

CITY OF TURIN

MOTION N.33

Approved by the City Council on September 15th 2003

OBJECT: CONFERRING HONORARY CITIZENSHIP TO PAUL DAVID HEWSON, STAGE-NAME BONO.

PRESIDENT: I put to the vote the proposal presented by the Councillors Coppola, Tealdi, Costa, Troiano, Lospinuso, Chiavarino, Furnari, Rosso, Borsano, Mina, Salti Dell'Utri and Gallo Francesco on July 1st 2003.

“The City Council of Turin,

CONSIDERING THAT

- Bono was born in Dublin on May 10th 1960, and during the summer of 1976, together with four friends from high-school, he founded the rock band Feedback, that since 1978 is called U2;
- From the beginning, the band and its leader don't act as the usual rockstars: the main aim of his career is to conciliate Christian faith and the will to help one another with the inevitable temptations of the 'dissolute' rockstar lifestyle;
- From the very first songs and the first meetings with fans across Europe until the end of the 70's and the early 80's, Bono's message is clear: youngsters should get to work and not give in to pessimism, or even worse, to the deviant power of drugs;
- The Irish origins of the band involved Bono and his friends in the support for the controversies between Northern Ireland and Great Britain. The concert for peace on May 19th 1998 at the Waterfront Hall in Belfast is considered on of the most significant moments of these past few years in terms of the peace process in Ireland. To see David Trimble, the head of the Ulster unionist party on stage for the first time with the leader of the SDLP John Hume was for thousands of youngsters an unforgettable moment;
- In 1984, together with Bob Geldof, Midge Ure, Sting, Annie Lenox, Phil Collins, George Michale and Paul Young, he organised and animated the BAND AID with the single 'Do they know it's Christmas?', which became the best seller song for 13 years and benefited Ethiopia during the famine of that year. The following summer, Bono and U2 turned the Live AID concert into the biggest charity concert ever organised;
- In 1985 he starts the collaboration with Amnesty International, for which Bono recorded the single 'Artists against Apartheid': it is impossible not to remember what the archbishop Desmond Tutu, President for truth and reconciliation in South Africa, Nobel for Peace in 1998 and honorary citizen of Turin in 1985 said: “The social conscience of U2 and Bono is impressive: they are full of idealism; I am a U2 enthusiast and I can't find the words to praise them for what they do”;
- In 1992 Bono takes part in a campaign organised by Greenpeace against radioactive pollution and the dangerous gas emissions in the air around a nuclear recycling centre in England;
- Still in 1992, U2 takes part in the American campaign launched by MTV, 'Rock the Vote', organised to encourage youngsters to vote and get involved in politics, without supporting a specific political party, but inviting youngsters to get informed, to participate and choose their party;

- On September 23rd 1997, Bono and U2 performed at the Olympic Stadium of Kosovo in Sarajevo, in the middle of NATO soldiers and 45 thousands youngsters from all the republics of ex-Yugoslavia: the concert benefited the new reconstruction plan of the hospitals of Sarajevo;
- In 1999, the leader of U2 was already involved in many more humanitarian causes than any other rockstar; in that year, Bono became the spokesman of the Jubilee 2000, the organisation for the elimination of the debt of poor countries towards industrialised countries. Jubilee 2000 launched a world-wide campaign in 60 countries, which aimed at deleting 100 billion dollars and encouraging the G8 to consider cancelling the debt;
- In 1999, Bono supported the Net Aid organised by the United Nations against poverty: New Day, the hymn of Net Aid was presented in New York at the UN Palace on September 8th by Bono and his colleague and co-writer Wyclef Jean. The UN general secretary said about Bono: "I admire Bono so much, as a person and for his involvement in the Third World debt cause. Thanks to his success in the music field, Bono managed to get thousands of youngsters interested in this crucial political problem. He is a sincere friend of the United Nations and has given an inestimable contribution to the poor people of the world";
- On November 11th 1999, U2 received in Dublin, during the MTV Europe Music Award, the Free Your Mind award for their involvement for peace and for having supported the success of the yes at the referendum in Northern Ireland, as well as for the initiatives against poverty in the world;
- On September 7th 2000, after having talked at the Millennium Summit at the Glass Palace of New York City, he handed to Kofi Annan a petition signed by 21.2 million people in 150 countries that asked for the reconsideration of the Third World debt;
- In 2002, he is one of the most active supporters of the DATA organisation (Debts, Aids, Trade, Africans), that was created to work for solutions regarding the African continent's debt, the explosion of AIDS and to support the development of trade and economy of African countries to liberate them from poverty;
- Bono is a candidate for the Nobel Price for Peace 2003 which will be awarded in October in Oslo.

GIVEN THAT

The City of Turin has always supported, with the conferring of honorary citizenship, whoever actively fought for civil rights and peace; for this reason we count as our honorary citizens: Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, Rigoberta Menchù;

- on May 19th 2003, Bono was one of the representatives of The World Political Forum which took place in Turin under the presidency of Mikhail Gorbaciov;
- there exists a professional link with our city, as it was chosen as the seat for two World Tours: ZOO TV TOUR 1993 and ELEVATION TOUR 2001.

ACCORDING TO

The art.8 of the Statute of the City of Turin;

CONFERS

The honorary Citizenship to Paul David Hewson, stage-name Bono.