

European Federation of Hard of Hearing People

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Editor: Marcel Bobeldijk

February 2008

EFHOH president letter

Dear Friends,

2008 is a new special year for you and me and also for EFHOH. On behalf of the EFHOH board, I would like to address to you our best wishes for 2008 in your work for hard of hearing people across Europe.

I write this president letter in my holiday address in Bolsterlang in the Allgau, South of Germany near the border with Austria. This winterholiday gives me the time to relax, skiing and to read a very interesting book called Tribe of the writer Bruce Parry. When I read this book I was also thinking how do hard of hearing people lives in the Kombai in the West-Papuan in Indonesia or the HOH people of the Hamar in the Ornovalley in Ethiopia without hearing aids?

Hearing aids are for us as hard of hearing people very important. On European level we as EFHOH participate in the ANEC meeting of hearing aids specialist.

In order to create an accessible infrastructure for hard of hearing people, the hard of hearing person needs:

- 1) hearing aids (one of two if needed) with a telecoil or FM receiver;
- 2) access to individual technical devices (e.g. a portable communication system);
- 3) a high degree of accessibility in society such as good listening environment and assistive technology in (loop system or such) public areas.

2008 is also a special year because two things:

1e. in 2008 is the 8th IFHOH world congress in Vancouver/Canada. I hope that we meet a lot of hard of hearing people from Europe. The host organisation CHHA in Canada have made a nice and interesting program for all the different types of hard of hearing. In this EFHOH newsletter you find some last information or you can make a look at the IFHOH website www.ifhoh.org

2e. The Dutch organisation of hard of hearing people celebrate this year 100 years NVVS. The NVVS is so far I know the oldest National Organisation for Hard of Hearing People in the world. As EFHOH board we will send our congratulations to the board and the members of the NVVS. In this EFHOH newsletter you can read an article about the history of the NVVS written by Kees Twilt.

Of course EFHOH have in 2008 also our regular activities as the EFHOH AGM in Dublin. I hope that you as EFHOH member are able to come and participate in our AGM. The IHHA have organised a very nice program for us. Important to know that we have a new deadline for the registrations the new deadline is 15 of February. Please contact us when you have some asks. The papers for the AGM will be send soon to the participants.

When you like to organise the EFHOH AGM 2009 in your country please let us know so that we make a proposal for the AGM in Dublin. Of course we as EFHOH board will help you by the organisation of the EFHOH AGM 2009.

Also EFHOH is following EDF. They started in full speed with the EDF strategy following up the "1 million4disability" campaign to continue

our full mobilization in favour of a non discrimination disability legislation. Also EDF is preparing for the Slovenian EU Presidency with the 2e Ministerial Conference on Disability hosted by the Presidency.

Dear all, it is very misery that we also letting you know that **Pat Mc Kenna** passed away on Wednesday 30 January. He had difficult last two years but at least he was comfortable and not in pain in the end.

He did tremendous work for the Hard of Hearing special in Ireland for the IHHA. He was an officer officer of the IHHA for years and President for 4 of them. He had great political skills and used them in lobbying to force Irish broadcasters to provide a comprehensive subtitling service. He lobbied for fuller access to public buildings, transport etc. He was very energetic and committed to the cause.

We as EFHOH board remember Pat Mc Kenna as a big friend of EFHOH and we will miss all his support for our work on European level special his work for more and better subtitling on TV. Pat McKenna was many years member of the EFHOH nomination committee and was also many years delegate for IHHA at the EFHOH AGM's. And we will miss his humor and always his smiling face.

Pat thanks for all your work and rest in peace.

Persons wishing to extend condolences to his family should send them to:

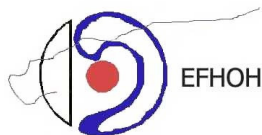
IHHA
35 North Frederik Street
Dublin 1
Ireland.

Kind Regards,

Marcel Bobeldijk
President of EFHOH

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EFHOH NEWS:

The e-mail address for EFHOH

The EFHOH email address is efhoh@hrf.se

You can also find EFHOH on Hyves see www.hyves.nl and you are always in touch with your EFHOH friends. This is new and you can have a look at www.hyves.nl and look/click by hyves and look by the name EFHOH or your look by my name Marcel Bobeldijk. The EFHOH hyves page is in English and my personal page are in English.

EFHOH AGM 2008 in Dublin:

The Irish Hard of Hearing association (IHHA) have the pleasure of inviting you to attend the EFHOH AGM & Conference on Friday/Saturday 28/29 March 2008 in Dublin, Ireland. We hope that Delegates and Observers from your organisations will attend the event here in Dublin.

We have made reservations in Bewley's Hotel, Ballsbridge which is close to the City Centre. If you wish to do some sightseeing or shopping when you are here, or visit the Museums and Art Galleries, these are easily accessible by bus from the Hotel.

On Friday there is an opportunity for some sightseeing in the morning. The AGM will held be in the afternoon at the European Foundation Conference Centre just south of Dublin. That evening, there will be a Gala dinner at the National Yacht Club.

