



**Finance Group**

German Savings Banks Association

## **Press release**

### **Savings Banks Finance Group sponsors exhibition “El Siglo de Oro. The Age of Velázquez” at the Gemäldegalerie of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin**

Berlin, 29th June 2016

As part of its close cooperation since 2011 with the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, the Savings Banks Finance Group is to sponsor the exhibition “El Siglo de Oro. The Age of Velázquez” at the Gemäldegalerie am Kulturforum from 1st July to 30th October 2016.

The exhibition, which is being held under the joint aegis of His Majesty King Felipe VI of Spain and German Federal President Joachim Gauck, focuses on the golden age of Spanish art. With artists such as Velázquez, El Greco and Francisco de Zurbarán, this is widely regarded as having been one of the most important and popular chapters in European cultural history.

17th century Spain was characterized by political and social tensions: A country that had once been the most powerful in Europe and whose particular prosperity had also resulted in a blossoming of art and culture was now confronted with a steady loss of political power and the increasing influence of Protestantism. This had a huge influence on the era’s visual language.

This special exhibition in Berlin – the first of its kind outside Spain – will present a broad overview of the diversity and development of Spanish painting and sculpture in this Golden Age.

In order to make such outstanding exhibitions in the current cultural landscape accessible to a broad public, the Savings Banks Finance Group – consisting of the Deutsche Sparkassen- und Giroverband, the Berliner Sparkasse and DekaBank Deutsche Girozentrale – has been a major sponsor of the Staatlichen Museen zu Berlin for the last five years.

In addition to the exhibition “El Siglo de Oro” and the previous presentation in the Gemäldegalerie “The Botticelli Renaissance”, the Savings Banks Finance Group also supports a cultural education project entitled “Über kurz, mittel oder lang”, which encourages students and teachers in all subject areas at Berlin colleges and universities to become actively involved in shaping the long-term work of the city’s museums.

Sponsorship to the tune of some 135 million euros every year makes the Savings Banks Finance Group the largest non-public promoter of the arts in Germany. If its sponsorship of projects in the social sphere, sport, the environment, education, and other areas is included, it spends 470 million euros annually as part of its social commitment.

*The German Savings Banks Association is the umbrella organisation for the Savings Banks Finance Group and encompasses 409 savings banks, seven Landesbank groups, DekaBank, nine regional building societies, eleven savings bank direct insurers and many more financial services companies.*

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