## GIANCARLO LIGABUE

## ON THE OCCASION OF THE 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE CENTRO STUDI RICERCHE LIGABUE

He was born in Venice on 30th October 1931.

A Euro-MP, he was chairman of the Union for Europe party and member of the Commission for Culture in the European Parliament.

A graduate in paleontology from the Sorbonne, he has also received four honorary degrees: natural sciences (University of Modena, Italy), philosophy (University of Venice, Italy), archaeology (University of Lima, Perù), archaeology and history (University of Ashgabat, Turkmenistan).

He is the president of the Venice Museum of Natural History and has produced hundreds of books, film, photos and scientific papers, the fruit of hundreds of expeditions organized by the Ligabue Study and Research Cen-

> tre, of which he is president; the main fields of the Centre are anthropology, palaeontology and natural

sciences.

He has visited dozens of ethnic groups in danger of extinction in all major world regions and also discovered two hitherto unknown peoples who have had no previous contacts with Western civilisation. Moreover, he has unearthed about ten deposits of dinosaurs, some of which carry his name, and some fossil hominid sites.

> A passionate and keen scholar of archaeology, he has understood for the last twenty years the importance of the cultures of Bactria and Margiana in the history of our planet. He has promoted and supported excavation campaigns in the oases of Gonur depe and Adji Kui in Turkmenistan, a country for which he has a particular respect and appreciation.