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Günter Geyer receives important Slovakian award

Peter Mišík, Ambassador of Slovakia, awarded Günter Geyer, Chairman of Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein, the 'Golden Plaque award of the Slovakian Minister of Foreign and European Affairs' on Tuesday evening.

Günter Geyer is a pioneer in the insurance industry in Central and Eastern Europe. He established Kooperativa in Bratislava in 1991, the first foreign, private-sector insurance company in the reform countries. In addition to his business and social involvement, building bridges to the art and culture of the CEE countries, particularly the Republic of Slovakia, is also close to his heart. *"It is my pleasure to award Günter Geyer the 'Golden Plaque award of the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs'. He has made valuable contributions to Slovakia-Austria relations for many years. In addition to his highly successful business activities, he has also been deeply involved in the area of arts and culture, and has significantly improved Slovakia's visibility in Austria",* explained **Peter Mišík**, Ambassador of the Republic of Slovakia.

Mr Geyer was honoured to receive the award: *"Artistic and cultural works create a sense of identity: for anyone who wants to understand and find out more about a country and its people, the work of artists – whether painters, musicians or architects – reveals aspects that would otherwise remain hidden from view. A cross-border commitment to promoting culture and the arts has been an integral part of our Group's philosophy for many years. I believe this high-level distinction serves as recognition of the work of Wiener Städtische's employees and those of Kooperativa, and I am delighted to accept the award on behalf of them all."*

Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein has realised many art projects together with the Slovak Institute and Slovakian Embassy. These included, for example, commissioning the wrapping of the Ringturm building by Slovakian artist Dorota Sadovska in 2013, and "Under my Spell" by Oscar Rozsa, a festive concert with soprano Adriana Kucerova just one year later in St. Stephen's Cathedral. The valuable cultural heritage of the Wooden Churches of Slovakia was the theme of an exhibition in the "Architecture in the Ringturm" series in 2016.

Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein is the principal shareholder of Vienna Insurance Group (VIG), whose three Slovakian Group companies – Poist'ovňa Slovenskej sporiteľne, a.s. Vienna Insurance Group, Komunálna poisťovňa, a.s., Vienna Insurance Group and Kooperativa poisťovňa, a.s., Vienna Insurance Group – make it a leader in the Slovakian market.

As principal shareholder of Vienna Insurance Group (VIG), Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein assists the Group in all of its cultural and social concerns. Great importance is placed on cross-border cultural exchanges, which create a venue and opportunity for cultural development. Cooperations and initiatives are used to provide targeted support to socially active organisations, particularly in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe where Vienna Insurance Group is operating.

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Press photo: f.l.t.r. Günter Geyer, Chairman of Wiener Städtische
Versicherungsverein and Peter Mišík, Amassador of the Republic of Slovakia
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