

JEAN CLAUDE JUNCKER, WINNER OF THE CHARLEMAGNE PRIZE FOR 2006

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Luxembourg Prime Minister and prominent leader of the European People's Party (EPP), Jean-Claude Juncker, has been named as the winner of the prestigious Charlemagne Prize for 2006, awarded in recognition of his services to European peace and unity.

Juncker, who is also Chairman of the Eurogroup (Finance Ministers of the eurozone), will receive the prize on 25 May 2006.

The head of the Charlemagne Prize jury, Walter Eversheim, described Mr. Juncker as *"an intermediary, a mediator and a bridge between the politicians and the people, as well as between the differing member countries of the European Union"*.

The Prize was created en 1949 by the German city of Aachen.

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