On Saturday there will be an all day Conference, with presentations by guest speakers dealing with issues arising around hearing loss. Topics will include Equality, Access to College Education for those who are hard of hearing, Aural Rehabilitation in Ireland and Noise Awareness and resultant hearing loss.

We need to provide the Hotel with reservation details so we ask you to return your Registration Form confirming booking by **February 15th 2008 at the latest.**

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Aideen Foran at: aideen.foran@nadp.ie

EFHOH Conference Dublin 2008

Just a brief note to confirm that arrangements for the EFHOH AGM in Dublin are all in place and that the Irish Hard of Hearing Association anticipates a good attendance and is looking forward to meeting our European Colleagues at the end of March.

The AGM will be held on the afternoon of Friday 29th March followed by Dinner that evening in The National Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire A Conference will take place on Saturday March 29th in the European Foundation Conference Centre in Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin.

Speakers / Presentations are as follows:

- Patrick O'Leary of the Equality Authority on Equality Legislation in Ireland. Patrick will discuss examples of the work of the Equality Tribunal with particular examples of cases dealing with hearing loss.
- Anne Heelan of AHEAD on access to 3rd level education and employment for those who experience hearing loss.
- Brian Symmington of RNID on their Noise Awareness Program presently underway in Northern Ireland.
- Brigid McSweeney of DeafHear on Aural Rehabilitation (AR) in Ireland. Brigid will deal with the holistic approach to AR currently being implemented by DeafHear.
- Elizabeth Ward and her hearing guide dog Noah.
- Guido Gybels of RNID (UK) on the latest developments in assistive hearing technology.
- Marcel Bobeldijk, President of EFHOH introducing EFHOH to the IHHA membership with a brief description of their work in Europe.

There will be a full lunch and a display of assistive equipment by DeafHear personnel who will be available to answer questions and provide information regarding assistive equipment and hearing loss.

It promises to be an exciting opportunity for the IHHA membership to share experiences with our European and fellow Irish colleagues. Many IHHA Members and a significant number of European Delegates have confirmed their registrations at the time of writing.

We take this opportunity to remind those members who wish to attend to register as soon as possible to avoid disappointment and enable the Organising Committee to finalise arrangements. If you would like to attend the event, please contact Aideen Foran at DeafHear or mail her at aideen.foran@deafhear.ie

EFHOH AGM 2008: Call for new board members:

Dear members of EFHOH,

At the AGM in Dublin we have to elect new Board members of EFHOH

The Constitution of EFHOH states among others:

- The Board consists of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and one general member.
- Board members must be of age and qualified to act. The majority of the Board members must be Hard-of- Hearing themselves and all must be a member of one of EFHOH's General members.
- Board members will be elected by a majority vote for a period of two years and **can be** re-elected.

The present Board comprises:

President: Marcel Bobeldijk (Holland)

Vice-President: Siegfried Karg (Switzerland)

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General-Secretary: Jan Lamby (Sweden)
Treasurer: Ritva-Liisa Schading (Germany)
Board Member: Ulla Konkari Koski (Finland)

Siegfried Karg has agreed to be the Vice-president for another period
Ulla Konkari Koski **has not agreed** to be boardmember for another period

The nominating committee needs formal proposals from the member organizations. With this information as a background we need proposals for Vice-president and Board Member.

To be able to present a proposal for new board-members of EHOH to the Annual General Meeting to be held in Dublin, Ireland, on March 28th 2008. The Nominating Committee needs your nominations by the latest **February 15, 2008**.

Send your nominations to: Kees Twilt, Waldeck Pyrmontkade 449, 2518 KG Den Haag, Netherlands. Email ctwilt@hotmail.com

On behalf of the Nominating Committee,
Kees Twilt
Chairman Nominating Committee EFHOH

The presentation of candidates for the board election:

Siegfried Karg

Candidate for re-election as vice president at the AGM in Dublin

As a response to the request of Kees Twilt, chairman of the nominating committee, let me introduce myself:

I was born in 1946 in Southern Germany. I studied theology at the University of Hamburg / Germany and at the University of Zurich / Switzerland and at the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Rüslikon near Zurich, graduating in 1970 with a Bachelor of Divinity degree. After postgraduate studies, I was awarded the degree of Master of Theology in 1973. From 1974-1980 I was a fellow and lecturer at the Institute for Social Ethics of the University of Zurich. From 1980-1985 I was director of a training institute for Christian social workers in Zurich. Since 1985 I have been a pastor of the Swiss Reformed Church, first in Adliswil near Zurich, then in Winterthur. Since 1995 I have been working as a pastor and counselor in a large nursing home in Winterthur.

Even at the age of 61 I still have normal hearing, for which I am very grateful. My first encounter with a hard of hearing person was in 1970 when I met my wife's aunt who has been hard of hearing since childhood. As a result of the problems she had communicating on the phone we got her a special phone with inductive coupling, which was my first introduction to this technology

During my time as a pastor in Adliswil, a hard of hearing person told me that the induction loop system in our church did not work well. Until then I had not known what an induction loop was. At the

same time the public address system in the church had to be renewed and I suggested renewing the loop system as well and became actively involved in the process.

As a result my first article „Switch your hearing aid to T” was published in our church magazine in 1988.

