



**EUROPARC Federation**  
**Report to Council**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> February 2012**

Title:

Alfred Toepfer Medal Briefing Paper

Summary :

Council needs to consider whether to continue with the award, make a new award, postpone the award or make no award

## Alfred Toepfer Medal

The Alfred Toepfer Medal, named after the founder of the EUROPARC Federation, Dr h.c. Alfred Toepfer (1894-1993), is awarded annually in recognition of a particular individual who has made a significant contribution to nature protection in Europe. The medal is presented at the annual EUROPARC conference. This is a great opportunity to honour those who work in our protected areas, who have a European vision yet make a difference in their home country or region!

In recent years ,following some criticism of the awarding process, the nomination and award was revised and now receives further support from the Alfred Toepfer Foundation . The award is not without its critics however and we do receive (almost annually) concerns expressed from within and outwith the membership regarding association with Alfred Toepfer and his past association with the Nazi party in Germany during the war years. EUROPARC makes no comment on Alfred Toepfers history as it is a matter of public record, but focus on the work he did post war to bring peace and cooperation between European countries , of which EUROPARC is one such example. However EUROPARC and the Alfred Toepfer Foundation itself are aware that the award can use of his name for both the medal and scholarship can bring some controversy

Last year the last of the current stock of medals was awarded.

Council has the opportunity to consider if they wish to continue with the Alfred Toepfer Medal or make a new award, postpone the award or make no award..

The cost of casting 3 new medals is €1.665 excl. Vat and delivery. This has not been budgeted in 2012.