

Edited by Marcel Bobeldijk, president of EFHOH and Niels-Henrik M. Hansen.

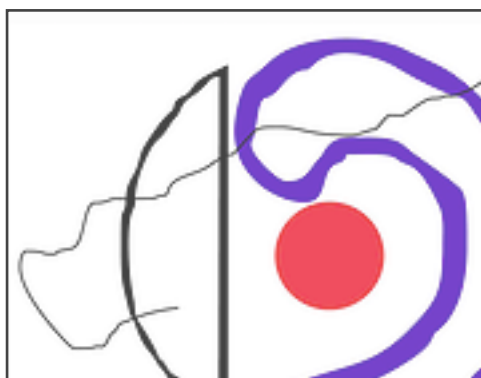
Deadline for the next newsletter is November 1. /2016.

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THE IFHOH WORLD CONGRESS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE USA

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DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW CODE OF CONDUCT FOR HEARING CARE PROFESSIONALS – A SUCCESS STORY OF “NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US”

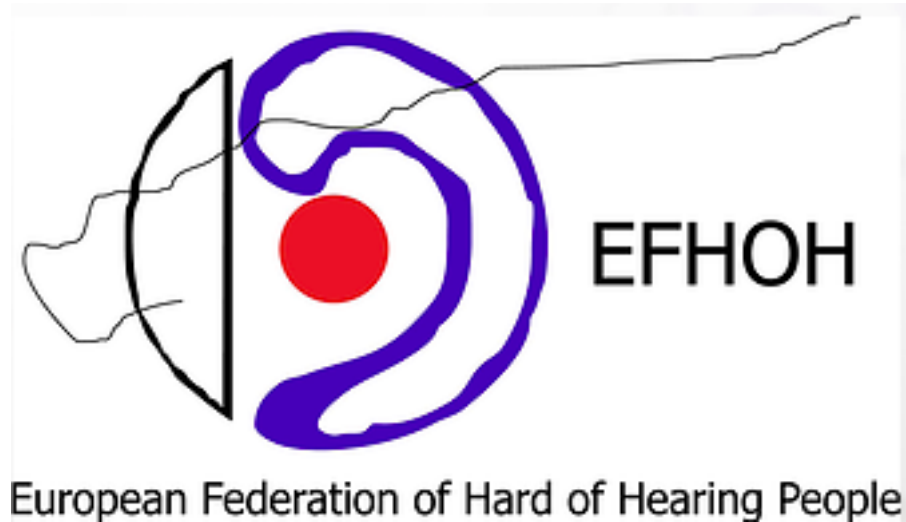
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HEARING ONLY WITH THE EARS?

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EFHOH President letter

Dear all,

We as the EFHOH board hope that you had a great summer. It was a summer full of sports starting with football in France, followed by tennis at Wimbledon, the Tour de France (cycling) and in August at the end of the summer, the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. I hope that you were also able to watch it all on television with subtitles?

Some of you had a great time at the 10th IFHOH World Congress in conjunction with the Convention of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) in Washington D.C. One of the important highlights was the passing of the Washington Declaration 2016. In the new IFHOH journal, you can read more about this declaration and other IFHOH news. You can find the IFHOH Journal on the IFHOH website at: <http://www.ifhoh.org/#journal/zr6gw>

Our secretary Aida Regel Poulsen represented the EFHOH board at the joint board meeting (EFHOH, IFHOH, APFHD and IFHOHYP) in Washington D.C. Aida and Juha Hietala, our new EFHOH board member, represented EFHOH at the IFHOHYP AGM. I also want to congratulate the new president of IFHOHYP, Victor Rehn (Finland) and his new team. Additionally, we as the EFHOH board wish to thank for her past service as the IFHOH General Secretary, Hanh Duong Phuong of Vietnam for her great work for IFHOH.

We wish her success in her latest work as the President of the Asian Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened (APFHD).

A warm welcome to Patrick Gift Egessa (Kenya) who was elected as the new IFHOH board member. It is great news that IFHOH now has for the first time in their history, a board member from Africa. Also we wish continuing success in their work for the returning board members, Ruth Warrick (Canada) as president, Avi Blau (Israel) as vice president, Louise Carroll (New Zealand) as general secretary, and Heikki Niemi (Finland) as treasurer.

EFHOH AGM 2017:

Some weeks ago our secretary Aida Regel Poulsen informed our members that the EFHOH AGM 2017 in Dublin/Ireland is cancelled. Unfortunately, our Irish member HLI was not able to organise the EFHOH AGM & Conference 2017. Different members have been working on offering to host the EFHOH AGM 2017, Thanks for the different proposals. EFHOH board have made a decision and have accept NADP proposal to organise the EFHOH AGM 2017 5 & 6 May in London.

