

## EFHOH President letter

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## WE NEED TO BE ASSERTIVE TO EXERCISE OUR OWN RIGHTS

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## "ACTION FOR HEARING LOSS - MAKE A SOUND INVESTMENT". LUNCH DEBATE AT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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# EFHOH President letter

## Lunch Debate in the European Parliament:

Action for Hearing Loss - Make a Sound Investment - prevent and treat hearing loss, was this year's theme for the AEA- EFHOH-EHIMA lunch debate in the European Parliament. We would like to thank the two host members of the European Parliament, MEP Helga Stevens (Belgium/Flanders, ECR) and MEP Roberta Metsola (Malta, EPP) for hosting the lunch debate 2017 and for their active participation!

A big thank you to all the members and attendees that took the time to come to Brussels for this important event at the European Parliament in Brussels.

40 people had their hearing screened and received information on their hearing performance and recommendations during this two-hour session. The majority had perfect hearing. We would like to thank the audiology students and teachers at Marie Haps Brussels and Thomas More Antwerp.

Also, a thank you to the speakers:

- Helga Stevens, MEP;
- Shelly Chadha, World Health Organisation (WHO) Technical Officer, prevention of deafness and hearing loss;
- Mark Laureyns, European Association of Hearing Aid Professionals, President;
- Mel Gregory, Ear Foundation, CEO;

- Lidia Best, EFHOH, Vice President;
- Laurence Hartmann, Conservatoire national des arts et metiers Paris, Health Economist
- Roberta Metsola, MEP.

A special thanks to Søren Hougaard (EHIMA) and Mark Laureyns (AEA). Without their great support, this event would not have been possible.

On our website [www.efhoh.org](http://www.efhoh.org) you can find the video and the photos of this event.

## Audiologist of the Year 2017:

EFHOH is the latest organisation to become a sponsor of the Audiologist of the Year competition that recognises industry excellence across Europe. The Audiologist of the Year competition invites patients and their family to nominate their hearing care specialist who have gone beyond the call of duty and made a significant positive difference to their lives. Simply tell us what makes your hearing professional stand out by providing information about how they have helped you or a family member by providing exceptional care, attention and advice. It's simple, you can enter online at [www.audiologistoftheyear.eu](http://www.audiologistoftheyear.eu) and more information can also be found on the EFHOH website.

## EFHOH's Impact Report 2016:

I am pleased and proud to announce that our EFHOH Impact Report 2016 was recently



released. This report contains information about our engagement and activities. Visit our website [www.efhoh.org](http://www.efhoh.org) and view the report on our resources page.

## Media Services:

EFHOH, EDF, and Broadcasters drew up a common proposal to improve access to audiovisual media services. The European Disability Forum (EDF), the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), and the Association of Commercial Television in Europe (ACT) have made a common proposal to improve the accessibility of audiovisual media services for persons with disabilities. Broadcasters and the umbrella organisation of the European disability movement reached this agreement upon the initiative of the Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Petra Kammerevert, who is preparing the European Parliament's report on the revision of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD).

EDF, EBU, and ACT (the "signatories") released a common proposal to introduce progressive and sustainable measures for the delivery of accessible audiovisual programmes in Europe. The signatories expect these measures to enhance the accessibility of TV programmes for persons with disabilities, via subtitles for the deaf and hard of hearing, audio description, spoken subtitles and sign language interpretation, also known as access services.

The common proposal aims to improve existing wording on audiovisual accessibility under Article 7 of the 2010 Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD), which EU legislators are currently reviewing. A large number of stakeholders and EU decision-makers have highlighted the need to maintain and develop the AVMSD's provisions on access services. Read more on EDF's website

## Inclusive Workplaces:

Some weeks ago, I was in Malta and represented EFHOH at the European Conference on Inclusive Workplaces 2017. Work and employment are important aspects of everyone's life. However, more than half of the people with disabilities in Europe are unemployed and face a higher

risk of poverty or social exclusion. Women with disabilities face multiple discrimination both on the grounds of gender and on the grounds of disability. The EDF board recently adopted a resolution to highlight key issues and called for concrete actions from the institutions of the European Union (EU) and its Member States.

I am happy that my own organisation NVVS in the Netherlands have published, on World Hearing Day, a new website concerning information about different accepts of work such as prevention, diagnosis, employment, communication, energy, safety and workplace. See the website at <http://www.hoorwerkwijzer.nl>.

## Berlin:

6 and 7 October 2017 is IFHOH's 4th International Accessibility Conference on Hearing Loops and Hearing Technology held in Berlin. Look on the website of IFHOH for more information: <http://www.ifhoh.org>

## London:

I hope to say hello to all of you at EFHOH's Annual General Meeting 2017 and Conference Day. This year we will be hosted by the National Association of Deafened People (NADP). The theme is "Staying Connected, Informed and Empowered". The event will be held at Friends House, Euston, London. On EFHOH's website [www.efhoh.org](http://www.efhoh.org) and NADP's website [www.nadp.org.uk](http://www.nadp.org.uk) you can find more detailed information.

## Special Welcome:

A warm welcome to our two new members, Stichting Plotsdoven (Late Deafened People) from the Netherlands as our new general member and Freda Keenan from Ireland as our new individual member.

Have a great spring and see you in London at EFHOH's AGM 2017.

Warm regards,  
Marcel Bobeldijk





## We need to be **assertive** to **exercise** our own **rights**

Since I qualified as a mentor I have had the opportunity to train hard of hearing students in Poland's leading University, the Catholic University of Lublin (KUL). I have my own personal connection with KUL going back to the time when I was a student of psychology and theology in the University faculty operating in my city, Lodz. I did not finish the course unfortunately as I left Poland to take up a scholarship at London College of English.

So, I was delighted when the University Professor Dr. Ewa Domagala- Zysk asked me to help the students and lecturers at the Uni. ( pictured)

The Professor is a pioneer in Poland, who developed teaching resources for deaf and hard of hearing students learning English. She has recently published her work "English as Foreign Language for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons."

