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## **Laudatory speech to Veronika Grimm, Winner of the Gustav Stolper Award 2023**

by Regina T. Riphahn (VfS chair)

Dear ladies and gentlemen, dear guests,

the previous program has led us straight to the highlight of the evening, the announcement of this year's winner of the Gustav-Stolper-Award of the Verein für Socialpolitik.

Each year, the Verein für Socialpolitik honors one extraordinary researcher with the Gustav-Stolper-Award. The recipient has contributed to the public debate through insights from economic research and has made important contributions to the understanding and solving of economic problems.

The award takes its name from the economist Gustav Stolper. Gustav Stolper was born in Vienna in 1888 and died in New York in 1947. He was co-editor of several economics journals in Austria and Germany. In 1933, he migrated to the United States of America, where, among other things, he became an economic adviser to Herbert Hoover.

The recipient of the Gustav Stolper Award is chosen by the members of the Verein für Socialpolitik. The poll is held online.

This year's contestants for the award were once again outstanding. The winner is an extraordinary scientist who, like only a select few, is able to weave economic expertise into political and societal discourse.

Dear ladies and gentlemen, it is with great pleasure that I announce this year's winner of the Gustav-Stolper-Award: Veronika Grimm.

Veronika Grimm's career as a scientist is remarkable. In 2002, she was awarded her doctorate from Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin with a dissertation on auctions and mechanism design. She then went on to work at the University of Alicante in Spain and earned her so-called "Habilitation" in 2008 from the University of Cologne based on her work on industrial economics and the design of energy markets. In recent years, she received numerous awards and honors.

Today, her primary research areas are behavioral economics and energy markets. She strives to apply her research findings to solve important societal issues. This motivation also guides her commitment to serve in high-ranking institutions and committees: In 2010, Veronika Grimm took on the role as head of the research unit „Economy“ and in 2017 of the unit “Energy Market Design” at Energie Campus Nürnberg. Since 2017 she also is head of the institution's scientific board. Later, she was asked to serve on the Board of Academic Advisors at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs (whilst also being dean at the School of Business, Economics, and Society at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg) as well as a member of the Advisory Council for Consumer Affairs at the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection.

In 2020, she took on what is probably her most prominent role to date, as a member of the German Council of Economic Experts. Her appointment to the Council happened at a time when Germany was

looking somewhat anxiously into the future as the country was in the grip of the Covid-19 pandemic as well as trying to grapple with the economic transition made necessary by climate change.

Given these circumstances, it was only natural that already at her first appointment to the Council of Economic Experts, the then-minister for the economy, Peter Altmaier, highlighted Veronika Grimm's expertise on energy markets as an important addition to the Council in challenging times.

How right he was became particularly clear when the Russian war against Ukraine started and Germany's energy security was suddenly called into question. I believe that for many of us, it was comforting to know that with Veronika Grimm there was a clear and calm voice being appointed as Chair of the Expert Commission on Gas and Heating.

Through professional excellence, her service to society, and her clear communication, Veronika Grimm contributed substantially to leading Germany through the challenges of the past years and making the country more resilient. She is an important academic voice that is clearly being heard in politics as well.

Dear ladies and gentlemen, I have known Veronika Grimm since 2008. Since then, both of us have been working at the same faculty of Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg. I appreciate Veronika as a professionally and personally dedicated colleague. In her research, she often crosses the boundaries of our discipline and reaches into mathematics, engineering, but also psychology. This flexibility, not bound by old truths and always open to new developments and insights, makes her an all-the-more credible voice of science in the public sphere.

I am delighted that this year the members of the German Economic Association elected Veronika Grimm.

I am honored to award her with the Gustav-Stolper-Award. Dear Veronika, my sincerest congratulations to you.