Revision of the Audiovisual Media Service Directive: As a member of the EDF (European Disability Forum) ICT expert group, we were very busy this

summer with the Commission of the European Union. The EC presented in May a revision of the Audiovisual Media Service Directive (AVMSD), in which they removed the only article on accessibility, arguing that the European Accessibility Act (EAA) had stricter requirements. Given that some Members of the European Parliament want to remove audiovisual services from the EAA, EDF staff is working on both proposals, aligning the requirements in such a way that they can be complementary. Based on the EDF answer to the AVMSD public consultation launched by the Commission last year, EDF staff is working in collaboration with the EDF ICT expert group on this dossier. EDF main objective will be to set out progressive and quantitative targets for each of the four main access services for audiovisual content: subtitles, audio description, spoken subtitles and sign language interpretation. You may have seen EFHOH Press Release related to the issues above, EFHOH vice president together with me, is working hard to support EDF dossier. In the next EFHOH newsletter we will provide you with more information.

AEA / EHIMA / EFHOH collaboration.

We have worked together on new report which will be first shown at the Ear Foundation event on 26th September. The report is very important culmination of our discussions on making sure the language and statistics are consistent in our work with external stakeholders. The second, very important work is AEA Code of Conduct for hearing care professionals. You can read more about the work and how it was developed in this Newsletter.

WHO /ITU/ UN CRPD

EFHOH continues to engage with international organisations as the European representative. Our Vice president, Lidia Best attended another World Health Organisation stakeholders meeting and participated in workshops. We are actively planning World Hearing Day at the European Parliament together with AEA and EHIMA. Do let us know what you are planning in your countries for 3rd March 2017. In September, Lidia Best will attend meetings at International Telecommunication Union (ITU). This is very important step forward in our work.

Lastly, I am very happy to see Dr. Laszlo Lovaszy re-election as the Commissioner at the UN CRPD Committee whom EFHOH supported. You can read more about Laszlo at <http://lovaszy.webnode.hu/>

Adult Hearing Loss in Europe 2016:

The Ear Foundation (UK) organised a launch of their new European Report. The event is on the 26th September 2016 in Brussels. This conference addresses the impact of adult hearing loss, the real costs of adult hearing loss to Europe, and how by increasing access to today's technology across Europe we change lives and save money. Lidia Best our vice president was one of the speakers at this event. The report can be downloaded from Ear Foundation website <http://www.earfoundation.org.uk/news/articles/553>

At the event, Mark Laureyns, the AEA President has also presented joint report of EFHOH, EHIMA and AEA "Getting our numbers right", you can see the report here http://media.wix.com/ugd/c2e099_45b42477f2204304914cf-f906a565fca.pdf

Follow us:

We invite you to follow EFHOH via Facebook and Twitter. Our Twitter addresses are:

EFHOH	@efhoh
Marcel Bobeldijk	@marbob32
Lidia Best	@best_lidia
EDF	@MyEDF

Call for articles for the next EFHOH Newsletter:

If you have an article for one of the next EFHOH newsletters that we will publish in 2016, please send it to us. You can also send your article to our EFHOH newsletter editor Niels-Henrik, his email address is nhmh@learning.aau.dk

Warm regards,

Marcel Bobeldijk.



The **IFHOH** World Congress for the first time in the **USA**

Well over 1 000 participants from 21 different countries participated The 10th World Congress of the IFHOH combined with the Convention of the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) in Washington D. C. at the end of June.

The Congress began with an overview on the situation in the United States. Aging population is a great challenge; there are about 30 million hard of hearing in the US. Costs of hearing aids are seldom covered by insurances and many hard of hearing people cannot afford to buy them. President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology recommends that the cost of hearing aids should be significantly reduced and the number of hearing aid users increased. "Basic" hearing aids should in the future be on sale over-the-counter and on-line as well. In this context it should be possible for the end user to self-fit and adjust the hearing aid.

In the US the situation of tv-subtitling is very good. The Federal Communications Commission's requirement is that 100 per cent of TV programs must be subtitled. This obligation also applies to older programs, although requirement is slightly lower, 75 per cent. On the Internet programs that have already been shown on television must be subtitled.

At the opening ceremony on Thursday the Vice Chairperson of HLAA Board of Trustee Don Doherty told that there are up to 2 million hearing-impaired veterans in the US and the challenge is how to reach them. IFHOH's president Ruth Warick stressed the importance of events like the Congress for the HOH people's feeling of togetherness. Chair of the Disability Employee Resource Group and Chief Accessibility Officer of Microsoft, Jennie Lay-Flurrie, told audience that she once tried to quit her job because of hearing loss, but as her boss refused she managed to continue her career quite successfully.

In the research symposium on Friday morning Professor Frank Lin stressed the point that hearing loss is becoming more common because of aging society, but effects of this phenomena can be reduced. Professor Hinrich Staecker revealed that the first drug trial in humans to regenerate hair cells could be started soon. Dr. Wade W. Chien told that the challenges in stem cell therapy are finding the right mode of cell delivery and establishing a proper positioning in the cochlear.