<http://www.cambridgescholars.com/search?Q=deaf&As=true&As=false&Cid=0&Sid=true&Sid=false>

She travelled throughout Europe, making contacts with other Universities and organisations to seek support for her work. This is when she came across European Federation of Hard of Hearing (EFHOH) and my name. We were organising an event in Warsaw to raise awareness of the needs of hard of hearing people with a group of young people. During the event, I gave a taster session on assertiveness and it proved to be the start of my professional engagement with the University.

At first, I was to develop a mentoring program and provide role model as a hard of hearing / deafened person using English as a foreign language, but it became increasingly evident that the students would benefit from assertiveness training as well.



The University then came up with a new programme under the EU funding streams, where assertiveness would be also offered in group training coupled with lectures. This is how I became their visiting lecturer!

### Group of students in Warsaw

The mixture of lectures, mentoring and training in assertiveness have proven a winner. I have recently led debates on Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Poland and my students participated in them. I have seen the students become confident and knowledgeable in their arguments while standing their ground. It is an enormous pleasure to see them develop and go on changing attitudes towards people with hearing loss in Poland.

People who experience hearing loss tend to lose their confidence due to their inability to hear well and unfortunately, this leads to anxiety and often depression. I attended the Late Deafened Congress in Netherlands, organised by Stichting Plodsdoven, where I learned about their system of social care workers who are immediately

sent to support those who experienced sudden hearing loss, as well as receive referrals to support hard of hearing and deafened people. As part of the rehabilitation, they offer information about benefits and rights, communication support available as well as lipreading, sign supported language and....assertiveness classes!

The wisdom behind the assertiveness classes was firmly embedded in the fact that even with a good legal framework, people still need to challenge any situation where they feel their rights are not respected or understood. At the same time, with training, renewed confidence can bring positive results overall. Perhaps assertiveness training can be beneficial then?

Lidia Best



## My internship experience

I began my internship to gain practical experience of working in policy development and campaigning; so far it has not disappointed. I have worked with the board on consultation responses and assisted our development of specific responses and policy positions to occurrences and developments in the political landscape. I have met with partners from the Mayor of London's office and from the European Parliament and attended events to drive home the scope of our work and the impact it has on people's lives.

This work has all been exciting and for me, but perhaps the area I have grown my understanding in most is the research element of the internship. Although I arrived with some background in research, the scale that I have been exposed to has gone far beyond my previous experience. Within this internship I have spent time learning how to make research questions communicable across languages

and borders, how to draw useful conclusions from vast amounts of disparate data and how to present the information in a useful format. I look forward to bringing this new experience together as I analyse the 'Late Deafened People Experience' survey and present the results on the 5th May.

Overall I have found my internship to be an enjoyable experience. I have felt privileged to get to know so many members of the hard of hearing community across Europe and get to understand the issues they face, and hope that I can play a smaller in helping them achieve equality in Europe. I am excited to continue this experience and look forward to meeting everyone at the AGM and Annual Conference in London.



Dear Members,

Without further ado we are excited to announce the next International Summer Camp, hosted by the Norwegian Youth Association of the Hard of Hearing (HLFU). It will take place near Kristiansand, Norway from June 21st to 25th.

Join us at this beautiful place with a stunning view of the ocean, where you can ride boats, play volleyball at the beach, and many more fun activities!

Who? IFHOHYP members between age 18 to 35 & HLFU members (age 13 to 35)

Cost? You only need to pay for your travel costs to the camp! Sign up now before May 7th. Click here for details. If you have any questions regarding the camp, please contact [post@hlfu.no](mailto:post@hlfu.no).

To get an idea of what International Summer Camp is like, check out this video from our SC last year in Denmark!

Cheers,

International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People  
<http://www.ifhohyp.org>; [www.facebook.com/ifhohyp](https://www.facebook.com/ifhohyp)  
 Follow us @IFHOHYP

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## 4th International Accessibility Conference on Hearing Loops and Hearing Technology will be held in Berlin, Germany from October 6-8, 2017.

The latest IFHOH Journal February 2017 has some important information. It can be downloaded for free at [www.ifhoh.org](http://www.ifhoh.org)

---1. "Future Loops"; the 4th International Accessibility Conference on Hearing Loops and Hearing Technology will be held in Berlin, Germany from October 6-8, 2017.

You will find the "Call for Papers" on p. 6 of the IFHOH Journal. The deadline for submitting proposals to Dr.-Ing. Hannes Seidler [IFHOH-2017@hoer-umweltakustik.de](mailto:IFHOH-2017@hoer-umweltakustik.de) is

Monday, April 3, 2017. Notification of acceptance will be by email by April 30, 2017.

Host of the conference will be the German Hearing Loss Association DSB (Deutscher Schwerhoerigenbund) <http://www.schwerhoerigen-netz.de/IFHOH-2017/English>  
 E-Mail: [dsb@schwerhoerigen-netz.de](mailto:dsb@schwerhoerigen-netz.de)

I hope to see a lot of you again in Berlin.





Sofia Kolotourou is the founder of the Greek association Akoustirixi for Hard of Hearing people. Sofia is an individual associate member of EFHOH.

## **NEW WAYS IN GRECE:** TELEVISION SPOT BY THE GREEK ASSOCIATION **AKOUSTIRIXI** TO PROMOTE AWARENESS

The Greece-based association Akoustirixi created a highly artistic television spot, with the help of over 30 professionals and other people aware of what Akoustirixi seeks to promote. It must be noted that this organisation was founded with a view to helping Hard of Hearing with oral language and providing information on the latest medical and technological developments about complete or partial loss of hearing.

The television spot was shown by all Greek channels for one month (throughout October 2016). Its main protagonist is Thodoris Giotis, a ten-year-old boy wearing a cochlear implant as he was born deaf. He is surrounded by Sofia Kolotourou, the president of the above-mentioned association, as well as by famous artists and athletes, including female Greek singer Rita Antonopoulou, Greek actor Akis Sakellariou and Ms Voula Kozompoli, president

of the Hellenic Olympic-Winners Association and Olympic medalist in water polo. Sofia Kolotourou has been struggling to improve the lives of Hard of Hearing for years. In fact, she has been suffering from hearing loss herself since early childhood, and uses oral language to communicate with other people.

