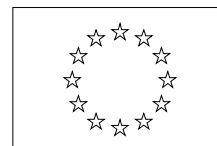


For your editorial planning



Invitation to the Press

Science and Society: Awards ceremony for EUROBOT winners

- What?** The European Commission is supporting the awards ceremony of “EUROBOT 2004”, a European competition for robots constructed by students from 20 countries. It is part of the European Science Week, an initiative to strengthen the relationship between science and society, in the framework of the Science and Society Action Plan. There will be a film and live competitions between the robots.
- Who?** Senior representatives of the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Research, Mrs Pervenche Beres, Chairwoman of the Economic and Monetary Committee of the European Parliament, and Mr. Nicholas... Chairman of Eurobot.
- When?** 9 November, 2004 , 6.00 to 8.00 pm
- Where?** Yehudi Menuhin Room, at the European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium.

On 9 November at the European Parliament, the EUROBOT Awards will illustrate the European Commission’s commitment to supporting initiatives which help young people get involved in science. EUROBOT is a project selected by the European Commission within the European Science Week initiative of the Science and Society Action Plan. The ceremony will celebrate students coming from 20 countries who have built robots. More than a competition, EUROBOT is a surprising and exciting event as it combines high technology, creativity, education, passion and entertainment. EUROBOT offers the students the opportunity to meet, to exchange ideas and knowledge, and to implement robotic theory in the framework of an entertaining project. EUROBOT is also an excellent tool for scientific communication aiming at the general public as it is a recognized award in the scientific and professional world.

What’s on offer?

- ***Looking at a fascinating scientific and technical show: the best robots will be on site and competing.*** EUROBOT is one of the most sophisticated robotic competitions in the world for this type of participant. The required autonomy of the robots forces the students to develop their skills in high technology and mechanics. The theme of the competition changes every year to reinforce the students’ motivation and develop public interest in the game .

- **Presence of high-level politicians.** The need to ensure the renewal of the next generation of researchers provides a clear mandate for the European institutions and the Member States. This is why the European Commission and the European Parliament support initiatives such as this competition, which is an excellent example of the type of activity that brings young people closer to the world of science and technology. More specifically, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research is providing financial support to EUROBOT, which is a project selected as part of the European Science Week – an event whose objective over the last ten years has been to bring the public and young people closer to science. Mrs Pervenche Beres, as chairman of the Economic and Monetary Committee, will be welcoming the EUROBOT Awards Ceremony to the European Parliament. Representatives of both European institutions will attend the ceremony on 9 November and will be available for interviews.
- **EUROBOT 2004:** 20 countries are represented in this competition, which brings together 3000 young people from universities, engineering schools and scientific clubs. The awards ceremony is the final step of 8 national competitions which have taken place in Germany, Austria, Belgium, Spain, France, the Czech Republic, Serbia and Switzerland. More than 90 000 visitors attended these competitions, and several million TV spectators were able to follow the competition thanks to coverage on 15 different national TV channels. The EUROBOT organisation includes universities, museums, media professionals and scientific culture organisations.

Further information

If you would like more specific information, please contact:

Catherine Audouze-Ouannes, Research Directorate-General, European Commission, Tel: +32.2.296 66 72, Email: catherine.audouze-ouannes@cec.eu.int

Véronique Raoul, Eurobot, tel : 33 1 53 90 16 76, Email : vraoul@vmgroup.fr

Eurobot website: www.eurobot.org

More on the Information Science week: <http://www.cordis.lu/sciencesweek>

Participating media will receive assistance in advance logistical planning and complete practical details prior to the event. Video and photos from the Awards Ceremony will be available for the press.