High honours: Luxembourg Air Rescue wins the 2020 Adenauer-De Gaulle Prize

Luxembourg Air Rescue (LAR) has been awarded the 2020 Adenauer-De Gaulle Prize together with the DRF Luftrettung for their outstanding cross-border achievements during the Corona crisis.

In granting the award, the prize judges paid tribute to the enormous professionalism and solidarity shown by both organisations in transporting French patients with COVID-19 to German hospitals and back as a special sign of neighbourly help in Europe.

"This solidarity of civil society across borders was particularly important at a time of heightened fear and tension in the everyday lives of people in the border region," said Michael Roth, member of the Bundestag, Minister of State for Europe, at the German Federal Foreign Office and Clément Beaune, State Secretary for European Affairs, at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A demonstration of shared values and connectedness

"Especially at a time when European values are being openly attacked and challenged, we are particularly keen to underscore our attachment to France and our European neighbours," says René Closter, CEO and President of Luxembourg Air Rescue.

Since the beginning of the Corona crisis in March, LAR carried out rescue flights from those regions of eastern France that were badly impacted by the first wave of the Corona virus, making a significant contribution to the relief of overcrowded intensive care units.

"This award is awarded not only to LAR as an organisation, but above all to the LAR-staff who, even during the pandemic, stand ready to intervene day and night to save lives, in Luxembourg, the Greater Region and around the world," says René Closter.

The Adenauer-De Gaulle Prize

The Adenauer-De Gaulle Prize was established on the 25th anniversary of the Elysée Treaty on January 22, 1988 and is awarded to persons, initiatives or institutions who, through their work, have made an outstanding contribution to the consolidation of Franco-German friendship. A binational jury, co-chaired by the Commissioner for Franco-German Cooperation selects the award winners. LAR shares the 10,000-Euro prize with Germany's DRF air rescue team.

If Corona restrictions allow, the prize will be handed over to representatives of both organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris in the first quarter of 2021.

Luxembourg Air Rescue was created in the late 1980s as the result of a private initiative by René Closter, now CEO and President, and a few dedicated friends who rented the first helicopter. LAR has since developed into a medium-sized humanitarian company with six rescue helicopters and six ambulance jets. Thanks to a cross-border cooperation between Luxembourg, Saarland and Rhineland-Palatinate, one of the helicopters is coordinated by the control centre Trier and flies more than 1,000 missions per year in the nearby German border area. LAR and its French partner have been carrying out all organ transports in France for over 10 years, hence the LAR motto, "Air Rescue without Borders!".
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