Never had Greek channels allocated time to the issue of cochlear implantation before. In Greece, people are not fully aware of this technology, although cochlear implantation has been a routine procedure since 1993; in fact,

around 1,000 Greek people have had a cochlear implant surgery.

As an association, we hope that in the future, the Greeks will be more aware of the benefits of cochlear implants. The television spot, which will be on again, has been subtitled in English. You can watch it by clicking on the following link: <https://vimeo.com/168908987>.

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**AEA – EFHOH – EHIMA – Joined press release – 3rd of March 2017 – WORLD HEARING DAY**

### **Make a sound investment - prevent and treat hearing loss**

**In the EU, around 52 million people report having a hearing loss. The costs in the EU of not treating hearing loss is around 178 billion Euros every year. The societal costs of treating hearing loss are extremely low compared to the cost of NOT treating hearing loss. It's a sound investment.**

**March 3 is the official WHO World Hearing Day.** Hearing loss is one of the disorders that both affects most people and has a great impact on people's lives and health. But hearing loss is also among the disorders that can be treated and prevented most efficiently and cost effectively.

Several surveys in Europe have shown that between 10-12% of all adults self-report that they have a hearing loss. **This means that more than 52 million people in the EU will say they have a hearing loss.**



On a world-wide basis, the WHO has found that unaddressed hearing loss, using their figures on the prevalence of measured hearing loss, poses a high cost for the economy globally, namely \$750 billion annually. **In the EU, the societal cost of untreated hearing loss is therefore estimated to be 178 billion Euros each year.**

“There is a saying that says “What is saved is earned”. But in the case of hearing loss small investments in prevention and treatment of hearing loss leads to major savings. **We must take action for untreated hearing loss. It is a sound investment.**”, says EHIMA General Secretary Soeren Hougaard.

“First of all, **it is important to prevent hearing loss.** Especially protection against loud noise and loud sounds is important. At the workplace but also more and more in our leisure time. But **far more people can be treated for their hearing loss and thereby increase their quality of life.** Today there are many people who live with an untreated hearing loss”, says AEA president Mark Laureyns.



**Among the major costs of not treating hearing loss are increased health care costs.** It is documented that hearing loss is associated with depression, cognitive decline and dementia. Another major societal cost of untreated hearing loss is **increased unemployment**, premature retirement and lower tax revenues and other **societal cost** because of withdrawal, communication difficulties and social isolation. Furthermore, untreated hearing loss results in additional educational support and costs.

“Society will benefit to a large scale from increased hearing loss treatment. Society will get enormous benefits from reduced costs to health care, unemployment benefits and pensions and other social costs, and at the same time get increased tax revenues. **The societal costs of treating hearing loss are extremely low compared to the cost of NOT treating hearing loss**”, says EFHOH vice-president Lidia Best.

#### **For further information, press contacts:**

AEA (European Association of Hearing Aid Professionals) – Mark Laureyns,  
[president@aea-audio.org](mailto:president@aea-audio.org)

EFHOH (European Federation of the Hard of Hearing) – Lidia Best,  
[vice.president@efhoh.org](mailto:vice.president@efhoh.org)

EHIMA (European Hearing Instruments Manufacturers Association) – Soeren Hougaard,  
[sh@ehima.com](mailto:sh@ehima.com)

**3rd of March 2017  
 World Hearing Day**







IFHOH President's Message for EFHOH:

## SDGs as Instruments for Change

I write this message from Athens where I am attending a week-long meeting of the International Disability Alliance, representing the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH). Discussions are being held about a new funding project of IDA which gives increased momentum to its work in developing countries in particular and to its use of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as instruments for change for persons with disabilities.

One of the participants commented that, while her members understand the importance of the CRPD as an instrument for change, it is more of a challenge to explain the value of the Sustainable Development Goals. This is understandable insofar as the SDGs are theoretical constructs; they have the ability to influence actions but only to the extent that they are taken seriously by UN officials, governments and civil society which includes us.

The SDGs are goals to promote peace, planet viability, and wealth-sharing. They were adopted by member states of the UN in September 2015 and are expected to be achieved by 2030. In the preceding decade there were Millennium Development Goals but those goals did not mention persons with disabilities at all. Now we are included! There are 17 SDGs and, because of the work of IDA and allies in

civil society and various governments, the SDG indicators contain 11 references to persons with disabilities with the potential for many of the generic goals to be assessed in terms of progress for people with disabilities.

Among the SDGs most applicable to our community are, as summarized below:

- Goal 3: Striving for good health
- Goal 4: Equal and inclusive education
- Goal 5: Equality and empowering women and girls
- Goal 8: Access to employment opportunities
- Goal 10: Support marginalized groups such as people with disabilities to have the same opportunities as everyone.
- Goal 11: Safer, more inclusive cities and other places
- Goal 12: Fair share of goods and resources and enough for all
- Goal 16: Peace, justice and equality for all

If we take the Goal #4 on equal and inclusive education, as an example, it means that all girls and boys should complete primary and secondary education. The sad fact is that, as of 2013, there were 59 million children of primary age who are not in school.



However, completion alone is not enough. The education must be of quality and it must be inclusive. This means that children who are hard of hearing and deafened must have access to the verbal content in the classroom. They must be able to "hear" what is being said by the teachers and other students, through environmental design that maximizes classroom acoustics, through use of technology and devices that amplify sound (including hearing aids and cochlear implants) and through use of captioning/notetaking. As well, teacher practises need to be inclusive so that hard of hearing children are not simply occupying a seat, but are hearing, learning and participating like all other children.

So, as you can see, the SD Goal #4 is very important and we as a community need to hold the government of our country accountable for the achievement of this goal. You can take action to develop a report card on the SDGs and evaluate your government's performance and let them know that you are doing so.

IFHOH will provide resources and support to you through its Human Rights Initiative. We will continue to track developments at the international level and we will continue to provide information on how to apply the CRPD and the SDGs to uphold the needs and rights of people who are hard of hearing and deafened. We have produced a CRPD Manual, incorporating the SDGs. Check out our website: [www.ifhoh.org](http://www.ifhoh.org).

