

Recommendation letter for Cavlingprisen

Dear Ms. Eeg,

I am writing you as a journalist from Süddeutsche Zeitung in Germany and with the intention to recommend a team of Danish reporters for this year's Cavlingprisen.

The journalists working on the stories in question were: Thomas Østerlin Koch, Joachim Claushøj Bindslev, Peter Eggert Vesterlund, Morten Spiegelhauer from TV2; John Hansen and Kristian Corfixen from Politiken.

The team of reporters and editors at TV2 have initiated an internationally coordinated research effort in three countries, uncovering the missing parts in what is known as the biggest tax fraud in the history of Denmark. After a year of intense trips to the US, to Germany and to the UK, after talking to a range of sources and after having obtained thousands of pages of court documents, they were able to identify people behind those alleged tax fraud schemes who were not known to the public before. As numerous publications in Denmark, Belgium and Germany (see Politiken, Knack and Süddeutsche Zeitung) show, the disclosed information was of very high public interest. To tell the story of how American investors acquired a tiny German bank in order to defraud the taxpayers in Denmark, the team at TV2 used innovative online publishing formats such as Instagram-like storyboards and interactive articles, before publishing two elaborate documentaries on TV. The effort to make this all possible was impressive, and I witnessed the Danish colleagues involved working night shifts more than once.

In sharing their knowledge and working together with foreign journalists so closely, the team at TV2 shows how contemporary cooperative journalism can broaden the scope of an investigation and how it can give stories the kind of impact they deserve. International investigations involving this kind of complexity require such carefully conducted information sharing. We will want to continue with this cooperation in the future.

Let me know if you need more or in case you have any questions.

Best regards  
Jan Willmroth

as well as Kristof Clerix from Knack (Belgium); Nils Wischmeyer and Klaus Ott from Süddeutsche Zeitung (Germany) and Bill Alpert from Barron's (USA).