European Citizen of Honour Awards 2011

Paris, 27th March 2012 – Five trophies were awarded to personalities involved in promoting citizenship through sport in Europe.

The European Citizen of Honour Awards have been established by Sport and Citizenship to reward prominent personalities whose investment, project or idea participates in the construction, through sport, of a European identity and citizenship. Celebrating the European Union through sport and conveying the fact that the European sentiment provides a great vehicle for sharing and gathering, highlighting the values of sport - such as fair play, respect, solidarity - in Europe, these are the motto of Sport and Citizenship’s five European Citizens of Honour.

Let us remind that the 2010 winners of the European Citizens of Honour awards were Jacques Delors, Michel Platini, Borja García García, Enrique Sanchez-Guijo Acevedo and the association Europe en Sport.

Recognised by more than a hundred sport experts and journalists from across Europe, the 2011 winners are:

- Laura Flessel, in the Sportsperson category.
- The Homeless World Cup, in the Association category.
- Daniel Cohn-Bendit, ex aequo with Brigitte Deydier, in the Institutional category.
- Alexandre Husting, in the Academics category.
- La Française des Jeux, in the Private sector category.

The trophies were awarded at the premises of the newspaper l’Equipe, by Xavier Spender - Deputy General Manager of l’Equipe (Sportsperson category), Alain Cayzac - former President of Paris-Saint Germain (Association category), Sophie Auconie – French MEP (Institutional category), Julian Jappert - Director of Sport and Citizenship (Academics category) and Marie-Claire Restoux – Former Olympic Champion in Judo (Private sector category).

Laurent Thieule, President of the think tank, spoke about the initiative: “The awards have been created for we want to offer to these exceptional people, a recognition and an enhancement of their initiatives, which aim at celebrating the feeling of belonging to the European community thanks to sport. It is common knowledge that sport unifies and breaks down barriers between people by enabling them to get to know each other. It constitutes a very interesting gateway for the construction of a common European identity thanks to its intrinsic values. It is only the second edition, but these Awards are intended to be renewed each year in order to promote and develop the feeling of belonging to Europe.”
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Paris, 27th March 2012

Sport and Citizenship is the 1st European think tank devoted to the societal impact of sport. It is a forum for reflection and a source of recommendations for future sports policies. The association aims to promote the fundamental values of sport in society to public authorities, the economic sector, civil society and the media. More than a hundred European experts pursue multidisciplinary, cross-cutting reflection.

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