As well, please feel free to connect with me at [president@ifhoh.org](mailto:president@ifhoh.org)

With best regards,  
Dr. Ruth Warick  
IFHOH President

Footnote: SDGs website: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

Photo: Margarethe von Witzleben Gemeinschaftsstiftung



## A «Saint» for People with Hearing Loss

Margarethe von Witzleben died 100 years ago

The first association for hard of hearing and deafened people worldwide was founded in Berlin, Germany in 1909.

Margarethe von Witzleben (1853-1917), who became hard of hearing at the age of 13, organized the first worship service for hard of hearing and deafened people in Berlin in 1901. 8 years later she organized the first self-help group for people with hearing loss called "HEPHATA" in Berlin. Today, February 1, 2017 is the 100th anniversary of her death.

The Hearing Loss Association of Germany (Deutscher Schwerhoerigenbund e.V.) today walks in the footsteps of Margarethe von Witzleben and will host "Future Loops" the 4th IFHOH International Hearing Loops & Accessibility Conference in Berlin, Germany, October 6-8, 2017.

More information is available at: <http://www.schwerhoerigen-netz.de/IFHOH-2017/english>

E-Mail: [IFHOH-2017@schwerhoerigen-netz.de](mailto:IFHOH-2017@schwerhoerigen-netz.de)

We honor Margarethe von Witzleben today, this "saint" for people with hearing loss, for her outstanding service and we will continue to advocate for hard of hearing and deafened people until they receive the public acceptance they deserve. Hearing aids, cochlear implants, hearing loops, lipreading courses and aural rehabilitation can make life for them much more inclusive than at the time of Margarethe von Witzleben.

Please share.

Siegfried Karg, Winterthur, Switzerland



### NEWS RELEASE

March  
2017

#### EFHOH SPONSORS THE AUDIOLOGIST OF THE YEAR FOR 10TH ANNIVERSARY

The European Federation of Hard of Hearing People (EFHOH) is the latest organisation to become a sponsor of The Audiologist of the Year competition that recognises industry excellence across Europe\*.

The Audiologist of the Year competition invites patients and their families to nominate their hearing care specialists who have gone beyond the call of duty and made a significant positive difference to their lives.

Simply tell us what makes your hearing professional stand out by providing information about how they have helped you or a family member by providing exceptional care, attention and advice. Its simple you can enter on line [www.audiologistoftheyear.eu](http://www.audiologistoftheyear.eu).

The EFHOH will join current partners Rayovac, a leading hearing aid battery manufacturer\*\* and a division of Spectrum Brands Inc., Audio Infos, a leading international hearing publication for the audiology industry, and the European Hearing Instrument Manufacturers Association (EHIMA).

Lidia Best, Vice President of EFHOH commented: "As an organisation that works on behalf of the hard of hearing community to raise awareness of hearing loss and its impact on people's lives, we are delighted to be joining the competition as a sponsor, especially in the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year.

"The Audiologist of the Year competition is a great opportunity for people with hearing loss to both celebrate how far they have come in their journey and to thank the audiologists that have helped them along the way, often helping them overcome very challenging situations. We're thoroughly looking forward to hearing this year patients' stories and wish everyone the best of luck with their entries."

Paula Brinson-Pyke, Director of Marketing at Rayovac, a division of Spectrum Brands (UK) Ltd., said: "We are thrilled to have the European Federation of Hard of Hearing join the Audiologist of the Year for 2017 as a sponsor. The organisation, with its focus on improving the lives of people with hearing loss, is a perfect fit for the competition, which aims to share and celebrate the truly inspirational stories of patients and their hearing care professionals and hopefully encourages others to seek advice."

In addition to the new partnership, the competition has a new look website and new social media pages.

The Audiologist of the Year 2017 is now open and you have until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017 to enter.

For further information about the competition and to the newsletter, please visit [www.audiologistoftheyear.eu](http://www.audiologistoftheyear.eu) or follow the competition on the Facebook @AudiologistoftheYear or Twitter @AOTY\_EU

\* competition run in UK, France, Germany, Spain, Ireland, Denmark, Switzerland, Austria

\*\* based on internal company estimates







## “Action for Hearing Loss - Make a Sound Investment”. Lunch Debate at the European Parliament

AEA-EFHOH- EHIMA jointly organized the Lunch Debate in Brussels on the 1st March as part of World Hearing Day. The event was hosted by MEPs Helga Stevens and Roberta Metsola.

Helga Stevens emphasized in his opening speech that most young people don't understand the importance of adequate hearing protection. According to WHO's technical officer Shelly Chadha, unaddressed hearing loss has a significant cost worldwide, in Europe up to 178 billion € annually. Chadha pointed out that by effective screening hearing losses could be detected in time.

Mark Laureyns from AEA told that there are 52 million hard of hearing people in Europe with self-reported hearing loss. Only about 60 percent of persons who would benefit from hearing care have currently access to it.

Health economist Laurence Hartman stated that one euro invested in hearing care saves ten euros due to the consequences arising from communication problems in daily life.

EFHOH's Vice president Lidia Best emphasized the human rights perspective: the access to affordable quality hearing care is a right. People shouldn't be excluded from hearing care due the cost issues.

The event was concluded by Roberta Metsola, who called for more action to bringing out the hearing disability issue. Metsola stressed that Europe should be at the forefront in addressing the challenge of hearing loss, especially adult screening should be developed.

Juha Hietala



## Staying Connected, Informed and Empowered

Dear Friends,

Greetings from sunny London, it is not long until we meet again!

With final preparations in full swing we are confident the program (below) has right balance for all delegates. Sunday activities information will be send out soon. We hope to give you all good networking opportunities, friendship and a unique London experience.

With range of exhibitors from Cochlear, Phonak, QLU and professional associations, we hope you will enjoy the time at our conference.

With warm wishes from National Association of Deafened People.

