Hessische Ministerin für Bundes- und Europaangelegenheiten und Bevollmächtigte des Landes Hessen beim Bund



Georg-August-Zinn-Straße 1 · 65183 Wiesbaden

Mr Phil Hogan Member of the European Commission Rue de la Loi, 200 B - 1049 BRUXELLES

9<sup>th</sup> May 2016

## Dear Commissioner Hogan,

it is meanwhile traditional that the State of Hessen dedicates one evening in September on presenting its centuries-old tradition of winemaking and culinary specialties to a broad public in Brussels. This year, the 11<sup>th</sup> Hessian Wine Festival will take place on Tuesday, September 6, 2016 at 7 pm at the Representation of the State of Hessen to the EU in Brussels.

With our annual Wine Festival we bring together politicians, representatives from the EU-institutions and Member States, businessmen, academics, journalists and representatives of civil society in order to spend some pleasant moments apart from everyday business. As in past years we will welcome around 1000 guests.

We look forward to taste a fine selection of local wines presented by winegrowers of the two Hessian wine growing areas (Rheingau and Hessische Bergstraße) and various local products with the label "Protected Designation of Origin" (PDO, PGI, TSG).

It is also a tradition that the event is inaugurated by the Minister in charge of European Affairs and as highlight by a Member of the European Commission, such as in the past years the Commissioners Mariann Fischer Boel, Viviane Reding, Olli Rehn, Johannes Hahn and Günther H. Oettinger.

Commissioner, last year unfortunately you could not follow our invitation to be our honorary guest of the Wine Festival. Therefore, it would be all the more a great pleasure if you could be with us this year and inaugurate the evening at 7 pm with a welcoming speech (10-15') on behalf of the European Commission.

I will be pleased if you accept our invitation. Please don't hesitate to contact the Director of the Representation of the State of Hessen to the EU in Brussels, Mr.

(Phone: r@lv-bruessel.hessen.de) should you have further questions or require further information.

Yours sincerely

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