



▲ The makers of a new axis of peace with Nowruz-City Hamburg as a hub. (l.r.): US-Consul General Darion Akins; Hamburg's First Mayor Dr. Peter Tschentscher and Honorary Consul Kourosh Pourkian, President of the Nowruz Forum

## HAMBURG'S MESSAGE OF PEACE AT THE NOWRUZ RECEPTION

A sign of peace from Hamburg: At the first Nowruz reception at the US Consulate General, on the initiative of Kourosh Pourkian, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Tajikistan and President of the Nowruz Forum eV – Association for Economic and Cultural Dialogue, the flame inherent in the Nowruz festival, which is more than 3000 years old, was lit for solidarity and new beginnings and established the Nowruz City Hamburg as a bridge between the Nowruz revelers in the USA and the Nowruz countries and regions.

Also present were US Consul General Darion Akins, State Secretary Almut Möller and guest of honor Dr. Imomudin Sattorov, Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan and around 100 guests from politics, diplomacy, religion, business, science, society, culture, the media and the Nowruz community.

### Nowruz in Hamburg

Based on the first Nowruz reception in the White House in Washington at the invitation of America's First Lady Michelle Obama in 2014, the little sister in Hamburg opened her doors for the first time on March 28<sup>th</sup> on the occasion of the New Year and Spring Festival, which was included in the representative list in 2009 of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.

### "Little White House"

Initiator Kourosh Pourkian, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Tajikistan and President of Nowruz-Forum – Association for Economic and Cultural Dialogue, thanked US Consul General Darion Akins for the generous gesture in his speech. "Tradition is the passing on of the fire, not the worship of the ashes", he quoted the English statesman Thomas More. It is all the more important to ignite the flame for solidarity and new beginnings inherent in the Nowruz festival in the "Little

White House" with numerous multipliers. Because, as Akins emphasized in his welcome address, the "Little White House" has been a place of exchange and encounter between different peoples and religions for over 70 years.

### Bridge between Nowruz revelers worldwide

There was great joy at the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary reception, which had to wait two years due to the pandemic, to build a bridge between the 1.5 million Nowruz revelers in the USA and the 300 million people in the Nowruz countries and regions worldwide – with Hamburg as a hub. And this in accordance with the constitution of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, which, according to its preamble, sees itself as a mediator between all peoples and continents in the spirit of peace, and to the delight of State Secretary Almut Möller. "I am pleased that Hamburg has the largest Nowruz community in the European Union with 180,000 people. We are thus a natural bridge to the region in which the Nowruz festival is celebrated," said the Plenipotentiary of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg to the Federation, the European Union, and for foreign affairs, who brought the Senate's greetings.

### Peaceful spirit of Nowruz: culture and trade

Tajikistan's Ambassador Dr. Imomudin Sattorov, guest of honor and official representative of a Nowruz country, was the first to enter this new bridge together with a delegation from Orientbank and Somon Air and met with Euler Hermes and Airbus the following day for talks. For Pourkian, it's clear that this is just the beginning. He said, "As an economic and cultural metropolis, Nowruz-City Hamburg has the potential to establish itself as an international Nowruz center on this new Nowruz axis, to bring people together and to send the peaceful spirit of Nowruz out into the world."





▲ From left: US-Consul General Darion Akins; State Councillor Almut Möller, H.E. Dr. Imomudin Sattorov, Ambassador of the Republic of Tajikistan; Kourosh Pourkian, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Tajikistan and President of the Nowruz Forum



▲ The French Consul General Frédéric Joureau is also happy to pass on the Nowruz message of peace



▲ Among the guests of the consular corps: the Honorary Consul of the Republic of Latvia in Hamburg Dr. Sabine Sommerkamp-Homann, Prof. Dr. Peer Witten, Honorary Consul of Montenegro



▲ f.l.: Gabriele Kroch, President of the Hamburg Consular Women's Club, the State rabbi of Hamburg Schlomo Bistritzky and Howard Kroch, Honorary Consul of Trinidad and Tobago, took part in a Nowruz festival for the first time



▲ f.l.: Zohra Mojadeddi, member of the Hamburg Parliament; Aydan Özoguz, Vice President of the German Bundestag at the Haft Sin table



▲ When it comes to supporting the people-connecting force of the Nowruz festival, the two are always there: Jürgen Klimke (L), former member of the Bundestag (2002-2017), and Uwe Voigt, member of the district council Steinburg (Schleswig-Holstein)



▲ Tajikistan meets Hamburg's Nowruz community. From left to right: commercial attaché Ismatullo Davlatzoda and members of the Tajik delegation with the Tajik legal expert Dr. Manuchehr Kudratov and the Afghanian entrepreneurial couple A. Fawad and Roya Nadi (2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> f.l.)



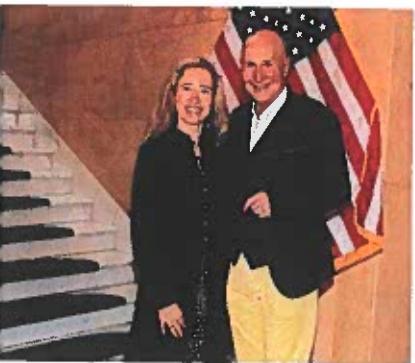
▲ f.l.t.r.: Chairman Bürger helfen Bürgern – Freiwilligen Börse Hamburg Bernd-P. Holst; Professor Dr. Klaus Beckmann, President of the Helmut Schmidt University; The President of the Nowruz Forum Honorary Consul Kourosh Pourkian



▲ f.l.: Prof. Thomas Kraupe, Director of Planetarium Hamburg and actor and presenter Thorsten Laussch



▲ f.l.t.r.: Guests from Hamburg's Nowruz community: Dr. med. Mahim Friedrich; Hourvash Pourkian, chairwoman of the Kulturbrücke Hamburg and Danial Ilkhanipour, member of the Hamburg Parliament



▲ Wolfgang Buss, publisher and editor of the Alster Magazin, with his partner Silke Lange



▲ Bonds of culture (f.l.t.r.): Irina Gurvitch with her husband the pianist and composer Leon Gurvitch, Diana Princeataia (cultural sponsorships/Bürger helfen Bürgern); Jutta Höflich, Vice President of the Nowruz Forum