### EFHOH Annual General Meeting and Conference 5 - 6 May 2017 in London *Staying connected, informed and empowered*

Friday, May 5th  
12:00 - 13:00 Registration and Lunch  
13:00- 16.30 EFHOH Annual General Meeting 2017  
18.00 Dinner at Italian "Prezzo" Restaurant

Saturday, May 6th  
09:00 - 10.00 Registration (tea/coffee served)  
10.00- 10:10 Welcoming speeches: Lilian Greenwood (NADP President) Marcel Bobeldijk (President EFHOH)

10.10 - 10.40 Keynote speech by Penny Mordaunt MP - UK Minister of Disability, Work and Health: Accessibility and Participation in the UK

**Session 1**  
10:40 - 11:00 **Hearing Loss and implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.** Keynote Speech by Dr. Laszlo Lovasz UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Committee Member.

11:00 - 11:15

11:15 - .11:30  
11:30 - 12:00

**Session 2**  
12:00 - 12:20

12:20 - 12:40

12:40 - 13:00

13:00 - 14:00  
14:00 - 14:30

**Session 3**

14:30 - 14.50

14.50 - 15.10

15.10 - 15.30

15.30 - 15.50

16.00 - 16.30

16: 30 - 16.40

19.00

Lidia Best ( NADP/ EFHOH) Report on Survey into deafened people's experiences in Europe  
Q & A  
Coffee/ tea break networking

**Media accessibility (Chair Tom Levitt)**  
David Bradshaw ( DTG) Involvement of users representatives at Digital TV Group Accessibility Workgroup  
Gareth Ford- Williams (Head of Accessibility, BBC Design and Engineering)  
Q &A Panel with Andrea Saks (International Telecommunication Union), Paul Breckell ( Action on Hearing Loss), David Bradshaw , Gareth Ford- Williams ,  
Lunch and networking  
NADP AGM

**Hearing care and technology (Chair Sue Archbold)**  
Søren Hougaard (EHIMA) Hearing aids now and in the future  
Sarah Herrlinger (Apple) Accessibility for hard of hearing people  
Mark Laureyns (AEA) Quality of hearing care matter. Working on ISO standard and code of conduct  
TBC ( Alliance on Hearing Loss and Deafness) Action Plan on Hearing Loss  
Q &A Panel with Søren Hougaard , Mark Laureyns, Hans Mulder ( Phonak), Sarah Herrlinger  
Closing remarks. Lidia Best NADP Chair

GALA DINNER at Melia Hotel Restaurant



## WHO highlights the high global cost posed by unaddressed hearing loss

1 March 2017 | GENEVA: On the occasion of World Hearing Day, 3 March 2017, the World Health Organization (WHO) is drawing attention to hearing loss, its economic impact and the cost-effectiveness of interventions to address it. 360 million people worldwide have disabling hearing loss; 32 million of them are children. Factors contributing to hearing loss include genetic causes, complications at birth, certain infectious diseases, chronic ear infections, the use of particular drugs, exposure to excessive noise and ageing.

This year the theme of World Hearing Day is "Action for hearing loss: make a sound investment". In a new report released today, *Global costs of unaddressed hearing loss and cost-effectiveness of interventions*, WHO estimates that lack of attention towards hearing loss poses an overall annual cost of 750 billion international dollars globally. The financial costs to the health sector alone are 67-107 billion international dollars every year.

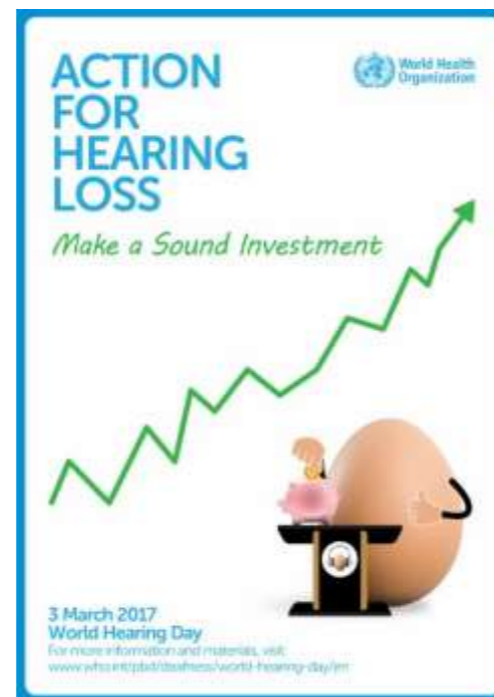
### Hearing loss can be addressed

In some settings strategies to prevent hearing loss are well-established, and the actions taken in those settings have resulted in financial savings and significant return on investment. The establishment of early intervention programmes is improving access to ear and hearing care services generally. Moreover, technology is available to detect hearing loss at the earliest stage of development. When their needs are met, people with hearing loss are better able to access education, learn skills and be employed.

### Interventions to address hearing loss are cost-effective

WHO's new report focuses on solutions for lowering the prevalence and mitigating the impact of hearing loss. It highlights cost-effective strategies, namely:

- prevention through early identification and treatment of ear infections and reduction of noise exposure;



- early intervention programmes that help identify hearing loss through the screening of newborn and school-aged children and adults above 50 years of age;
- provision of appropriate hearing devices, accompanied with rehabilitation.

"Unaddressed hearing loss poses a great challenge not only for those who are affected by it, but also for their families, communities and countries," says Dr Etienne Krug, Director of the WHO Department for Management of Noncommunicable Diseases, Disability, Violence and Injury Prevention. "Cost-effective interventions can reduce the impact of hearing loss and ensure that people with hearing loss have the same opportunities in life as their hearing peers. These interventions, which bring benefit to people and save costs to governments, should be replicated wherever there is a need."

This report forms part of WHO's advocacy efforts to promote global action on hearing loss and calls upon policy-makers to address this challenge through:

- allocation of suitable resources;
- planning strategically to integrate ear and hearing care into health systems;
- training appropriate human resources;
- implementing early identification and intervention programmes;
- establishing awareness programmes.

### RELATED LINKS

Report: *Global costs of unaddressed hearing loss and cost-effectiveness of interventions*  
<http://www.who.int/pbd/deafness/world-hearing-day/2017/en/>

Infographic brochure: Action for hearing loss: make a sound investment!  
<http://www.who.int/pbd/deafness/world-hearing-day/WHD2017Brochure.pdf>

Corporate fact sheet on deafness and hearing loss  
<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs300/en/>



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## Press release: 112 Day - New technology improves location of emergency calls and helps EU citizens

On Saturday 11th February, the European Union celebrated 112 Day - the day of the Single European Emergency Number. With an average of 255 million mobile emergency calls every year, a new technical solution helps to provide accurate caller location for people in distress.