While I was a pastor in Winterthur I was invited by the local chapter of the Swiss Hard of Hearing Association to speak about my experience with loop systems. Afterwards I was asked if I would be willing to devote more time to the concerns of hard of hearing people on a volunteer basis, and was elected vice president of the Winterthur chapter in March 1992. Since 1993 I have been president of what is now Pro Audito Winterthur.

I am especially interested in the technical aspects of hearing aids and I am a strong supporter of induction loop systems (some call me jokingly the „Swiss Induction Loop Pope”). In my daily work in a nursing home I am directly confronted with the specific problems of hard of hearing people. In the last 13 years as president of Pro Audito Winterthur I have counseled many hard of hearing people, as well as their partners and families.

I enjoy writing articles for our Swiss Hard of Hearing magazine „deziel”, especially on both technical and psychological matters. Some of my texts are on our website www.proaudito-winterthur.ch

One focus of my volunteer work has been to encourage churches to install induction loop systems. In Winterthur I was instrumental in making some public buildings hearing aid accessible.

In addition to my advocating for the concerns of hard of hearing people at the local level, I have always recognized the importance of efforts made internationally. I was a guest at the IFHOH world congress in Graz / Austria in 1996 and presented papers at the world congresses in Sydney / Australia in 2000 and in Helsinki / Finland in 2004.

In 2002 I was elected vice president of EFHOH in Ljubljana / Slovenia and re-elected in 2004 in Helsinki and in 2006 in Dubrovnik / Croatia for a third term. It was my pleasure to help organize the Annual General Meetings in Graz in 2003 and in Dubrovnik in 2006.

In addition I have been a board member of the Swiss Hard of Hearing Association (Pro Audito Schweiz) since 2003. I am also a member of the Swiss Acoustical Society since 2000.

I have been married to an American since 1971 and have an adult daughter.

Candidate as general board member:

Anna Klemetilä:

I was asked to tell something about myself to EFHOH newsletter so people get to know me a little before the AGM elections.

So, my name is Anna Klemetilä. I'm 40 years old woman living in Oulu, Finland.

I have been working as an industrial designer since 1999 and at the moment in a firm called Idem Oy, which is specializing to mobile handheld devices. Yes, I have hard time every now and then, taking part in all those meetings, conference calls, workshops but I like my job and somehow I'm managing to work there. Mostly I think it's because of my own attitude and knowledge about devices and other possibilities, but also because of work mates' understanding on my difficulties.

I haven't always been an industrial designer. I have also education of kinder garden teacher and I worked in the branch for 5 years.

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Just before getting my first regular job as designer, I had a special education for 1 year of Hearing and Technology in Oulu University of applied sciences, Health and Welfare sector. Though I originally applied to organisations (DPOs) in Norway, this education for my interest to devices, as a designer, it has been very, or more, useful in my "hobby" as an active organization volunteer, as well as just being a hard of hearing myself. I think that if general knowledge of hearing issues among people would be better, we didn't have to face so many difficulties and we could also better help ourselves. I went to school without any devices or help because nobody realized that I'm hard of hearing. I only had a mild hearing loss at that time. Nowadays there's no doubt about it as I don't hear hardly anything without hearing aids.

I have been active in Finnish Federation of the Hard of Hearing for over 10 years now. Starting from youth work, I have been acting in many different roles in national, international, local and regional levels. In addition to arranging happenings, sending e-mails or sitting in meetings, quite often my work has had also something to do with magazine layouts and arranging printings. Also I have been working with some content, layout and pictures of websites.

Sometimes, when 2 weeks, including weekends, have gone doing this "hobby" for 3-4 hours in the evening after my regular job, it doesn't really feel so "hobby" anymore. But as it takes a lot, it also brings me so many wonderful experiences and I also get to know new people. Just being sometimes with other hard of hearing people, is also important to me. Taking part to organization work has taught me a lot about how societies are working, what I can do if I want to influence. Being in touch with IFHOHYP also taught me something about the difficulties and joy of co-operating with different cultures.

When I have time, I like to do some sports. (Just bought new skies, let's see if we get enough snow and if I still can ski cross country...) Often also, just going for a walk makes me feel good. As my work and "hobby" needs a lot of meetings and traveling, I really enjoy having some peaceful "normal" time with my boyfriend. Just going to movies or read a good book. I also love good food! My favorite place to go in summertime, since I was a little girl, is my grandfather's old cottage by the sea in Hailuoto-island in front of Oulu. There's always something needing repairing but we still have time to go exploring the beach and forest and get some fresh fish from fishers...

Recent work as a Board member of FFHOH and Chair of our organization's International workgroup has raised my interest to International work again and I would like to work more active with EFHOH. I'm willing to take the challenge and learn again more ways to influence and promote hard of hearing issues.

See you in Dublin!
Anna

Knut Magne Ellingsen:

Knut Magne Ellingsen is President of HLF (The Norwegian Association of the Hard of Hearing). HLF has more than 50 000 members and is the largest organisation for disabled people in Norway.

He is totally deaf on one ear and has tinnitus. In June 2006 he was elected as President, but has also worked as Secretary General in HLF from 1986 to 1993. During that period he was member of the group preparing the foundation of EFHOH.