The Executive Director of American Cochlear Implant Alliance Donna Sorkin noted that there are not much CI-users in the United States in relation to the number of people with severe hearing loss. The costs of cochlear implants are generally covered by insurances which makes them often more affordable choice than hearing aids.

Ruth Warick introduced the results of the IFHOH's and the World Federation of the Deaf's combined survey about interpreting services. About two-thirds of the respondents have used the services of an interpreter at various events and about one third have used remote interpretation more than ten times.

The induction loop technology is gaining ground in Europe outside the Scandinavian countries and this technology is still quite new in the USA. On Saturday morning Hearing Consultant Aida-Regel Poulsen shared experiences on



Bowen Tang, now Vice-President of IFHOHYP did a presentation on "Leaders of Tomorrow" on what young people with hearing loss get from joining a group of others with hearing loss that they do not get from their digital devices.

volunteer work in Denmark and Europe, HLAA's Juliette Sterkens told about events in the US and Contacta's Development Manager Andrew Thomas described a campaign held in the UK.

Hard of hearing in the United States use smart phone applications extensively in various everyday situations. There are, for example, media player apps that subtitle videos automatically.

In the closing ceremony on Saturday evening a new record for the number of induction loop users was broken: 700 people followed the event via loop. IFHOH organizes the Congress every fourth year and the previous congress was held in Bergen, Norway in 2012. The host for the next Congress has not yet been chosen.

Written by Juha Hietala, EFHOH boardmember.



There were hearing dogs at the conference. This is Sheila, a very clever and obedient large poodle.



IFHOH BGM in Washington 2016 was held on 22nd of June at the Hilton Hotel

I represented the Danish HØREFORENINGEN as a delegate and EFHOH as an observer.

Hahn Duong Phong, Vietnam, could not be reelected as General Secretary.

Ruth Warick, President, expressed much gratitude to Hahn for her great work as IFHOH general secretary.

The new IFHOH board elected is:

President: Ruth Warick, Canada

Vice President: Avi Blau, Israel

General Secretary: Louise Carroll, New Zealand

Treasurer: Heikki Niemi, Finland

Board Member: Patrick Gift, Uganda

At the BGM the delegates were informed how IFHOH has been a victim of fraud via the internet and the steps now taken by IFHOH board to deal with the risk management in matters pertaining to the internet and email use.

The Washington Declaration 2016 was presented, amended and approved. Read it on page 15 in this newsletter.

Please read more and note how people with hearing loss World Wide claim good quality hearing aids and Cochlear Implants including a tele coil in our products for use of Loop.

Other technologies such as FM, streaming, Blue Tooth eg may work parallel to the tele coil.

http://media.wix.com/ugd/4e728a_83bcb9cd80744bf78c-925d834ec7d3ef.pdf

A survey has been carried out on use of captioning World Wide. The survey has not yet been finished but the results show there is a lot more work to be done in this field.

After the IFHOH BGM there was a very short joint board meeting between IFHOH, EFHOH, IFHOHYP and APFHD. These topics were discussed:

Captioning survey goes to the committee (again). Ideas to carry on the survey were discussed.

Politics on Hearing Aids were discussed - and as such stated a topic we need to talk more about.

World Hearing Day: Ideas for a topic were discussed and information was shared.

Project on CRPD. What to do and how to find funding.

Aida Regel Poulsen
General Secretary
EFHOH



Development of a **New Code of Conduct** for **Hearing Care Professionals** – A Success Story of **“Nothing about us without us”**.

In 2015 the Flemish (Dutch speaking part of Belgium) Professional Association for Audiologists (VBA) started with the development of a new code of conduct for Clinical and Rehabilitative Audiologists.

They were inspired by recent codes of conduct in healthcare which are typically much more positively voiced, more end-users focused, are directed more at modern forms of communication and are much shorter and to the point compared to traditional codes of conduct.

The aim was to respect the end-user, ensure quality of hearing care and loyal co-operation between healthcare practitioners towards the best interests of society.

The VBA workgroup finalized this code of conduct on the 20th January 2016 and on the 1st of March 2016. This code of conduct was approved and adopted by the Union of Belgian Hearing Care Professionals (CEUPA).

In the meantime, ECAT (European Committee for Audiology and Technology), the technical workgroup of the AEA (European Association of Hearing Care Professionals) had already started to work on an English version of this code of conduct. As part of their work, they requested EFHOH (European Federation of Hard of Hearing) to critically analyse and discuss this code of conduct with their members to ensure that, although developed by professionals with good intentions, this code of conduct was meeting the expectations of the care-recipients (the users).

Only after implementing the remarks from EFHOH, which were clearly highlighted in a presentation during the AEA mini-symposium in Brussels on the 29th of May 2016 by the EFHOH vice president Mrs. Lidia Best, this code of conduct was presented and fully adopted at the AEA General Assembly on the 30th of May 2016 in Brussels.