Europeans can dial 112 for free in any EU country if they need to contact emergency services, thanks to EU legislation, introduced in 1991. Every year, about three hundred thousand people who call the emergency services cannot describe their location, because they may not know where they are, because they are too young to say, or too injured to communicate. In these situations, knowing the exact location of the caller can help emergency services to react quickly and save lives.

Today's mobile and smart devices are able to provide emergency services with accurate caller location via an SMS or data channel by using in-built Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) or Wi-Fi capabilities. A report published today shows significant improvement for caller location in several EU countries. Lithuania upgraded its network based location solution to ensure significantly more accurate caller location. UK and Estonia deployed the Advance Mobile Location (AML) handset-based caller location solution which can locate a person to within 100m. An EU-financed project - HELP 112 - looked into how GNSS can improve caller location using the AML solution. It was tested in the UK, Lithuania, Italy and parts of Austria. Currently AML handset based caller location for emergency services is available only on Android phones.

Mr Andrus Ansip, Vice-President for the Digital Single Market, said "I welcome this very important step which helps people in distress and showcases how digital technologies can make our lives safer. I hope that in the future all Europeans will be able to benefit from more effective emergency services thanks to caller location solutions."

Commissioner Elżbieta Bieńkowska, responsible for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs said "Satellite navigation is crucial in determining the precise location of the 112 caller and saving lives. Galileo, Europe's own satellite navigation system, will be able to locate the caller with much greater accuracy. The launch of Galileo's initial services and first Galileo smartphones available on the market show how space data is making a difference in daily lives of EU citizens."

HELP 112 tested the AML solution which was initially developed in cooperation between national authorities and industry in the UK. Thanks to this technology, Lithuanian emergency services assisted a little boy who called from home but did not know his address. Emergency services were able to pin down his location and saved his father who had suffered an epileptic seizure. In Austria, woman riding a horse fell on her head and was unable to describe where she was. GNSS provided emergency services with her exact location within seconds, so she could be rescued. In addition to funding research, the Commission is also improving EU rules on 112. Last September the Commission proposed an update of EU telecoms rules in the form of an Electronic Communication Code. The Commission wants to enhance the relevant provisions of the Universal Service Directive in order to facilitate the use of handset based caller location as complement to network based location data.

According to the proposal, Member States will be obliged to ensure that caller location, be it network based (provided by the mobile operator), or handset based (retrieved from a GNSS or WiFi enabled phone), arrives in a timely manner to the Public Safety Answering Point which handles emergency calls. Notwithstanding the technology used, caller location will be free for citizens and the Public Safety Answering Points.



## Live subtitling for TV makes a debut in Poland

Will Iwona Cichosz, Miss Deaf International, win the Polish edition of "Dancing with the Stars"? That we do not know. However, her Deaf and hard-of-hearing fans are now able to follow the show and cheer Iwona on equal basis.

March 10, 2017, was a historic moment for TV accessibility in Poland as for the first time in the country an entertainment show was broadcasted with live subtitling. Polsat, one of the two main commercial broadcasters in Poland, took a bold step to implement live subtitling through respelling, a technique based involving speech recognition.

It is the first Polish broadcaster who provides such a service.

The decision was taken by the station in reaction to a petition from its viewers. Members of the Deaf community, being unable to watch the first episode of the show, as the station provided no accessibility services at that time, started a petition to Polsat's Board of Directors, requesting live subtitling or sign language interpreting. They were supported by a number of NGOs and media outlets. The broadcaster was quick to respond to viewers' request, taking a decision to broadcast the second and all the following episodes with live subtitles.

Why did the Deaf and hard of hearing must fight for their rights in the first place? Unfortunately, the Polish law does not require the broadcasters to provide live subtitles. TV stations are only obliged to make sure that 10% of the content they broad-

cast is available with either subtitles, audio description or sign language interpreting.

Polsat is the first Polish broadcaster who decided to provide subtitles for a live TV show, what is more, they did that in prime time, when lots of viewers can watch it. "We believe that live subtitling available for this one show is a milestone on the path to a greater TV accessibility in Poland and other prime time broadcasts such as news, sports and entertainment will follow suit," says Monika Szczygielska, the leader of Dostępni.eu team, which helps Polsat provide live subtitling service.

Since 2013 Dostępni.eu team has been providing live transcription services during conferences as well as live subtitling for online streaming of social and political events.

They use Polish speech recognition software Magic Scribe developed by Radcomp Integral. Subtitles are prepared using a method called respelling and the text is then monitored and corrected on the fly, which results in high accuracy.

We'd like to extend our greetings and thanks to those who met with us and shared experiences.

Our special thanks to Lidia Best for the first meeting at Red Bee Media, which was a milestone for us.

More information  
Monika Szczygielska  
biuro@dostepni.eu <mailto:biuro@dostepni.eu>

## Media Release

### Credit Suisse Branches Are Now Equipped with Mobile Hearing Loops

New measure for barrier-free access to banking services

Zurich, March 16, 2017 **Mobile induction hearing loops are now available for people with hearing impairments in all of the approximately 140 branches of Credit Suisse in Switzerland. The aim is to simplify communication between hearing impaired clients and counter employees. Credit Suisse is thereby expanding its existing service offering for barrier-free access to banking services. The bank is one of the world's pioneers in this field.**

What are known as mobile induction hearing loops are now available to clients with hearing impairments at all of the approximately 140 Credit Suisse branches. Thanks to the hearing systems, clients can have a confidential conversation with counter employees. The device enables audio signals to be amplified through induction and unwanted background noise to be filtered out.