He has been a board-member in several different organisations. Among those is The Norwegian Federation of Organisations of

Disabled People (FFO) and The Atlas Alliance, which is the umbrella organisation for the development work of disabled people's

Today he is President of the umbrella organisation The Association for Adopted Adult Education in Norway.

He has a lot of international experience, both as a board-member as well as through his job as Director for the International Department in The Norwegian Heart and Lung Patient Organisation.

EDDP – European Day of People with Disabilities:

By Jan Lamby,

Every year in the first week of December, the European Commission organises a policy conference to mark the European Day of People with Disabilities, in close cooperation with the European Disability Forum (EDF). The 2007 conference was held on 5 and 6 December, with a theme called:

People with disabilities: Active players in Internal Market.

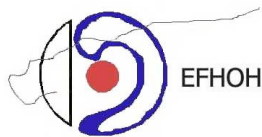
It was the first time I participated in the EDDP, in one way representing all hard of hearing people in our member organisations.

The main issues at stake were: ***Free movement of people with Disabilities and their families*** and ***Mainstream goods and Infrastructure for all***. In his opening speech, the President of the EDF, Yannis Vardakstanis declared that "the EU has clearly failed to deliver an inclusive internal market for all its citizens, the current internal market review is an opportunity to tackle this issue. We demand a profound revision of EU's legislation and policies, which must lead to concrete results for all EU citizens on an equal basis".

We can see that disabled people face numerous barriers when accessing goods and services. Most of the times, they cannot benefit from free movement as the non-disabled citizens. The session of the first theme dealt with the obstacles a disabled person faces when he or she want to move to another country within the EU. When a disabled person has support from the social welfare system, maybe personal assistance; you can not simply bring this assistance with you if you move. Therefore we need a harmonisation of rules and legislation. This work also affects the insurance companies as well.

We also need good examples of how the labour market can develop towards better opportunities for the disabled. One was proved by Ms. Sally Davis, CEO at the British Telecom who described the work within her company. She claimed to have in some department up to 8% disabled people employed. This as she said, was "fundamentally for business".

The second theme was "Mainstream goods and Infrastructure for all" a large field including many aspects of accessibility such as consumer goods, transport and built environment. Here, I feel there are more concrete issues to deal with, that have a larger influence on the life of hard of hearing people. One of the invited speakers was Mr. Oleg Kambarski from the IRU, International Road Transport Union. The union organises companies in coach, bus and taxi transport industry. The IRU has launched a new strategy whose aim, among others, is to increase the accessibility on vehicles used as taxis, buses and



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coaches. The design and accessibility of the vehicles is of course only a part of the overall accessibility of the entire journey. You have to consider how to make your booking; getting your ticket and all information about the trip including alerts when there are delays due to accidents or other causes.

It became clear that Mr. Kamberski was mostly concerned with wheelchair users/mobility impaired people. So I raised a question why not other disabilities. I got a good answer to this and on behalf of EFHOH, I am now working to provide some guidelines for hard of hearing. The most important I believe is visual information, both at terminals and inside the vehicle. Security information should be subtitled when shown at displays in the bus/coach or terminals. How to buy a ticket and order a taxi are other important aspects where we would like to see more use of visual media as SMS, e-mail and so on. Of course a loop or corresponding system in vehicles is of great benefit to most hard of hearing people.

It was impressive to see so many representatives of the disability movement in Europe and people from the EU bodies on all levels. Together with the representatives from the governments of the EU countries there were 300 people attending this conference. It clearly shows the importance of the strive to make the EU an inclusive society. In some way I'm optimistic, feeling the increasing attention to disability related issues all over Europe.

More information about this conference and the EDF is found on: www.edf-feph.org

EFHOH Board Task Allocation:

Marcel Bobeldijk: Contact person EDF and IFHOHYP, board member of IFHOH, member of INCOM/TCAM, Subtitling, Telecom and Public transport and editor for the EFHOH newsletter.

Siegfried Karg: Contact person German speaking members and contact person industry/sponsors and the technical subjects

Jan Lamby: Secretary's work contact person to all our members and responsible for mailing lists etc; accessibility of the built environment; currently editor of the EFHOH website.

Ritva-Liisa Schädling: Treasurers work and look to new sponsors/funds

Ulla Konkari Koski: She has left the EFHOH board by Sept 07.

EFHOH Program 2008

7 + 8 February	ANEC meeting about hearing aids in Paris, Marcel
27 th March	IFHOH board meeting Dublin, Marcel
28e March	EFHOH board meeting and EFHOH AGM, Dublin all the EFHOH board members
29e March	EFHOH/IHHA symposium Dublin, all the EFHOH board members
5 April	Euro-CI Annual General Meeting in Luxemburg, Marcel

24+ 25May	EDF AGA Ljubljana/Slovenia, Marcel
1 – 5 July	IFHOH world congress Vancouver and IFHOH AGM, all the EFHOH board members

EFHOH Documents and Presentations on the website:

- EFHOH AGM 2008 in Dublin, Ireland;
- Statement about UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- EFHOH Survey on accessible e-communications;
- EFHOH Guideline for an Inclusive Society;
- EFHOH Comparison of Subtitlings.
- And more see www.efhoh.org

IFHOH NEWS:

CHHA-IFHOH world congress 2008:

When: July 2-July 6
Where: Vancouver Canada
Questions: congress2008@chha.ca

"A Global Community of Communication"
Register now for the July 2-5, 2008 joint Canadian Hard of Hearing Association and International Federation of Hard of Hearing People international conference being held at the Sheraton Wall Centre in Vancouver. Practitioners, policy-makers, service providers, family members and consumers from around the world will network with each other, share best practices, and learn about important issues in promoting hearing accessibility, services and programs for improved communication and quality of living for hard of hearing people. Book by **Feb. 29** for the 'early bird' registration rate.