EFHOH remarks related to the fact that an audiologist or hearing care professional is not fitting just any hearing aids due to economic reasons (for example need of cutting costs in general). This is especially important in publicly funded services where such conflicts may occur.

Another aspect of the code of conduct was also welcomed; communication during consultation is vital and often overlooked. It is important that hearing care professionals address the user in language they actually understand (no medical jargon) and ensures that we hear and understand clearly during a consultation. Instructions and information should be explained thoroughly but preferably demonstrated to give a user a firm grasp on it.

The significant contribution by EFHOH was very positively received by all AEA members. The code is now more customer/patient focused, something EFHOH members and all hard of hearing people will appreciate. The code of conduct is now available here <http://www.aea-audio.org/portal/index.php/code-of-conduct>

The joint effort between EFHOH and AEA is proving that we can work together to ensure the best results which benefit both providers and users of these vital services. Main question is ... why didn't we think that way before?

Lidia Best (EFHOH vice-President) & Mark Laureyns (AEA President)



Lidia Best

State of **hearing care provision** in the European Union

In 2010, the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) issued the EN-15927 norm on the "Services offered by hearing aid professionals."

This European standard defines the minimum requirements for services in the field of hearing-aid acoustics in Europe. Moreover this standard stipulates recommendations for the vocational training and all other aspects of service rendering. The standard, which has been approved by all involved European countries with regard to content, also includes all professional requirements for hearing-aid professionals for maximum transparency.

Recently, the European Federation of Hard of Hearing People conducted a survey among their membership with the aim to check how the standard is implemented and monitored. http://media.wix.com/ugd/c2e099_f1cb79c-f2a7e48b58bc9b1a12d7d4a3c.pdf

Conducting the survey was not an easy task since it turned out that many of our members were not aware of its existence due to a lack of availability of information. Users' participation is very important, since one of the guiding principles of the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities states:

"Participation is important to correctly identify specific needs and to empower the individual"

The European Union signed and ratified the Convention in 2010.

Our report revealed that EN-15927 is not always compulsory in European Union Member States and this is the

cause of low awareness. We have also learned that copies of the test results with explanations were not given to users and full pricing information is not often available at the point of inquiry. One worrying trend showed that the t-coil programme was not always activated and often not demonstrated even though this is still the most effective assistive support in public places.

One of the repeated comments we received related to users' needs and choices:
"The choices and needs of individual patient are not always taken into account when planning the care provided"

By involving users in planning care and enabling to make their own informed choices we can gain better efficiency of the health system.

From hard of hearing peoples' perspective, the quality of hearing care and hearing technology provided is paramount. When services are of the right standard, greater efficiency will follow with less unnecessary visits. Additionally, dealing with hearing loss means learning and adjusting to new situations with coping strategies and using assistive devices such as hearing loops, FM or wireless systems. This also brings an investment return in further care planning since hard of hearing people may require cochlear intervention in future and having quality support early on will bring benefits post CI implantation.

Our delegates attending EFHOH AGM 2015 in Essen have signed the ESSEN DECLARATION, a joint statement of hard of hearing community of the European

Union. http://media.wix.com/ugd/c2e099_13e3b120ba-6b4518a5567ce2287cc593.pdf

The Declaration calls for European governments to guarantee access to affordable, good quality, professionally approved hearing aids, ALDs, as well as the training and support standards to use them successfully. It builds on the UN Convention on Rights of People with Disabilities and specifically Article 25 b) remembering that hearing aids enable people with hearing loss to live fulfilling lives.

Quote:

Provide those health services needed by persons with disabilities specifically because of their disabilities, including early identification and intervention as appropriate, and services designed to minimize and prevent further disabilities, including among children and older persons;

The Declaration states. For 51 million hard of hearing people in the European Union this right can be best fulfilled through state-funded provision of hearing aids and the proliferation of assistive listening devices (ALD).

What does state-funded provision mean in practice? In EU, we have state-funded, universal insurance or other means of reimbursement for hearing aids. While there are different methods of receiving reimbursement, they all have something in common; they are often part of health policies endorsed by the state. In practical terms it means that all Member States need to ensure that cost is not a barrier to opportunities for hard of hearing citizens. Another important aspect of the Declaration is access to rehabilitation and quality of hearing aids fitting. This is an integral part of the process and must not be forgotten.

This is why EFHOH supports EU Standard (EN-15927) 'Services Offered by Hearing Aid Professionals' which sets out the minimum standards of the fitting process we should expect from hearing aids professionals.

What we often observe is that language can be misleading when it is used in relation to what constitutes 'rehabilitation' following the diagnosis of hearing loss. Provision of hearing aids is only the first basic step, we need to ensure the provision is following quality standards and the users of the services are offered follow up care including counselling.