Last year, Credit Suisse carried out a survey in collaboration with the organization pro audio schweiz on the topic of hearing impairments in people's dealings with the bank. The results of this survey showed that communication at bank counters represents one of the main problems for the hard of hearing. As an immediate measure, Credit Suisse set up a pilot project and, during the implementation phase, worked closely with people who are directly affected from the Schwerhörigen-Verein Nordwestschweiz (Northwestern Switzerland Association for the Hard of Hearing). Client advisors and counter employees were familiarized with the devices using training videos and sensitized to dealing with people with hearing impairments. Pictograms at the entrance to branches and at counters indicate the presence of a mobile induction hearing loop system.

#### Longstanding Commitment to Barrier-Free Access to Banking Services

Credit Suisse has been committed to barrier-free access to banking services for more than ten years and ensures that people with impaired vision, hearing, and limited mobility encounter no obstacles. This includes a range of measures, such as easy access to branches and ATMs: At selected locations throughout Switzerland, constructional measures were undertaken to position more than 70 ATMs at a lower level so that they can easily be accessed by wheelchair users. Furthermore, around 500 talking ATMs make it easier for people with impaired vision to withdraw cash or check their account balance. Clients with impaired vision can also request their bank statements in large print or braille.

Credit Suisse offers deaf clients the option to have a sign language interpreter present at personal consultations twice a year, free of charge. With its commitment to barrier-free access to banking services, the bank is one of the pioneers not only in Switzerland but also worldwide. Alireza Darvishy, Head of the Center of Accessibility at Credit Suisse, says: "Access to our products and services should be as easy as possible for all our clients. Credit Suisse therefore aims to provide the highest level of accessibility for people with impaired vision, hearing or mobility constraints. The positive feedback motivates us to continue our efforts to meet their needs."

### Credit Suisse Supports Special Guided Tours for the Deaf and Visually Impaired at the Kunsthaus Zürich

As part of our partnership with the Kunsthaus Zürich, Credit Suisse will be enabling members of its partner organizations to participate in two special guided tours for deaf and visually impaired people at the Kunsthaus open day on April 1, 2017. The Kunsthaus Zürich is focusing on the issue of integration for its open day this year. The program offering also includes an information event for relatives of people with dementia as well as tours for non-German-speaking visitors.

Further information about barrier-free access to banking services can be found at: <https://www.credit-suisse.com/ch/de/about-us/responsibility/banking/accessibility.html>

#### Information

Credit Suisse Media Relations, tel. +41 844 33 88 44, [media.relations@credit-suisse.com](mailto:media.relations@credit-suisse.com)



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## 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](mailto:office@efhoh.org)



## Urgent action needed: Ask EU Member States not to ruin the Marrakesh Treaty

Wednesday, 22 March, the Council will meet (Coreper) to vote the final Council compromise proposals on the Directive and the Regulation for the implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty in the EU. According to many reliable sources EU Member States will propose to allow rights holders compensation and commercial availability in the application of the Marrakesh Treaty (in modification of Recital 11). We do not have a final copy of these proposals because they have not been published.

If adopted by the Council, the upcoming negotiations between the European Parliament and Council would be extremely difficult because these Council proposals cross the principal "red-lines" of the promoters of the Marrakesh Treaty in the EU (mainly rights-holders compensation rights and commercial availability). If they entered into law they would have a devastating impact on any successful use of the Treaty in the EU and around the world.

We kindly ask you to write to the Permanent Representation to the EU of your Member State. On the members area you can find a model letter and e-mail addresses and useful information how to proceed. Should you need more support do not hesitate to contact david@davidhammerstein.org and in copy loredana.dicsi@edf-feph.org

## EDF Board and resolutions

EDF had a very lively and productive Board and conference in Malta, thanks to the co-organisation of our Maltese members. The conference on Employment gave us a clear direction for our work in this area and our Board meeting tackled a lot of important issues successfully, including sustainable development, the CRPD, and forced sterilisation of women with disabilities. An interactive training on the Accessibility Act was a high point for everyone who was there.

Thanks to all EDF members and Board members that contributed to our three resolutions:

- Board resolution on Employment
- Board resolution on the treaty of Rome
- Board resolution on improving the inclusion of organisations of persons with psychosocial disabilities and ex users and survivors of psychiatry in EDF membership

## Seamless passengers' rights across all transport modes? Have your say!

The European Commission recently launched a consultation about passengers' rights across the different transport modes. As you probably know, we already have EU



rules concerning your rights as a passenger when travelling by plane, train, boat, and coach, including the right to assistance.

But this does not always cover the full journey, for example if you have bought a ticket which combines different transport modes. One example for this is, that you often can get a train ticket at a discount rate when you also buy a plane ticket. These "rail and fly" offers aim at discouraging passengers to travel to the airport by car and avoid congestion, but currently you are not fully covered by EU passengers' rights if for example your train has delay and you miss your subsequent flight.

## Advancing inclusive development and human rights for all persons with disabilities

EDF participated in a meeting in Athens last week to finalise the work with other regional members on a new programme EDF is involved in. It is called "advancing inclusive development and human rights for all persons with disabilities" and is supported by the British Department for International Development (DFID) and the International Disability Alliance (IDA). It was agreed that EDF will coordinate the Flagship 3 of this programme: we will focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) regional monitoring and provide technical support to other regional members involved. The regional members involved are the African Disability Forum (ADF), the Arab Organization of Person with Disabilities (AOPD), the ASEAN Disability Forum, the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) and the Latin American Network of Non-Governmental Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and their Families (RIADIS).



## Nominations for the second edition of the Accessible Airports Award are open!

After last year's successful first edition of the Accessible Airport Awards, EDF has renewed its collaboration with Airports Council International (ACI), the representative bodies of airports, to organize a second edition. The award criteria and the selection procedure will be similar to last year's and the members of the EDF Executive committee will again constitute the jury. The idea is to reward good practice examples of airports that go beyond the legal minimum and are invested in improving service quality and accessibility for persons with disabilities. If you know an airport that goes the extra mile to improve accessibility, please make them aware of this award. All information as well as the entry form can be found on the website of ACI Europe. Nominations are now open and close on 6 April.

