

Statement by Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission, on the occasion of the death of former German Federal Minister of Economic Affairs, Werner Müller

I am deeply saddened by the news of Werner Müller's death. Born in Essen, Werner Müller typified the people of the Ruhr, where he was a highly respected manager in industry. As Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, he was a key figure in German and European politics. His great expertise, dry wit and calm manner made for a good rapport with everyone he had dealings with. I too had the pleasure of working closely with him. His services to Germany's mining industry and miners are inestimable.

I will always think fondly of Werner Müller, and I am glad that I was able to speak to him personally one last time at the closure of the last coal mine in Bottrop on 21 December last year.

My thoughts are with Werner Müller's family, and I wish them strength at this difficult time.