Adults experiencing a hearing loss need to be supported in getting the benefit of hearing aids – brain plasticity is not the same as with young children born deaf for example. Adjusting to living with hearing aids takes time, many listening exercises and often some form of counselling. The recently mentioned EU-funded CP-FunMoD project is using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) brain scanners to study the differences in brain plasticity of people who have been deaf from an early age compared to those who lose their hearing later in life. The brain scans so far have revealed that our brains can adapt to losing sight

or hearing, but the adaptation is much more profound in younger people.

http://horizon-magazine.eu/article/young-brains-compensate-deafness-more-older-ones_en.html

The service delivery varies across European Union Member States, with the Scandinavian States and UK providing a universal National Health Service coverage of hearing aids which are free for users. This system can have drawbacks with little or no choice and at times and a 'drown-out' effect when getting through referrals and assessments.

Other states operate insurance systems where there is a certain level of reimbursement, often covering the lower end of hearing aids fully and other, higher priced hearing aids are partially covered. This system can provide choice and control of service received for hearing aid users.

Interestingly, a recent report from France by Laurence Hartmann concluded that if the French Government were to offer hearing aids free of charge, there would still be a net saving and a marked increase in quality of life for millions of people.

The latest Eurotrack data confirms the motion that getting most of the hearing aids is where choice and control is in hands of end- users of the services, hence a person centred approach is the way forward. This is a significant step forward especially in light of the recent findings of "self-reported hearing loss" data.


EFHOH has welcomed these findings which confirms our consistent message of being the representative of 51 million hard of hearing people. The fact that the person seeks intervention following recognition that there is a problem means that providing the best possible pathway is paramount to challenging social stigmas, embarrassment and poor practices. The self-reported hearing loss data is significant and should not be overlooked.

In some ways, the freedom of movement within EU can be the catalyst. The experiences of hard of hearing people using services in different countries can be a positive driver for change.

For this reason, EFHOH will be launching a report on the provision of hearing aids and reimbursement systems to bring better transparency and information for service users across the EU.

Lidia Best

Vice President European Federation of Hard of Hearing



By Pastor Agnes Haugaard, Denmark
Translation by Aïda Regel Poulsen

Church from outside

Løgumkøster Church – founded 1173 Cistercian next to the Refugium and The National Church Centre for Education and Science

Hearing only with the ears?

In the early autumn in August 33 people from many different countries met in Løgumkøster in Denmark at the beautiful Refugium that houses people, who are really passionate about a topic or a task in the name of Christianity.



Pastors live there, when they do courses, further education or/and participate in conferences at the FUV (short in Danish for The National Church Centre for Education and Science), but also many others choose to spend time and days to obtain new knowledge, update old knowledge, relax or meet people, who are passionate about the same topics as they are themselves.

There were church people from Germany, Switzerland, France, Romania, Sweden, Norway, England and Denmark – some pastors and others who work in an ecclesial context. From Denmark several pastors participated, who also volunteer as contact pastor in the Danish Church for Hard of Hearing people – a network working everywhere in the country with two pastors in full time employment – one East and one West of the Great Belt (Storebælt).

Søren Skov Johansen, our full time contact pastor west of the Great Belt, had a huge task these days, since he was responsible for everything technical such as mobile transmitters and receivers, loops, screens in the church in three different languages as well as in the conference room itself, which in the evaluation all was highly appreciated: that all of this worked perfectly well.

So.. all in all everyone was most satisfied about the content, togetherness across languages and borders and that everything technical was in top.

Løgumkloster is a very special place and so far from the great city's noise, that one literally feels it as a refugium. Here you can find peace and silence, which many expressed as extremely important for hard of hearing people, because one otherwise easily becomes very worn out in head, soul and mind.

There was simultaneously translation when the presentations had not been handed in beforehand for translation into German and English. You see the interpreters for English at the right and for German at the left. This flock meeting this time were all busy Word which should be heard in Christian context; but then what if you cannot hear, have a hearing loss or you are gradually loos-

ing your hearing – and what if understanding and recognition from the environment isn't there either?

The conference Bible Reference was the Romans chapter 10 verses 17 in the New Testament "Hearing only with the ears?"

Former pastor and art historian, writer and hymn writer, Lisbeth Smedegaard Andersen framed this nicely in her presentation "Rembrandt – a modern preacher!" on the first day of the conference.

What makes Rembrandt so special in this connection? He lets the people, the poor and the one with nothing being the focus of his Christological images. He, Rembrandt, turns back to the base of Christ and leaves the Throne stand empty, while Maria and the child sit on the floor surrounded by people. She leaves the Throne with the child to be where the child is, - the Christ to be. – NAMELY AMONG US FRAIL HUMANS, who can loose our senses or some of them. But he puts preaching in a new and modern perspective, because the Word in the Christian context is also communicated through other senses such as vision – by signing for the eye using signs in the body language, the blessing, baptisme and the sacrament.

