The Max Planck Institute for Social Law and Social Policy deeply mourns the loss of its emeritus scientific member

Prof. Dr. Dres. h.c. mult. Hans F. Zacher
(1928 – 2015)

Hans Zacher passed away on Ash Wednesday, 18 February 2015, after an eventful, fulfilled and highly successful academic life. Hans Zacher was the founding director of our Institute and a scientific member of the Max Planck Society, of which he was president from 1990 to 1996. Social law and social policy were decisively shaped by him in terms of both its academic and its practical significance. He opened up new horizons to these subjects by laying the theoretical foundations, by making use of comparative systematisation, and by breaking down the boundaries with other scientific disciplines. He was the spiritual father of the German Social Code and the co-founder of the German Association for Social Law. He was a stimulating teacher, both with regard to imparting his knowledge at the Institute and in his function as a university professor, first at the Faculty of Law and Economics of Saarland University (1963-1971) and then at the Law Faculty of Ludwig Maximilian University Munich. An outstanding conveyor of all matters of science on both the national and the international level, he has also earned lasting renown in science policy. His creative power was admirable. Until last, he had continually been seeking to develop a welfare state concept that can rise to the current challenges.

Hans Zacher was a truly impressive man, a sharp-witted conversationalist, an exceptionally gifted rhetorician and also a friend, open to encounters, ready to speak out clearly and to give good advice.

We are greatly indebted to Hans Zacher. We are grateful that we had the opportunity to share part of his path through life. He will remain unforgettable to us.

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Becker, LL.M. (EHI) 
 Prof. Axel Börsch-Supan, PhD.