

SwedesWorldwide is a non-profit, non-partisan organization founded in 1938. The organization represents the 660 000 Swedes who live outside Sweden, Swedish clubs and associations, Chambers of Commerce, Swedish schools and the Swedish Church Abroad. SwedesWorldwide promotes the rights and interests of Swedish expatriates by surveying, informing and influencing issues concerning them.



Stockholm May 30, 2016

## **Staffan de Mistura is International Swede of the Year 2016**

Staffan de Mistura is recognized as International Swede of the Year 2016. Swedes Worldwide annually honours a Swedish National who has made an outstanding contribution for Sweden internationally in the areas of culture, commerce, science, sports or the humanitarian field.

Staffan de Mistura is awarded the prize in 2016 with the motivation:

"Staffan de Mistura, United Nations and Arab League Envoy to Syria, is given the award International Swede of the Year 2016 for a lifelong commitment to finding solutions to humanitarian disasters and international conflicts.

The Swedish-Italian diplomat Staffan de Mistura has for more than four decades worked primarily for the United Nations and its various agencies. His career started in 1971 with the World Food Programme. Apart from serving in about 20 conflict zones - including Sudan, Chad, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Vietnam, Laos and the Balkans - he has been the United Nation's and the Secretary-General's Envoy in Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan and now in Syria.

In 2014, Staffan de Mistura was appointed Chairman of the newly established European Peace Institute. Its mission is to contribute to the global peace agenda in order to prevent, manage and solve conflicts. His cultural mission includes being director for Villa San Michele on Capri.

Characteristics of Staffan de Mistura's mission have been - and are - to relieve sufferings in humanitarian disasters and to seek peaceful solutions with diplomacy in war and the most volatile conflict regions. Determination, engagement and a vast professionalism are qualities that are attributed to him. His work is supported by genuine humanity and integrity.

Staffan de Mistura has dual Swedish-Italian citizenship. Swedes Worldwide has promoted the right to dual citizenship for many years. Staffan de Mistura is a worthy recipient of the award International Swede of the Year 2016."

The award International Swede of the Year has in recent years been awarded to Max Martin, Martin Lorenzon och Daniel Ek (Spotify), Zlatan Ibrahimović, Hans Rosling, Peter Wallenberg and Annika Sörenstam. All laureates are published on [www.sviv.se/uppdrag/arets-svensk-i-varlden/](http://www.sviv.se/uppdrag/arets-svensk-i-varlden/)

The award ceremony will take place in Grand Hotel, Stockholm, on August 24, 2016.

### **For more information, please contact:**

Ellika Nyqvist Livchitz  
Communicaiton Officer  
Phone 08-661 54 03  
E-mail [ellika@sviv.se](mailto:ellika@sviv.se)

Karin Ehnбом-Palmquist  
General Secretary  
Phone 0706-22 25 48  
E-mail [karin@sviv.se](mailto:karin@sviv.se)