

## *LAUDATIO: PROF. GÜNTER PÜTTNER*

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It is a great pleasure to present here Günter Püttner as he is honoured today for his long-lasting and persistent collaboration within our Group. Günter Püttner has many close friends here, and each one of them has his or her own view of Günter's personality. These different views probably cannot be easily reconciled into a single portrait. I shall nevertheless try to present such a portrait. Indeed, those who are not personally acquainted with Günter deserve to know something about a man who has played an important role in the recent development of public law in Germany. Of course, all of us present in this room are part of the recent development of public law in Europe. But with regard to Germany, one can say that, for several decades, Günter Püttner has been one of the souls of public and especially administrative law.

Let me start from the beginning. Günter Püttner was born in 1936 in Berlin. After his A-level diploma, we find Günter studying law in Cold War Berlin. There he then writes his Doctoral Thesis under the supervision of Ernst Hirsch; this important study covers questions of financial markets - what a farsighted perspective. Later does he turn to constitutional and administrative law. He seeks the support and supervision of Klaus Stern and follows him when Stern moves to Cologne University in 1966. In his Habilitation Thesis, completed in 1969, he studied the legal framework of public enterprises - a highly relevant topic of continuing interest, as all of you here in this room certainly know. The highly celebrated book had a tremendous impact on the understanding of the strong effect constitutional and administrative law had on the (as we would say today) governance of public enterprises. The book had such a success that a second edition was published a decade later. After his Habilitation, Günter first taught at Frankfurt University, later at the German University of Administrative Sciences in Speyer and then, from 1980 on for 22 years, at the University of Tübingen. As an indication of his interest in the interaction of academic science and practical application of public law, he soon joined the Admin-

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istrative Court of Appeals of the State of Baden-Württemberg as a sideline (or secondary) occupation.

The research work of Günter Püttner covers all areas of German (and increasingly: European) public law. He is the author or co-author of more than 100 books and papers. This opus cannot be summarised here. Let me just quote some catch phrases. There are books on German constitutional law, on "*Wirtschaftsverwaltungsrecht*", a book dealing with the sociology of public administrations and many more. He is the editor of an important textbook on municipal law and is serving in various functions in a wide variety of scientific groups. In 2000, he was awarded a doctoral title *honoris causa*.

At the end of this presentation, I want to add a personal remark as a colleague. It has always been a great pleasure to serve at the faculty on the side of Günter. He is a most pleasant and agreeable person. Coexistence and communication are pleasant and fruitful even for people who have somewhat different interests and views of the world. I think we all recognise that Günter Püttner, as a scientist and as a man, has done a lot to advance the science of public law. And for that we deeply thank him.