

SwedesWorldwide is a nonprofit, independent organization founded in 1938. The organization represents the 660 000 Swedes who live outside Sweden and Swedish clubs and associations, Chambers of Commerce, Swedish schools and the Swedish Church Abroad. SwedesWorldwide work for Swedish expatriates' best by surveying, informing and influencing issues to get the best possible terms.



Stockholm August 23, 2016

Press Invitation: Price ceremony International Swede of the Year 2016

International Swede of the Year 2016 goes to the diplomat Staffan de Mistura, United Nations and Arab League Envoy to Syria. The winner will receive the price at a ceremony at Grand Hôtel in Stockholm, August 24, 2016. Since 1988, the organization Swedes Worldwide annually honors a Swede for accomplishment to promote eminent actions to market Sweden internationally in culture, commerce, science, sports, and the humanitarian field. The prize has in recent years been awarded Max Martin, Spotify, Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Anne-Sofie von Otter and Hans Rosling.

Staffan de Mistura is awarded the prize in 2016 with the following 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."

Journalists and photographers are welcome to attend the Price Ceremony.

Date: Wednesday August 24, 2016

Time: 13.45 - press gathering in the Strömsalongerna at 13.30

Address: Grand Hôtel, Södra Blasieholmshamnen 8 in Stockholm

Notification: August 24 at 11.00 am at the latest to ellika@sviv.se or +46 8-661 54 03.

For more information, please contact:

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