Ing. e.h. Karl Kling in order to honour his outstanding and insistent efforts towards establishing a European organisation of Engineers’ Chambers.

Prof. Kling is a well-known personality in the “ECEC family”. From 1991 onwards – as President of the Bavarian Chamber of Engineers and later as President and Executive Board member of the German Federal Chamber of Engineers - he has initiated regular active and very concrete exchanges with Engineers Chambers from many neighbouring countries. As he was an effective and successful national professional politician who could also profit from a 12-years-experience as a politician in Bavaria (member of the “Landtag” which is the “parliament” of the federal country) other engineering organisations benefited from his experience. For this he was awarded with the honorary membership in several foreign Engineers Chambers.

As a first step to formalise the cross-border cooperation he initiated that the Bavarian Chamber of Engineers and the German Chamber of Engineers concluded several cooperation agreements with Engineers Chambers for example in the Czech Republic, in Slovakia, in Hungary in Austria, in Slovenia and in Poland.

But this was by no means enough for him:

In 1998 he initiated the first European Engineers Forum in Dresden. At this forum he expressed the vision to set up a European Engineers Chamber. His idea was based on the fact, that many Engineers Chambers which were established by national law and represented publicly authorized Chartered Engineers had no specialised representation for themselves and their highly qualified and legally authorized members on European level. Additionally he emphasised the need to act jointly in harmonising engineers’ education and practice in Europe.

At the second European Engineers Forum in Budapest in 2000, the resolve to establish the European Engineers Chamber was confirmed also in regard to support the establishment of Engineers Chambers in European countries that had none yet.

At the third European Engineer Forum in Dubrovnik in 2002 Professor Kling already came close to realisation of his vision. The Forum reached the decision to launch the activities to establish the European Council of Engineers Chambers (ECEC) and issued a declaration that was signed by the representatives of Engineers Chambers from ten European countries on 12 October 2002.

When finally, in 2003, the ECEC founding document was signed in Vienna by Presidents of Engineers Chambers from 11 countries, this was to a large extent due to the unweary insistence of Karl Kling.

**It is therefore a great honour and pleasure for the ECEC to award the first ECEC medal**

**to**

**Prof Dr.-Ing. e.h. Karl Kling**