



Official statement on the reappraisal of the history of the Dr. Oetker company under National Socialism

In summer 2009, the Oetker family commissioned the internationally renowned Augsburg university professor Dr Andreas Wirsching to reappraise the history of the Dr. Oetker company and the shareholder family in the time of National Socialism. Prof Dr Wirsching, holder of the Chair of Modern and Contemporary History at the Ludwig Maximilian University (LMU) and Director of the Institute of Contemporary History (IfZ) in Munich, and his assistants Dr Sven Keller (IfZ) and Jürgen Finger (LMU) had unrestricted access to the Dr. Oetker corporate archives. The results of the three-year research work are published by C.H.Beck in October 2013 under the title “Dr. Oetker and National Socialism – History of a Family Business 1933-1945”. “The work carried out by Professor Wirsching and his team has both documented much that is familiar and brought to light many facts unknown to us. We as a family must accept that the individuals acting at that time approved of and supported the system and in some cases took decisions which we today wish they had decided differently,” states Dr hc August Oetker, Chairman of the Advisory Board of Dr. August Oetker KG. “The objective and unconditional reappraisal of this chapter of our company history, however, no longer allows any conjecture or misinterpretation concerning our past. With the end of the Third Reich and the deaths of a large part of my family in mind, it is, at the same time, an exhortation to us all to stand up for an open, free society and resolutely confront each and every totalitarian tendency.”

Bielefeld, October 2013