Featured Keynote Speakers

- Johan Hammarström, with panel members Ahiya Kamara, Duong Phuong Hanh and Jan-Peter Strömgren, discussing his air flight around the world and challenges faced as a hard of hearing pilot.
- Dr. Kelly Tremblay on how sound is relayed and processed beyond the ear and its impact.
- Jan-Peter Strömgren, Marcia B. Dugan and Charlotta Göller on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its importance for hard of hearing people worldwide.
- Dr. Charles Laszlo and Dr. Kathy Pichora-Fuller exploring the current state of hearing accessibility and ways to foster and coordinate hearing accessibility research world-wide.
- Gael Hannan presenting a thought-provoking look at the reality of life with hearing loss during her performance, Ear Rage: Life on the Hearing Loss Road.

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Besides plenary sessions over 57 workshops and panel presentations will be delivered as well as 12 poster sessions, all of this within four days, from July 2 to 5 at the beautiful Sheraton Wall Centre in Vancouver.

Altogether some 102 presenters will converge on Vancouver, Canada for the Congress. This is the largest contingent of presenters by far of any who have attended at CHHA Conference.

Special Conference Activities

- **Special opening reception** on Wed., July 2 with flag marching by hard of hearing youth.
- A Karaoke Night of performance and fun on Thurs., July 3.
- A **Special Reception** sponsored by Cochlear Corporation on Fri., July 4 and a closing Banquet on Sat., July 5.

Full details, including Congress program, hotel reservation information, registration, and contact information are available online at www.chha-ifhohcongress2008.com.

IFHOH Report on the Meeting in Madrid, Spain November 26 to 29

Representatives from international disability organizations and other key players met in Madrid at the end of November, 2007 to discuss implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. I was privileged to represent the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People at the meeting organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Government of Spain, and Fundación ONCE (a funding organization).

Through three days of meetings the 20 or so persons assembled hammered out a documentation containing recommendations for the implementation of the Convention by UN Member States and the UN itself. We also developed recommendations for the disability community to act on. At the concluding session representatives finalized their recommendations and presented it to the organizers. Throughout hearing access was excellent because delegates spoke into microphones on the tables in front of them.

The meeting was crucial since we must be prepared to act when the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities becomes enacted. As of January 16, 2008 14 countries have ratified the Convention and only 20 ratifications are required for the Convention to become legally binding. This pace of signatories is rather fast for a UN treaty.

Once the Convention becomes a formal treaty, a Committee of Experts will be established and Member States who have signed the Convention will be required to issue a report to the Committee. A report is required two years within signing the Convention and, thereafter, every four years. Only those countries who have signed the Convention will be entitled to nominate a candidate to the Committee of Experts. It is imperative, therefore, that countries with an advanced human rights record ratify the UN Convention immediately.

At the meeting in Madrid we heard from other Committees of Experts and one of the key messages was that the disability community needs to actively monitor work in their own countries. When a government presents a report to the UN Committee of Experts, the disability community in that country should also develop their own "shadow" report since the government report will often try to paint the best possible picture. The Committee of Experts relies on Shadow Reports to understand what is actually happening in different countries.

The next step for the disability community are discussions about establishing a Forum for organizations and individuals interested in following-up on the Convention. This topic will be discussed at a meeting of the International Disability Alliance which Jan-Peter Strömgren, President of IFHOH, and I will be attending in New York Feb. 6-13, 2008 with the assistance of Lotta Göeller. We are committed to working with the disability community to advance the rights of persons with disabilities and our community, hard of hearing persons.

Report by Ruth Warick

EDF News:

Europe in Action 2008:

10 - 12 April 2008, Vienna, AUSTRIA

Please find attached the invitations and registration forms to Inclusion Europe's annual conference. The topic is "Education for all! Inclusive education for young people with disabilities."

We look forward to meeting you in Vienna.

Im Anhang finden Sie die Einladungen und Anmeldeformulare für den bevorstehenden Kongress von Inclusion Europe.

Das Thema ist: "Bildung für alle! Inklusive Bildung für junge Menschen mit Behinderung"

Wir freuen uns darauf, Sie in Wien begrüßen zu dürfen.

Inclusion Europe AISBL

The European Association of Societies of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities and their Families
Galeries de la Toison d'Or
29 Chaussée d'Ixelles #393/32
B-1050 Brussels - Belgium
Tel. : +32-2-502 28 15
Fax : +32-2-502 80 10
Website: www.inclusion-europe.org

EU PRESIDENCY - What priorities for the Slovenian presidency?

