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Günter Geyer receives high-level Slovakian honour

The Slovak Republic's prestigious Golden Biatec Award goes to Günter Geyer, insurance company manager and pioneer of the expansion of Austrian businesses to Central and Eastern Europe in the 1990s.

On Monday 26 September, Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein Supervisory Board Chairman Günter Geyer was presented with the Golden Biatec Award at a ceremony held on the 20th floor of the Ringturm. Upper Austrian-born Geyer joins a select list of internationally renowned recipients of the award that includes former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, former French President Jacques Chirac, US economist Jeffrey Sachs, James D. Wolfensohn, previously President of the World Bank, futurist John Naisbitt, and ex-VW boss Ferdinand Piëch. *“Slovakia, and Bratislava in particular, have played a key role in our company's history – Bratislava and Prague were the launchpad for our successful expansion into Eastern Europe. As I see it, the Golden Biatec is a symbol of recognition and appreciation for all the Group's employees in Austria and Slovakia, and I'm delighted to accept this highly respected award on behalf of so many of my colleagues,”* emphasised **Günter Geyer**, Supervisory Board Chairman at Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein, the main shareholder of the Vienna Insurance Group (VIG).

From Vienna to Bratislava

Headquartered in the Austrian capital, the Vienna Insurance Group is Austria's largest international insurer. The company has grown from relatively humble beginnings: in 1991, the former Wiener Städtische invested in newly established, Bratislava-based Czechoslovakian cooperative insurance company Kooperativa, becoming the first West European insurer to expand into the emerging Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) region. Over the following two decades, under the stewardship of Günter Geyer, Wiener Städtische began operating in many other CEE countries, adding an impressive chapter in the history of European insurance. Today, the Vienna Insurance Group comprises around 50 companies in 30 countries, which together employ a total of over 25,000 people. In Austria, Wiener Städtische Versicherung and Donau Versicherung are both members of the Vienna Insurance Group.

Golden Biatec Award

Every year, the Informal Economic Forum (IEF) Economic Club presents this coveted international accolade to a maximum of seven personalities in recognition of their outstanding commitment and courage in business, politics, or public life, both in the Slovak Republic and abroad. The honour is presented in particular to individuals who have made a contribution to promoting “peace and development in relations between nations and their states”, and to the welfare of the world's population.

Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein is the main shareholder of Vienna Insurance Group AG Wiener Versicherung Gruppe (VIG), the holding company for the Group's international insurance operations. Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein supports the Group's cultural and social activities, with an emphasis on cross-border exchange with the Central and Eastern European countries in which VIG has a presence. Its partnerships and initiatives are geared specifically towards supporting the activities of social organisations which provide space and scope for personal and cultural development.

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