

Press release on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2006

## Kant Prize 2006 goes to opponents of Gene-Technology



Today, on the 202. anniversary of the Königsberg philosopher`s death, the council of the Freiburg Kant Foundation announced the winner of the Kant-World-Citizen prize 2006.

The prize, worth 15.000 Euro will go to the former British Minister for Environment, Michael Meacher, and the renowned German environmentalist, Christine von Weizsäcker.

Both are prominent opponents of `Green` Gene-Technology. Michael Meacher lost his post as most senior Minister in Tony Blair`s cabinet after publicly doubting the safety of Gene-Technology. He and Christine von Weizsäcker are awarded the prize for “courageous publicity work and for practical political efforts towards bio-diversity, bio-security and choice for consumers”.

The prize will be awarded in Freiburg on 7 May 2006.

The eulogist at the prize giving ceremony will be UNEP-director, Prof.Dr.Klaus Töpfer. Every two years people who have rendered distinguished service to the political realization of universal ethical values according to I. Kant`s philosophy are awarded this prize.

On the occasion of announcing its prize winners at the anniversary of Immanuel Kant`s death, Freiburg`s Kant Foundation also appeals to the values commission of the CDU, asking them, being representatives of a Christian party, to be moved by respect towards creation.

The party is asked to reconsider a change in the law that would allow the releasing of genetically modified organisms on an industrial scale in Germany.

Especially appealing to both ruling parties, the Kant Foundation promotes:

Instead of setting the course for future “collective force feeding” by means of genetically modified food (keyword: cross insemination of trans genes in GMO-cultivation), freedom loving parties are obliged to maintain alternative ecological and conventional options for citizens and consumers as well as for European farmers.

All else would be bound to lead to – in blunt terms – “the end of history”, meaning destruction of integral evolutionary history. In addition it would be a further symptom of an undemocratic use of state and science by a few trans-national seeds companies.

Furthermore, the council of the Kant Foundation is of the opinion: Those who want free market economy need to also embrace liability and ensure transparency.

It should not be possible to privatise profits and at the same time to put risks and damage at the expense of the consumer and taxpayer.

A `courage for freedom, which basically veils the privileges of powerful particular interests in the end would more likely lead to an uncontrolled, destructive spreading of havoc. To oppose these tendencies in favour of a constructive, socially viable freedom of all citizens is Immanuel Kant`s definition of a functioning constitutional state.

Europas Erbe als Auftrag

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