The Slovene presidency has unveiled its work programme for the first semester 2008.

EDF, in cooperation with the Slovenian National Disability Council (NSIOS), started to prepare for the Presidency since last year.

EDF will play an active role during the Slovenian Presidency with the preparation of the 2nd Ministerial Conference on Disability focusing on the UN Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities on 22-23 May 2008. Moreover, the Slovenian EU Presidency will welcome the EDF Annual General Assembly on 24 and 25 May in Ljubljana.

More generally, the Presidency will focus its efforts around 5 main priorities:

1. The future of the Union - our common future

On that matter, the most relevant activities are the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty and the future of the EU cohesion policy

2. The Lisbon Strategy: strengthening Europe's role in the age of globalisation

- The **Lisbon Strategy** will be a major focus of both the Slovene presidency. The Spring Council (13/14.03.2008) will launch a new three-year cycle of the Lisbon Strategy. In their work programme, the Slovenes argue that they seek to balance the need for stability of the integrated guidelines and the need to respond to new challenges. Their second priority is to reinforce ownership of the Lisbon Strategy and improve its visibility to EU citizens.

- **Internal Market:** On top of the Lisbon review, the EU Presidency will focus on research, education and SMEs. They also plan to contribute to a more integrated Internal Market.

- **Fight against poverty and social exclusion** with the proposal to work on "*active inclusion, establishing sustainable and adequate systems of social protection and accessible, high-quality social services.*" On the agenda, are set discussions about the new Social Agenda, the social reality stock-taking and demographic challenges.

- **Equal opportunities:** in this area, the presidency seeks progress in the area of gender discrimination and in the fight against discrimination, **in particular for people living with disabilities.** With regard to young people more specifically, the focus will be on youth employment.

- As far as **health policies** are concerned, the Slovenes will highlight cancer and health services.

Other issues are **public finances** and **flexicurity**.

3. Strengthening the area of freedom, security and justice

On this topic, the issue of migration is a key priority.

4. Enhancing the external role of the EU in the area of security, development and economic relations

The Slovenian presidency will prioritise the stability, security and cooperation with the Western Balkans as part of its European agenda. In that context, resolving the Kosovo status will be given a prominent focus.

5. European Year of Intercultural Dialogue

The Presidency intends to take up a leading and active role in launching the European Year and will relate the year to dialogue with the Western Balkans.

For more information on the EU Presidency, please click on the following links :

- [Slovenian presidency website](#)
- [Slovenian presidency work programme](#)
- [Key dates](#)
- [Main events of the Slovenian presidency](#)

European Commission hosts free workshop "eInclusion : Users voices" (Brussels, 21 February 2008)

The road to the "Inclusive knowledge society" is one of the key challenges for ePractice professionals. While a significant proportion of EU citizens (over 40%) are not yet actively engaged in using ICTs (Information and Communication Technologies), there is a prevailing argument that so-called Web 2.0 technologies are going to change this situation. Moreover, emergent network-focused ICTs allow an unprecedented role for the consumer's voice.

In this new ePractice.eu free workshop you will have the opportunity to explore these and other issues that lie at the heart of engaging users in the evolving knowledge society. You will meet other high level practitioners from the eInclusion domain and share experiences based on together examining real cases.

To launch the debate the European Commission has selected some recognized best practices that will be presented by their authors in order to identify the key problems and invite you to elaborate possible solutions. The agenda has been divided in three working themes: 1) Articulating the voice of the vulnerable, 2) Putting the 'participation' in partnerships, and 3) User-driven technologies for eInclusion.

For more information on the speakers, the cases and the agenda you may visit the dedicated webpage www.epractice.eu/workshop/usersvoice.

Please sign up for the workshop online and do not hesitate to contact us at info4@epractice.eu if you need further information. Your comments are welcome.

News from our Members:

An Appreciation of Pat McKenna by the IHHA:

Pat McKenna died on 30 January 2008. His death was coming for sometime. He bore his illness well. The IHHA membership and our past&present officers, send our condolences to his family.

On behalf of the Council and members of the IHHA. I would like to pay tribute to Pat McKenna and to thank him for his outstanding contribution to the Irish Hard of Hearing Association, and to people with hearing loss, in particular during his time as President of the Association. He was very energetic and committed to the cause. We recognised his work formally late last year in making him an honorary member of the association.

One of the first issues addressed by Pat when he joined the Council of the IHHA was hearing aids grants. He campaigned to have the grant increased to realistic levels. We enjoy the benefits of that increase today.

What characterised, and most benefited the IHHA, was Pat's political awareness and his practical political experience. During his time as President, and even before that as a Council member, Pat recognised the importance of affiliation with other organisations, such as the European Federation of Hard of Hearing (EFHOH) and the Irish Senior Citizens Parliament, in order to harness their political clout and to enlist their help in raising awareness of the needs of people with hearing loss. He gained wide recognition and respect for his work from our colleagues here in Ireland, in Europe and the UK.

