PRESS RELEASE

Matthias Meis appointed to Bertelsmann Stiftung Executive Board as of July 2027

- **Matthias Meis, currently a member of the Executive Board of the Liz Mohn Foundation, has been appointed to the Executive Board of the Bertelsmann Stiftung effective July 1, 2027. He will assume the responsibilities of Executive Board member Wilhelm-Friedrich Uhr, who will step down from the board at the end of 2027 in accordance with the foundation's bylaws. Meis will lead the Bertelsmann Stiftung alongside Executive Board Chairwoman Brigitte Mohn and Executive Board Member Andreas Pinkwart.**

- **Wilhelm-Friedrich Uhr will continue to contribute his expertise to the Bertelsmann Stiftung as an advisor to the Executive Board**

Gütersloh – November 17, 2026. In the year of its 50th anniversary, the Bertelsmann Stiftung is expanding its Executive Board and ensuring continuity in the foundation's work: Matthias Meis, 45, has been appointed to the organization's Executive Board effective July 1, 2027. Wilhelm-Friedrich Uhr, who has worked for the foundation for more than two and a half decades, will remain on the Executive Board until the end of 2027 and will continue to support the foundation as an advisor to the Executive Board starting in 2028.

"The appointment of Matthias Meis to the Bertelsmann Stiftung Executive Board represents both continuity and renewal," says Bodo Uebber, chairman of the foundation's Board of Trustees, commenting on the restructuring of the Executive Board during the organization's anniversary year. "Matthias Meis has done outstanding work at the Liz Mohn Foundation, which he played a key role in establishing. As the board member responsible for Operations, Meis will lead the Bertelsmann Stiftung into the future alongside Wilhelm-Friedrich Uhr, an experienced manager who will remain affiliated with our organization. The Board of Trustees expressly acknowledges Wilhelm-Friedrich Uhr's exceptional contributions to the Executive Board and his outstanding strategic leadership of the Operations division over more than two decades. The Bertelsmann Stiftung owes him a special debt of gratitude."

"I would like to thank Wilhelm-Friedrich Uhr for our close partnership and his vital contributions to the Bertelsmann Stiftung and its ongoing efforts," says Liz Mohn, honorary member of the Bertelsmann Stiftung Board of Trustees. "In his leadership role, he has played a crucial part in shaping the foundation's development over many years. In Matthias Meis, the Bertelsmann Stiftung is gaining a seasoned expert with a strategic vision and a fundamental sense of empathy. I am pleased he is taking on this responsibility on the Executive Board and am confident that, together with Brigitte Mohn and Andreas Pinkwart, he will successfully guide and strengthen the Bertelsmann Stiftung moving forward."

"I am very pleased that Matthias Meis is joining the Bertelsmann Stiftung Executive Board," says Brigitte Mohn, the Executive Board's chairwoman. "The Executive Board values Matthias Meis as a results-driven manager who will work alongside us to shape the foundation's modernization efforts. Together, we aim to ensure that the Bertelsmann Stiftung remains a driving force for social reform in the decades to come. The Executive Board would like to thank Wilhelm-Friedrich Uhr for his impactful and forward-looking work on behalf of the Bertelsmann Stiftung."

“For many years, I have greatly admired the Bertelsmann Stiftung for the meaningful work it does on behalf of society,” says Matthias Meis, responding to his appointment. “The foundation not only provides background data, but also proposes solutions for modernizing government and society. I am honored by the confidence the Board of Trustees has placed in me, and as the Executive Board member responsible for Operations, I will do my part to ensure the Bertelsmann Stiftung has the solid foundation it needs to continue effectively fulfilling its important role in society.”

“I am very pleased that Matthias Meis will be joining the Executive Board next year as the board member responsible for Operations,” says Wilhelm-Friedrich Uhr. “He is a manager with a deep understanding of the challenges nonprofits must contend with. We will be working closely together to respond to the demands foundations face in these challenging times. I look forward to supporting Matthias Meis and the entire Executive Board as they build a digital and sustainable future for the organization.”

The Bertelsmann Stiftung will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2027. Through its projects, studies and events, the foundation stimulates debate and provides impetus for social change. Nonprofit activities and sustainable impact are the cornerstones of its work. The foundation’s initiatives not only identify solutions but also provide the general public with empirically based guidance. Since its founding in 1977, the Bertelsmann Stiftung has made approximately €2.1 billion available for its nonprofit activities. Expenditures for its project work totaled €76.2 million in 2025. The foundation employs 337 people at its offices in Gütersloh and Berlin. It also has affiliated organizations in Washington and Barcelona.

About Matthias Meis:

Matthias Meis has served as vice-chairman of the Liz Mohn Foundation since 2023. From 2018 to 2023, he served as senior advisor to the German executive director at the World Bank in Washington. Until 2018, he worked as division director at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in Berlin. From 2011 to 2014, he served as an advisor at the Federal Chancellery focusing on development policy, the United Nations and global affairs. Prior to that, he worked as a political scientist at the German Society for International Cooperation.

Contact: **Malva Sucker, Vice President Corporate Brand Management**
Phone: +49 52 41 81 81 396
E-Mail: malva.sucker@bertelsmann-stiftung.de

Hendrik Baumann, Spokesperson
Phone: +49 52 41 81 81 838
E-Mail: hendrik.baumann@bertelsmann-stiftung.de

Download Link:
Photo Wilhelm-Friedrich Uhr
Copyright: Kai Uwe Oesterhelweg

Photo Matthias Meis
Copyright: Besim Mazhiqi

About the Bertelsmann Stiftung: Inspiring people. Shaping the future.
The Bertelsmann Stiftung is committed to enabling social participation for everyone – politically, economically and culturally. Our programs include Education and the Next Generation, Democracy and Social Cohesion, Digitalization and the Common Good, Europe's Future, Health, and Sustainable Social Market Economies. In our work, we focus on people, since only they can change the world and make it better. We share knowledge, promote expertise and develop solutions. A nonprofit foundation, the Bertelsmann Stiftung was established in 1977 by Reinhard Mohn. **For more information, please visit: www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de**