This is, what we see and "HEAR" in his images.

Mette Gautier anticipated this very well in her workshop and in her participation in the Sunday's great Worship in the church, where she sign supported the entire service as well as facilitated interpreting into Danish, German and English on 3 screens.

Everything was in an exemplary connection.

The evaluation was positive from all participants apart from the talking in the dining room.

Mail kontakt Denmark: ssj@post6.tele.dk
 Churchear president, Ingrid Stillström: <mailto:Ingrid.Stillstrom@svenskakyrkan.se> or stillstroem@hotmail.com



HEARING LOSS IRELAND

Dear members of EFHOH,

It is with sincere regret that I have to inform you that at a recent meeting of our EFHOH Conference sub-committee, we came to the conclusion that we are no longer in a position to successfully host the AGM and Conference next year in May 2017.

The introduction of new legislation in Ireland regarding the governance of voluntary and charitable organisations has necessitated a complete review of the governance between both DeafHear (our parent organisation) and Hearing Loss Ireland. This has resulted in HLI effectively being without any legal status at this juncture. We are working with our colleagues to regularize this situation to bring HLI back onto a proper legal footing.

We are currently in the process of adopting new organisational structures and procedures to regularise our position and the completion this process must be our primary goal over the coming months.

In May 2016, I took over the role of Chairman of HLI. My primary focus has been to build up the association from its current 157 members, most of whom reside in and around Dublin. We estimate there are more than 700,000 Irish people affected by hearing loss and we would hope that by developing our new relationship with DeafHear we will be able to expand our membership – and our services - nationwide.

The EFHOH AGM and Conference are putting a huge strain on a very small number of voluntary people, who cannot give the time that an event like this needs. I am sure that you will agree the very last thing either of us wants is a poorly attended, badly organised event which might damage the reputation of EFHOH or indeed that of HLI, which is in its infancy.

I am sure that you will agree that bringing our governance into line with the new legislation must be our priority as well as building out our small organisation to become more relevant to those suffering from hearing loss in Ireland. I do hope that in the future, when our membership has increased and we have our governance issues resolved, that we will be able to host the conference another year.

I do hope that you understand that this has been a very hard decision for us to make, but I felt it was necessary for us to objectively come to a decision quickly to enable you to make alternative arrangements.

With sincere regrets,

Mike Downes – HLI Chairman

Save the date from 20th to 22nd April 2017 for EURO-CIU Symposium & GA.

It will take place in Helsinki, Finland. The event is organised by LapCI ry and CiTo/Kuuloliitto ry. The tentative venue is The Light House, a multipurpose centre owned by the Finnish Association of the Deaf, Finnish Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Service Foundation for the Deaf. There are different-level possibilities for accommodation in the very near proximity.

Our symposium topics include: Health Economics, Accessibility to Education and Life-Long Learning, Multilingualism, Peer Support and Rehabilitation, Design for All and Music and Cognitive Development. The symposium will be an interesting mix of scientific lectures and practical, down-to-earth workshops where you can learn by doing.

On behalf of the Organising Committee,

Ulla Konkarikoski
LapCI ry

Pekka Lapinleimu
Kuuloliitto ry

Remploy is looking for evidence from across Europe on the positive business case for employing disabled people

Remploy, an associate member of EDF, are currently collating information on academic studies looking at how employing disabled people can improve an employer's profitability and productivity and support their CSR objectives. They are interested in whether any EDF members and partners have carried out studies or developed their own messages on the business case, and if a Europe-wide evidence base can be developed.

If you would like to share evidence or discuss this further, contact tom.hicks@remploy.co.uk.



Hire an EFHOH speaker!

Invite us to talk. We can travel to your event to present and share our work and lobbying experiences.

We may present about IFHOH Human Rights Toolkit and Prague Declaration, the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including our subtitling lobbying work.

EFHOH representatives will never charge for their presentations, however we may request for travel and accommodation to be covered by the inviting party.

Please contact us at office@efhoh.org

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July 26, 2016

Dear Members,

On behalf of your elected board, I want to thank you for your renewed trust and faith in us. We have weathered a challenging period and we are absolutely committed to living up to your expectations and to working hard to achieve improved accessibility and inclusion for hard of hearing persons worldwide.

As outlined in our action plan adopted at the IFHOH biennial meeting held 23rd of June, 2016 in Washington DC, we are advocating for qualitative, affordable hearing aids and for cellular phones with Telecoil compatibility. The goal is reflected in the Washington Declaration 2016 passed at our BGM. Please find enclosed a press release to circulate to your media.

In other goals, we intend to improve captioning/speech-to-text guidelines for its provision at United Nations and related events. We will follow-up on captioning/speech-to-text issues identified in our recent membership survey (done in conjunction with the World Federation of the Deaf).

