



*Changing Europe!*

14 - 20 October 2017, Berlin  
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## **Can Dündar is European Journalist of the Year**

### **PRIX EUROPA hands out 14 European Media Awards**

Can Dündar, the Turkish journalist and former editor-in-chief of the newspaper Cumhuriyet, was honoured tonight with the Outstanding Achievement Award of PRIX EUROPA as European Journalist of the Year at a festive gala in the big Concert Hall of rbb. In his speech he dedicated the award to all his colleagues imprisoned in Turkey. “Our fight will continue until we – and our country - are all free!” said Dündar. The award, a bronze Taurus Trophy, was handed over by Cilla Benkö, President of PRIX EUROPA and Director General of Sveriges Radio. Benkö emphasised that with this distinction PRIX EUROPA wants to support and honour this fight.

Since 2016 Can Dündar lives in exile in Germany after spending three months in a Turkish prison. He was accused of espionage, after reporting secret and presumably illegal weapon deliveries to Syrian militia by the Turkish secret service in his newspaper. Dündar continues to write about his homeland. The Turkish government has recently put him on an Interpol list for international arrest in an attempt to put Mr. Dündar back into the hands of Turkish justice. He was chosen for the award from 31 journalists, who had been nominated. PRIX EUROPA had called for proposals of persons who have displayed extraordinary courage and creativity in their fight for the credibility and indispensability of journalism.

In addition to Can Dündar, 13 joyous winners from seven countries were able to conquer the stage. In “Alone Against The Islamic State” from Sweden, which was honoured as the best television programme about cultural diversity, the filmmakers accompany parents searching for their daughter in Iraq in an attempt to bring her back from her life with ISIS. The best television current affairs programme comes from France. “Church: Code of Silence” shows how the Catholic Church protects its paedophile priests from prosecution by transferring



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them across continents, accusing even Pope Francis of being implied in this system. A bit of light relief is provided in the Hungarian comedy “Memo” which was commended as best television drama about a psychiatrist who simultaneously treats a patient with a super memory and his own father suffering from memory loss. The best television fiction series comes from Belgium. “Team Chocolate” is about mentally disabled people working in a chocolate factory. When one of them faces deportation to the Kosovo, the rest of the team goes to the barricades. The best television documentary also comes from Belgium: “Food for Thought” shows the life of four brothers on a farm, where they cook and eat together. Despite their strict and reclusive lifestyle, they display great wisdom and insights surprising their audience with new and very old truths.

In the online category of PRIX EUROPA Denmark scored a hit. The web format “The Class” for 7 to 12-year olds, can already boast the participation of 6000 children and youths. Twice a day Vlogs are published, which elegantly blur the lines between fiction, documentary and reality tv. The PRIX EUROPA Community Award, selected by online voting, went to the French web production “If I ever come back: A French schoolgirl's letters from the Holocaust”. It focuses on the letters exchanged during the Second World War between a deported Jewish schoolgirl and her former teacher.

Belgium also scored with a radio drama: “Almanak” paints an atmospheric portrait of a working class area in Gent through the true stories of its inhabitants. The prize for the best radio drama series went to France. In “The Prehistory of the Future“ aliens have taken over world rule. The piece includes some entertaining and poignant references to contemporary French politics. The best radio investigation on the other hand deals with pure facts. In „The KGB Agent and the Oil Smugglers“ Swedish journalists uncover oil smuggling from Belarus to Switzerland. They prove that a Swedish oil company bought the smuggled oil, fully aware of where it came from. The best radio music programme is the Danish format “Songwriter”, where alternating studio guests spend two hours producing a new song. In the winning episode the musician *Oh Land*, Nanna Øland Fabricius with real name, was in the studio. The digital audio jury favoured “The Archers: The Trial of Helen Titchener”, a British podcast



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accompanied by a social media campaign. The winning German radio documentary “Papa, we are in Syria“ describes yet another parent trying to persuade his two sons to come back from the Islamic State. It features original audio messages sent via the messenger WhatsApp between the father and his sons.

The Awards Ceremony was moderated by Radioeins film expert Knut Elstermann. The event was streamed live on the rbb homepage and will remain available as video-on-demand. In addition, you can find the excerpts of all the winners on the homepage of PRIX EUROPA.

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PRIX EUROPA was founded in 1987. Every year the influential tri-media festival honours the best TV-, Radio- and Online productions from the European continent. The festival distinguishes itself from similar events through its big open jury groups. The winners are determined in open discussions and through individual voting. PRIX EUROPA 2017 took place from 14 to 20 October in Berlin.

PRIX EUROPA is organised by an alliance of 19 European broadcasters, EU- institutions and the federal states Berlin and Brandenburg. Since 1997 rbb hosts the festival in its Haus des Rundfunks in Berlin. Since 2017 the patron of the festival is the European Parliament. Current President of PRIX EUROPA is Cecilia Benkö Lamborn, Director General of SVERIGES RADIO.

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#### **Any questions about the press release?**

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**Fotos and further press material about the winners** are available as downloads free of charge on:



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Excerpts from the winning films on: [www.prixeuropa.eu](http://www.prixeuropa.eu)

Awards Ceremony as video on demand: [rbb-online.de/prixeuropa](http://rbb-online.de/prixeuropa)