

Brussels, 29 May 2008

Dr Jane Goodall receives European award in recognition of work

World-renowned primatologist Dr Jane Goodall has been given a special award today for outstanding service to animal welfare. Animal welfare organisation Eurogroup for Animals presented her with the award in recognition of her groundbreaking research on chimpanzees, her dedicated work to protect them and their habitats, and her continuing campaign against the use of non-human primates in research and testing.

Eurogroup is keen to honour her contribution to animal welfare, as the organisation is committed to improving the treatment of primates and other animals. It strives for high standards for animals kept in captivity, and promoted a European Parliament resolution calling for the phasing out of primate tests.

Dr Goodall changed the way we perceive chimpanzees by demonstrating they experience many of the same emotions as humans. In 1977 she launched the Jane Goodall Institute, which today is a global leader in the effort to protect chimpanzees and their habitats. It also is widely recognized for establishing innovative community-centred conservation and development programs in Africa, and the Roots & Shoots education program, which has groups in almost 100 countries.

As part of her work, Dr Goodall has also spoken out against the use of primates in animal testing. Together with Eurogroup, she was one of the signatories of the Berlin Declaration, which calls for an end to the use of non-human primates in biomedical research and testing.

Eurogroup director Sonja Van Tichelen said: "I am very proud to be presenting this award to Dr Jane Goodall today. She has done so much to change people's perception of chimpanzees, and has been fighting to improve their habitats for decades. She has also been instrumental in highlighting the need to stop using primates in research. This is something that is also a top priority for Eurogroup."

Dr Goodall welcomed the award and said: "I am truly honoured to receive this award. I have been fortunate to study chimpanzees, our closest living relatives. They have distinct personalities, intellectual abilities and emotions similar to those we call joy, sorrow, fear and despair. And they can experience mental as well as physical suffering. They teach us that there is no sharp line between us and other animals. We belittle ourselves if we inflict pain and suffering on other thinking, feeling beings."

Eurogroup awarded the honour to Dr Goodall during its annual general meeting, which was attended by more than 80 representatives from more than 40 animal welfare organisations.

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Pictures of Dr Goodall receiving the award are available on request.

For more information call Steven Blaakman, senior press officer at Eurogroup, on 0032 (0)27400823 or email him on s.blaakman@eurogroupforanimals.org. Outside office hours please call 0032 (0)475 731066.

Notes:

- Eurogroup for Animals represents animal welfare organisations in nearly each of the European member states. Since it was launched in 1980, the organisation has succeeded in encouraging the European Union to adopt higher legal standards of animal protection. For more information about Eurogroup, visit www.eurogroupforanimals.org.
- For more information about Dr Goodall and the Jane Goodall Institute, visit www.janegoodall.org