In the last two years we have developed materials and workshops to build our capacity to use the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) as an instrument to address hearing loss concerns. We will continue to resource our network of trainers and to make the CRPD a tool for change for our community, along with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We will work together with the International Disability Alliance (IDA) to address UN-system issues and we will continue our leadership role in IDA.

Our partnership with the World Health Organization continues to flourish with our recent participation in a series of consultative meetings from the 4-8th of July in Geneva on awareness raising and ear hearing care initiatives. We will continue to promote World Hearing Day of March 3 and we urge all member organizations to undertake activities on this day to increase awareness about our needs and to reduce the stigma of hearing loss and the use of hearing aids and cochlear implants.

All of our work is only possible with your efforts and support. I would also like to acknowledge the important cooperation of the European Federation of Hard of Hearing People, the International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People and the Asian Pacific Federation of the Hard of Hearing and Deafened. *Together we can change the world to be more inclusive and hearing accessible.*

Sincerely,

Ruth Warick, President of IFHOH
president@ifhoh.org



info@ifhoh.org
<http://www.ifhoh.org>

Committed to worldwide hearing accessibility
VERSION ONLY ABOUT TECHNOLOGY

Washington Declaration 2016 New Hearing Technologies for Hard of Hearing People

Persons who have a hearing loss constitute one of the largest categories of disability in the world. Approximately 15% of the world's adult population has some degree of hearing loss. For many of them, hearing aids can dramatically improve their lives.

Hearing aids are very important to enhance accessibility and participation in society and their affordability is crucial as noted in the Essen declaration of April 2015. Hearing aids and technology should be available and affordable. No one should be denied hearing access because of price.

Hearing aids are essential to achieving the goals of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for many persons who are hard of hearing. Under the CRPD, a person with a hearing loss has the right a full and independent life (Article 5), to accessibility (Article 9) and to habilitation and rehabilitation (Article 25). The UN CRPD has been approved and ratified by 160 member states.

Hearing aid technology is constantly improving, but brings with it challenges. IFHOH encourages technological innovation and welcomes safe new developments that promote hearing accessibility. These new developments should ensure for the compatibility of hearing aids with cellular phones and assistive listening devices. IFHOH believes, that for the foreseeable future, the proven technology of the Telecoil must be included and activated in hearing aids and cochlear implant processors. Cellular (mobile) phones and other sources of sound, should be compatible with the Telecoil. New wireless technologies should work in parallel to the Telecoil.

IFHOH calls upon its members worldwide to work with governments and other bodies to provide hard of hearing persons access to hearing aids, assistive listening devices and new hearing technologies that are affordable, of proven quality, and professionally approved, with training and support to use them successfully.

Moved: IFHOH Board

This amended motion was unanimously accepted by the delegates at the IFHOH Biennial General Meeting in Washington D.C., USA, on June 22, 2016.

Essen declaration: <http://www.efhoh.org/#!/news/cljln>

EU HUMANITARIAN AID MUST BE INCLUSIVE

EDF and IDDC met Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management and agreed on the importance of the EU taking practical steps now to lead by example, in the EU's actions to support persons with disabilities in humanitarian crisis and Europe's refugee response.

21 June 2016 | a delegation from the European Disability Forum (EDF) and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC), headed by EDF President Yannis Vardakastanis and IDDC representative Johannes Trimmel, met the EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos Stylianides. The meeting was arranged to discuss follow-up to the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) where the European Commission endorsed the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action (the Charter), and to the UN's concluding observations: the recommendations by the United Nations (UN) to the European Union (EU) on how to better promote and protect the rights of 80 million people with disabilities – in particular the recommendations on the refugee crisis and humanitarian emergencies.

In its concluding observations, UN recommends the EU:

- to ensure that the emergency number 112 is fully accessible across the EU to all persons with all types of disabilities,
- to ensure that all aspects of disaster risk-reduction (DRR) policies and programmes are inclusive of and accessible to all persons with disabilities,
- to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in all its policies on humanitarian aid and crisis management,
- to mainstream disability in migration and refugee policies, and
- to issue guidelines to its agencies and member states that restrictive detention of persons with disabilities in the context of migration and asylum seeking is not in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD).

EDF President, Yannis Vardakastanis, underlined: "In 2015, 1 million persons arrived in Europe fleeing war. 62% of the people on the road are women and children; they face sexual and gender-based violence and separation from their families. The EU has to react with a human rights-based approach and put the lives of people first. We recommend that all EU funding to its Member States and to neighboring countries, including Turkey, should include as a priority to provide support to minors and persons with disabilities, and their families on the move, in particular women and children with disabilities".

Johannes Trimmel, representing IDDC, highlighted: "Millions of persons with disabilities in the world are currently

facing a humanitarian crisis. Most of them do not have proper access to basic humanitarian assistance and their participation in the response is overlooked. The Charter endorsed during the WHS in Istanbul at the end of May provides a tremendous opportunity to shape a humanitarian response closer to the rights and needs of persons with disabilities. We call on the EU to take concrete steps to bring the Charter to life in all its work and to promote it with other humanitarian donors and partners, including EU Member States, in view of a change towards more inclusive humanitarian policies and practices".