One of Pat's strengths was his ability to identify and highlight the issues that most concern people with hearing loss. It is hard now to remember that just a few short years ago we were campaigning to have the main evening news on RTE subtitled. Pat campaigned tirelessly, across the political divide and through the contacts and friends he made in RTE, on the issue of subtitling. He wrote submissions to the Broadcasting Commission of Ireland and informed their thinking on acquired hearing loss. He also addressed an Oireachtas Sub-Committee in Dail Eireann.

Pat undertook research into the levels of subtitling across the channels in Ireland and also in other countries. Some of the Europeans looked with envy on what had been achieved here in such a relatively short number of years. Having established the principle of the right of people's with hearing loss to access to TV. In later years Pat turned his attention to access to public buildings, such as airports, churches and banks.

Pat stood down as President of IHHA in April 2007 due to his illness. He has since been very generous with his time in helping me finding my feet as his successor.

We miss you Pat!

Michael Tighe

On behalf of all in the Irish Hard of Hearing Association.

BUCODES QUESTIONNAIRE :

Dear EFHOH member! Please have a look that the Bucodes Questionnaire and send this back to Paul or Brice. Thank you!

General:

1. Name of your Association?
2. How many members does it have?
3. How many hearing aids are sold annually in your country?
4. Where and how can a hearing aid be obtained in your country?
5. What is the minimal-maximal price range (in Euros) for a hearing aid, supplied either by a hospital or by an audioprosthesis?
6. Are the prices of hearing aids fixed (or standardized?) i.e. dependent on the type of appliance, or do they depend on the complexity of the subject's deafness, i.e. the number of adjustment and/or rehabilitation sessions?

Medical Follow Up

7. Are there, in your country, ENTs specialising in the follow up of hearing loss and of subjects with a hearing aid?

Informing the Deaf

8. At the first consultation for obtaining a hearing aid, is it obligatory for deaf subjects to be given written information about how and when they will be fitted with the appliance?
9. Are they also given written information on the costs they will have to defray?
10. Or is all such information given orally?
11. Are there comparative data sheets for assessing the positive and negative characteristics of the appliances on the market?
12. Are the prices of hearing aids posted up in doctors' waiting rooms or audioprosthesis' windows?

Freedom to choose

13. Are deaf subjects free to choose their hearing aid (brand, ergonomic features, etc.)?
14. Can they purchase the appliance in one place, and have it adjusted in another?

Reimbursement

15. Does the degree of reimbursement for hearing aids differ, according to whether they are supplied by the public sector, or privately, by an audioprosthesis?
16. What percentages of the price are respectively paid by the public health service and private insurance, and what percentage is paid by the deaf subject?
17. Is there additional reimbursement for adjustment sessions at the audioprosthesis'?
18. Can orthophonic follow up, i.e. audiorehabilitation, be reimbursed, and is this often the case?

Quality control of hearing aids

19. Is the quality of hearing aids evaluated by an organism that is independent of the supplier?
20. If the purchaser finds the quality of a hearing aid defective, what can he or she do?

Position T

21. Is the audioprosthesis obliged to provide written information about T-coils (hearing aids with telecoils)?
 22. Is this information usually provided?
- Does the audioprosthesis have the right to sell a hearing aid without a Position T?

Other technical aids

23. Is a vibrating alarm clock supplied by an audioprosthesis much more expensive than one from a clockmaker's shop?
24. What is the price of an HF microphone with two receivers and their audioshoes (e.g. a Phonak)?
25. Is a microphone without an HF connection reimbursed?

Cochlear implants

26. What is the patient's share of the cost of a cochlear implantation in the public and private sectors?
27. Is it possible to have a stereophonic implant?
28. What does the patient have to pay for hearing aid adjustments and orthophonic follow up?
29. Do independent centres exist for the evaluation of the results?

You can answer to this questionnaire to the French BUCODES boardmembers : Paul Zylberberg and Brice Meyer-Heine, addresses below:
paulzyl@aol.com or b.meyerheine@wanadoo.fr

Book: "A Hearing life with CI"

During the EFHOH AGM in Oslo we had a visit to Briskeby School of Competence where the main subject of the day were Cochlear Implants. One of the speakers was Inger Anita Herheim, physiotherapist and specialist in psychomotoric physiotherapy. She has written a book about her own experiences with CI and how to cope with the problems as a part of the ReSonare project.

"A HEARING LIFE WITH" Cochlear Implant, training, learning and change".

The Resonare project is carried out as a commission from the Directorate for Health and Social Affairs and the National Support System for Special Education, which is branch of the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training. The focus of the project is to contribute to a better offer of rehabilitation for adults who have become strongly hearing impaired or deaf. The project is centralized at Briskeby School and Centre of Competence owned by the Norwegian Association of Hard of Hearing, HLF.

Since many of you were interested in that book and asked if it was possible to translate into English, the project manager Siri Skollerud asked the Directorate for Health and Social Affairs for money to carry out the translation. The answer was positive, and Briskeby now has 1000 copies for distribution to European Countries.

Send your orders to Briskeby and they will send you copies of the book.

