



**PRESS RELEASE**  
TO BE SENT OUT FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> OF MAY 2019

**A Royal Belgian Author, the First Female-Owned Nordic Venture Capital Firm and a Danish Top CEO will be Receiving the Recognition of The Prestigious 'Womenomics Award' During the Upcoming Conference in Copenhagen, 21<sup>st</sup> of May.**

**This year, at the Womenomics Nordic Business Conference, three Womenomics Awards will be presented to extraordinary female role models, who are not only ground-breaking leaders in their fields, but have utilised their powerful voices to inspire and engage others. HRH Princess Esmeralda of Belgium - a writer and activist - will receive 'The Womenomics Global Impact Award 2019'; the top CEO Eva Berneke will be presented with 'The Womenomics Leadership Award 2019' and 'The Womenomics Entrepreneurship Award 2019' goes to the co-founders of BackingsMinds, Susanne Najafi and Sara Wimmercranz.**

The Womenomics Nordic Business Conference has been running for 6 years and is a platform to showcase and explore women's impact on the global economy. The Womenomics Awards have been running since the conference's inception as a way of drawing particular attention to female leaders and game-changers. This year, for the first time a Womenomics Honorary Award will also be presented to Iceland and received by the Icelandic Minister of Foreign Affairs to acknowledge their tireless quest for gender equality and top ranking on the World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap report for 10 consecutive years.

HRH Princess Esmeralda of Belgium has used her platform to be a vocal proponent of women's rights, gender equality and climate justice and has also supported a number of women's associations including indigenous women initiatives in Latin America and Africa. She has also shone a light on the women who have won the Nobel Peace Prize in her book: 'Femmes Prix Nobel de la Paix', showing to future generations of female leaders what it means to have global impact.

The Womenomics Committee also presents Eva Berneke with 'The Womenomics Leadership Award 2019', acknowledging her significant leadership achievements as CEO of KMD, senior executive at TDC and member of multiple boards. Her impressive leadership trajectory within STEM, and dedicated voice in public debate regarding diversity on boards and the UN SDGs, inspires the next generation of talented women to pursue careers that can have true impact, and aspire to leadership roles more broadly.

Susanne Najafi and Sara Wimmercranz together receive 'The Womenomics Entrepreneurship Award 2019' in recognition of their work as co-founders of the venture capital firm, BackingsMinds. This company was founded to increase diversity in the Swedish startup scene by investing in tech companies and, above all, in the gems that the traditional venture capital industry misses. It is the first woman founded venture capital firm in the Nordics.

The founder of the Womenomics Nordic Business Conference and Chair of the Award Committee, Tine Arentsen Willumsen, who is also the founder of The Diversity Council, believes it is essential that we, as a society, celebrate the people who really make a difference, and promote them as role models for others.

*"We are looking forward to presenting three Womenomics Awards at our conference here in Copenhagen on the 21st of May. This year we are celebrating women who have used their positions to inspire and engage others, either by promoting female role models, or being role models themselves. HRH Princess Esmeralda has written a book interviewing the few, but impressive, female Nobel Peace Prize winners, while Eva Berneke has used her successful career within the top corporate sphere in Denmark to also shine a light on the need for increased diversity on boards and executive committees. Susanne Najafi and Sara Wimmercranz, as co-founders of a venture capitalist firm are challenging the male stereotype of investment companies, and breaking the glass ceiling for other entrepreneurs," says Tine Arentsen Willumsen.*



### **The main theme of The Womenomics Nordic Business Conference 2019**

The theme of this year's business conference is: 'Accelerate Gender Diversity and Explore Female-Driven Growth Potential'. Key topics include: Diversity & Inclusion, Technology, The Changing Consumer Market and Economic Growth. The business conference will showcase women's impact on the global economy as consumers, leaders and changemakers through various company case studies, keynote speeches and innovative business perspectives.

### **Former recipients of The Womenomics Awards**

The Womenomics Awards have been awarded to 15 extraordinary women since 2014. Last year's recipient of The Womenomics Global Impact Award was Geena Davis, and in addition, Sheela Maini Søgaard, CEO and partner at BIG received The Womenomics Leadership Award and Christine Spiten, co-founder of Blueye Robotics received The Womenomics Technology Award. Also among the previous award recipient are: HRH Crown Princess Mary, MP Ida Auken and Stine Bosse.

Read more about The Womenomics Nordic Business Conference and see the speaker list here:

**[www.womenomicscph.dk](http://www.womenomicscph.dk)**

### **The Official Partners of The Womenomics Conference are:**

McKinsey & Company, BMW, Diageo, Headspring Executive Development, Dansk Erhverv and Finans Danmark.

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### **Address of the Award Ceremony:**

The awards will be presented from 16.00-17.00 during the Womenomics Nordic Business Conference, which takes place 10.00-18.00, on the 21st of May 2019 in the Tivoli Concert Hall, Vesterbrogade 3, 1630 Copenhagen.