Commissioner Stylianides stated that the agenda for persons with disabilities was taken forward both by means of targeted projects, as well as through mainstreaming by the EU. He stated that now is the moment for elevating the EU's efforts, and to show concrete results and outcomes for persons with disabilities in all of the EU's humanitarian and emergency support work. He referred to the EU's endorsement of the WHS Charter, and the recently adopted Sendai Action Plan, which show the EU's intention to follow up these political commitments with practical actions - transferring words to practice. Commissioner Stylianides confirmed his commitment, and the commitment of his services, to continued dialogue and cooperation in this area.

EDF and IDDC are looking forward to further cooperation with Commissioner Stylianides to ensure that the needs of persons with disabilities are taken into account in the current EU refugee crisis and in the follow-up to the World Humanitarian Summit.

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THE FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IS A COMMON STRUGGLE

Last March, the Board of EDF expressed its strong commitment to a united Europe and our hope that the UK would remain within the EU. It is with regret today that we recognise that UK citizens voted for the UK to leave the European Union (EU) with a majority of 52%. EDF recognises the democratic right of British people to decide freely on this issue, but we strongly believe that a common EU human rights agenda is better achieved together. The tone of the UK campaign, which was characterised by a divisive public debate on migration, reminds us of what is at stake and what we need to fight for, within a strong EU: common values of non discrimination, human rights and freedom of movement.

EDF President, Yannis Vardakastanis, underlined: "Since its beginning, over 20 years ago, EDF has promoted solidarity among persons with disabilities throughout the European continent and globally. The fight for human rights is a common struggle. EDF will continue to promote unity and solidarity within the disability movement all across Europe and will work very decisively on our common values against Euroscepticism, xenophobia, racism and all kinds of discrimination. From this, we won't exclude any people with disabilities or their organisations because of their political choices. We will collaborate with all organisations of persons with disabilities in Europe, including the UK, to ensure that Europe does not lose sight of the importance of human rights of all of its people: women, men, children, older people, persons with disabilities and people on the move across Europe and on our borders".

A SHORT UPDATE ON EDF'S NEW WEBSITE

EDF staff is working on finalising EDF's new website. A big amount of pages have already been transferred from the current website to the new one. We are also working to make the Members Area of it more interactive and a useful tool for our members to get the information they need.

In September, an external professional will help us review the style of the articles of EDF's website in order to improve the accessibility of information and the user-friendliness of the new website. After this, we hope that EDF's new website will be ready to be used completely before the end of this year.

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SAD NEWS FOR THE DISABILITY MOVEMENT IN EUROPE

This members mailing starts with the tragic news that our Board member Peter Lambrechts, from ENIL, the European Network of Independent Living, and Onafhankelijk Leven in Flanders, Belgium, has died suddenly. We send our sincere condolences to his family, his friends, and colleagues.

The EDF President has proposed we dedicate our first EU Disability Rights Report, due this year, to Peter, saying 'The disability movement in his country, in Europe is now poorer. We have lost a great disability activist, a brilliant leader and above all a great person.'

ENIL and Onafhankelijk Leven have opened a virtual condolence book in honour of Peter at the following link <https://www.facebook.com/events/299681647059625/>

We will miss him so much.

EFHOH MEETINGS 2016 & 2017:

2016	2016	2016	2016
15-16 September	Geneva	ITU meetings	Lidia
26 September	Brussels	Ear Foundation event on Adult Hearing Loss in Europe.	Lidia and Marcel
28 September	Brussels	EUD conference Sign Language	Marcel
14-15 October	Helsinki	EFHOH board meeting	EFHOH board
25 October	Copenhagen	Hear It AGM 2016	Aida & Marcel
26 October	Brussels	Platform meeting	Marcel and Lidia
12-13 November	Bratislava	EDF Board meeting and Conference	Marcel
29-30 November	Brussels	European Day of Disabled People	Aida and Marcel
2017	2017	2017	2017
20-22 April	Finland	EURO-CIU AGM	Juha
5-6 May		EFHOH AGM	All board members
24-28 June	Paris	IFOS meeting	Lidia
6-8 October	Berlin / Germany	IFHOH Loops Conference	All board members

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EFHOH - European Federation of Hard of Hearing People

The European Federation of Hard of Hearing People consists of National Associations of/for Hard of Hearing and Late-Deafened People, Parents' Organisations and Professional Organisations.

EFHOH comprises the European members of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH) and was established in 1993. It has its own board and secretariat. The federation has non-profitable and benevolent aims and it is a non-political and non-sectarian organisation. EFHOH is a general member of the European Disability Forum (EDF). We also work in good co-operation with IFHOH and our official language is English.

The Board members of the EFHOH carry out their work on an honorary basis.