

## ECF Honorary President Manfred Neun was awarded Germany's Federal Cross of Merit



*Martin Held*

*Manfred Neun*, former President and Honorary President of the European Cyclists' Federation was awarded with the German Federal Cross of Merit in June 2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the award was presented by *Baviarian State Minister Carolina Trautner* on Friday, 25 June 2021 at a ceremony at the City of Augsburg (D).

The official statement of the Bavarian Ministry to award Manfred emphasizes: “Manfred Neun has made an outstanding contribution to cycling and sustainable mobility. Mr. Neun was President of the European Cyclists' Federation from 2005 to 2017, being Honorary President since then. Under his presidency and leadership, the ECF and his headquarters at Brussels developed to be an influential advocate and advisor to foster interests of cyclists. The ECF is representing 40 organisations in Europe and globally.” (translation Martin Held)

Bavarian State Minister Trautner emphasized that under the presidency of Manfred Neun the international network Cities for Cyclists was integrated into the ECF and that he initiated the network Scientists for Cycling. She also praised that he was part of developing the bi-annual international Velo-city conferences to a prominent international Annual Cycling Summit. She also highlighted that Manfred Neun was part of a group to establish the World Cycling Alliance and that he was the chair of its first Steering Board. She also was outspoken in her laudatory speech that he actively enlarged the scope of the ECF agenda from the focus on transport policy to a social and political agenda comprising the three dimensions of sustainability: social, economic and ecological. In the official statement for the award it is also emphasised “that Manfred Neun was a co-organiser of the international conference at Mannheim to celebrate the 200-year anniversary of the bicycle” in its hometown.

Manfred responded to the laudation of the minister: “I am very delighted and honoured by this award. I had the pleasure to be active some 12 years as president of the ECF to foster more and better cycling. The Cross of Merit acknowledges the rising significance of cycling for society and a sustainable future. It is an award for the work of the ECF.”

It was an honour, that *Jill Warren*, CEO of ECF at Brussels attended the ceremony. She said: “We are delighted and proud that our long-time ECF President and, since 2018, Honorary President, Manfred Neun, has been awarded a German Federal Cross of Merit for his extraordinary engagement and advocacy for cycling.”

*Bernadette-Julia Felsch*, president of ADFC in Bavaria, also attended the award ceremony together with *Laura Ganswindt*, media officer of Bavarian ADFC. Bernadette was delighted that Manfred did receive this distinctive award – he is a member of the ADFC living in Memmingen, Bavaria. *Hans-Martin Steiger*, deputy mayor of Memmingen, congratulated Manfred on behalf of the city. *Erwin Lohner*, President of the Region Swabia (one of the regions of Bavaria) attended the ceremo-

ny too. *Dr. Ivo Holzinger, longstanding former mayor of Memmingen*, was also attending the ceremony. He proposed to honour Manfred with the Cross of Merit together with *Martin Held*, Tutzing who also was present at the ceremony at Augsburg.

It was a pleasure that Gabriele Neun, wife of Manfred and Viktoria, Philip and Lukas, children of Manfred were attending the award ceremony. *Max Weinkamm* and *Elisabeth Held*, longstanding friends of Manfred also were present.

## Background

*Dr. Bernhard Ensink, at the time CEO of the ECF at Brussels* took the lead to propose Manfred for the award. *Dr. Martin Held*, member of the advisory board of *ECF network Scientists for Cycling* at the time, and *Dr. Ivo Holzinger* organized together with Bernhard the preparation for the formal proposal to award Manfred.

Many supporters, international and from Germany, have written a letter of recommendation. Thanks to all of them. The proposal was delivered by Holzinger and Held to the Bavarian ministry in charge of the awards. Thanks to Bernhard taking the lead for the initiative. And thanks to Ivo Holzinger being part of the proposal to honour Manfred. Thanks to Jill, Jeannette and Laura to join us at the ceremony at Augsburg.

*Tutzing, 1 July 2021*

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*Member Advisory Committee Velo-city series 2006-2014*

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