The address:
Briskeby Skole og Kompetansesenter
Ringeriksveien 77
3400 Lier
Norway
Phone: 00 47 32 22 65 00
E-mail: briskeby@statped.no

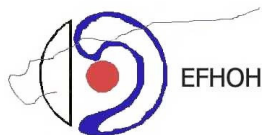
Dramatherapy

At this moment a Dutch student is doing research about dramatherapy with people who have become deaf or hearing impaired suddenly or more gradually. Concerning working with postlingual deafness in drama therapy, research still has not been performed.

The research looks to possibilities of working methods in dramatherapy and how they can be used in an acceptance process for people for this group. People who become suddenly or more gradually deaf or hearing impaired and stagnate in the acceptance process, show symptoms similar to a depression and a form of mourning.

The objective of the research is extending the existing assistance.

In the next newsletter the results and conclusion confessed will be made. For responses on this you can mail to:
GPMVelden@student.han.nl



European Federation of Hard of Hearing People

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Editor: Marcel Bobeldijk

February 2008

History of the Dutch Hard of Hearing Organisation 1e part:

By Kees Twilt

The Dutch Hard of Hearing Organisation, now known as Nederlandse Vereniging voor Slechthorenden (NVVS) was founded in 1908. First there was a journal. Jaap Ott Bultman was a hard of hearing journalist. He wanted the society to pay more attention to Hard of Hearing People. He started a journal 'Het Gehoor'. This was the first journal for deaf and hard of hearing in Holland. He started with 1500 copies, all paid by him self. The journal was for hard of hearing and late deafened. This was for not born deaf people!

A year later he founded the Bond van Slechthorenden, the association of Hard of Hearing and became chairman of the board. One of the important aims of the association was to fight against the quacks, who sold a lot of quack medicine to hard of hearing people at that time. Mr. Ott Bultman and the other persons in were all hard of hearing themselves. In the beginning they did not want any help from normal hearing people in the organisation. In 1911 they changed the name of the Association in Vereeniging tot Bevordering der Belangen van Slechthorenden. Mr. Ott Bultman could not agree with this change and he left the board. The association had become a union! This meant in practice that also normally hearing people could join the board and local clubs were founded all over the country.

One of the most active persons in the board at that time was Tine Marcus. Her nickname was Mother of the Deaf. She was active on different aspects of the organisation. One of the first things she founded was a Central Institute for Hearing Aids. At this institute were examples of hearing aids and people could visit to try out the hearing aids. She also had a column in the journal of the organisation, in which she answered questions of hard of hearing people.

At the same time the board of the union started to think of a home to come together! The board was very lucky when they got a piece of land in Lunteren, a small village in the centre of Holland. In 1914 the building, which was almost paid with gifts from the members of the union, was opened. It has been the most important place to meet other hard of hearing for more than 75 years!

National Volunteers Day on 1st february 2008 for the 100th anniversary of NVVS:

By Hannie Huigsloot

During the past 99 years there have been several policy changes, but the Dutch Hard of Hearing Organisation NVVS has always strongly built on volunteers. For a small country there are many regions who have built up their own network of volunteers and professionals. During some periods some departments had only a couple of volunteers, but there are some large departments now. There is a strong cooperation between regions and the national association.

These groups meet once or twice a year for effective cooperation and lessons, and to discuss the hearing policies in other areas.

For the 100th anniversary year, the NVVS has organized a special day with lots of information, workshops and the introduction of lots of new activities.

Also a new lay-out and logo have been designed. New goals have been reached:

- More cooperation with politics, about work, unemployment, education and social events.
 - More cooperation with the media, and more subtitling.
 - New publications, these are also sent to professionals and waiting rooms
 - Cooperation with Readers Digest about a hearing special.
 - During this year several new information meetings, programs and shows will be held.
- Also there will be
- a national Symposium for professionals on 28 october 2008
 - the celebration for members of the NVVS on 13 december 2008

Recently the NVVS has got a new group of volunteers, which is a good sign for the future.

These new volunteers have participated in a number of courses, about effective cooperation and about giving hearing information to people in homes for the elderly, nurses and staff.

Also there is a new covenant for cooperation with other hearing handicapped associations. The main reason for this covenant is that all organisations have their office in the same building, which is very effective!

Hopefully 2008 will be a good year to all!

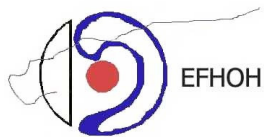
EFHOH, Spring Recipe:

Make your own wine! It's called Tea Wine:

*4 pints of strong tea
2lb of sugar
½ bl of large raisins
2 lemons*

1. Save 4 pints of tea from your teapot
2. Pour into a large bowl
3. Add 2 lb of sugar
4. Add ½ lb of large raisins (cut them in small pieces)
5. Slice two lemons in as well
6. Stir well and allow to stand for 1 month
7. Remove scum
8. Strain and put in bottles
9. Close the bottles and seal them with corks.

The longer it is kept, the better it gets!



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Next issue:

WANTED!

Article's needed for the next EFHOH newsletter

You can send articles to the editor Marcel Bobeldijk:

Marbob32@hotmail.com

The newsletter is best with several short stories; the article should not exceed one page.

Deadline for the next newsletters in 2008 are:

1 of April 2008;
1 of June 2008
1 of September 2008
1 of November 2008

If you need more time, contact Marcel.

Let's make a good newsletter together!