Contact: marie.denninghaus@edf-feph.org

## EDF continues its engagement in the Western Balkans and Turkey

In the framework of our project with UNICEF "Protecting children from violence and promoting social inclusion of children with disabilities in Western Balkans and Turkey", EDF has recently successfully completed a cycle of opening seminars in the region. In particular, opening seminars took place in:

- Serbia (30 November 2016)
- Montenegro (9-10 December 2016)
- Kosovo (12 December 2016)
- Turkey (21 January 2017)
- FYRoM (24 February 2017)
- Bosnia i Herzegovina (27 February 2017)
- Albania (1 March 2017)

By bringing together representatives of organisations of persons with disabilities and parents' associations, under the umbrella of the national disability councils, the seminars have created a platform to share experiences and discuss how children with disabilities can be better supported in enjoying freedom of choice and making their own decisions.

For more information, please contact EDF project coordinator: ernesto.zaccaria@edf-feph.org

## Euronews is looking for persons with disabilities for a video on accessibility

The European television news channel Euronews is looking for volunteers to feature in a video clip about accessibility (or lack of it) of European cities. They would like to illustrate how easy or difficult it is to use a specific route on different modes of public transport in a given city to compare their accessibility. To start with, they would like to focus on the accessibility of the built environment and transport but this can possibly be extended.

If you live in or near a big city (ideally with different modes of urban transport such as tram, bus, metro, etc.) and you are interested in participating or you know somebody who might want to be part of a television feature, please get in touch with Rafael Cereceda (rafael.cereceda@euronews.com). The cities can represent good practice examples but you can also participate to show how inaccessible your city is!

Contact: marie.denninghaus@edf-feph.org

## Activists Demonstrate for a Strong Law on Accessibility in Europe

On 6 March we demonstrated in front of the European Parliament and we called on Parliamentarians to promote a strong and effective European Accessibility Act. Millions of people in Europe are still excluded from using basic products and services that are taken for granted for other people. Due to lack of accessibility, withdrawing money from a cash machine, entering a bank or any public building, using the metro, issuing a ticket, using a computer, calling a friend, watching TV, staying in a hotel, using a washing machine, are impossible for many people, including persons with disabilities and older people.



## Violence Against women & Girls; Will Europe Rise Up?

This year's celebration of International Women's Day on 8 March comes as a new opportunity for the European Union (EU) to take action against violence against women: the European Commission has declared 2017 the European Year of focused action to combat violence against women and girls.

## First Principal Approval of the European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities

EDF has asked the European Parliament (EP) to co-organise the 4th European Parliament of Persons with Disabilities (EPPD) at the end of 2017. EDF has asked the EP to grant the hemicycle and take over the costs of the venue, as it was done for the first three editions of the EPPD. The EP governing body (Bureau) discussed that request at its February meeting and decided to give a principle approval of the event.

The new president of the EP, Italian Antonio Tajani, said to fully support the EPPD and already committed to participate.

The financial involvement of the parliament has not been confirmed yet, but we are working with the EP president office to ensure that this will be confirmed by April. The exact date remains to be confirmed too; there are two options:

- Wednesday 6 December 2017
- Tuesday 28 November 2017

EDF National Council are invited to inform their Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) of this principle approval by the EP leadership and of the two date options, so that they make sure to reserve invitations to Brussels for you in their visitors' quota.

## Refugees with disabilities: Overlooked Underserved

EDF, together with the Vice-Chair of the Disability Intergroup at the European Parliament and Human Rights Watch, is pleased to invite you to participate in a hearing on the topic of Refugees with Disabilities: "Refugees and asylum-seekers with disabilities: Overlooked and underserved". The meeting will take place at the European Parliament on 28 March 2017, from 10 am until 12.30 pm.

This event will bring together representatives from organizations of people with disabilities, human rights organizations, humanitarian organizations, and the European Union. It will provide a forum for the discussion of the situation of refugees and asylum-seekers with disabilities. By doing so, it aims at providing recommendations to humanitarian organizations, national authorities and the EU institutions to respond to the rights and needs of refugees and asylum-seekers with disabilities and develop more inclusive humanitarian response in line with the CRPD.

To register please send your name, nationality birth of date and ID number to [carmine.conte@edf-feph.org](mailto:carmine.conte@edf-feph.org) Promoting Equal Opportunities for Decent Work

Work and employment have a huge impact in our lives and are linked to the ability to live independently and make our own choices in life. According to Eurostat, more than half of the population of persons with disabilities in the European Union (EU) are unemployed. In fact, experts who took part in our conference on 18 February 2017 in Malta stated that these Eurostat figures are too optimistic as many people with disabilities who are unemployed are totally invisible from the statistics.

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people with disabilities who are unemployed are totally invisible from the statistics.

## EDF & Broadcasters Draw up Common Proposals to Improve Access to Audiovisual Media services!

The European Disability Forum (EDF), the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and the Association of Commercial Television in Europe (ACT) have made a common proposal to improve the accessibility of audiovisual media services for persons with disabilities. Broadcasters and the umbrella organisation of the European disability movement reached this agreement upon the initiative of the Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Petra Kammerevert, who is preparing the European Parliament's report on the revision of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD).

## EDF brochure on the Accessibility Act now available in 23 languages

The EDF leaflet on the European Accessibility Act in accessible electronic versions are available! All EU-languages (except Irish) are now translated and waiting to be used and distributed by you.

You can download them simply from the EDF website by clicking on the link with the abbreviation of your language, e.g. BG for Bulgarian. If you like, you can also print them in your office or at home; since they are printable in A4-format you just have to fold them.

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EDF, EBU and ACT (the "signatories") released a common proposal to introduce progressive and sustainable measures for the delivery of accessible audiovisual programmes in Europe. The signatories expect these measures to enhance the accessibility of TV programmes for persons with disabilities, in particular via subtitles for the deaf and hard of hearing, audio description, spoken subtitles and sign language interpretation, also known as access services.

The common proposal aims to improve existing wording on audiovisual accessibility under Article 7 of the 2010 Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD), which EU legislators are currently reviewing. A large number of stakeholders and EU decision-makers have highlighted the need to maintain and develop the AVMSD's provisions on access services.

## Progress report of the European Commission on the mid-term review of the European Disability Strategy

On February 2nd, the European Commission presented its Progress Report on the implementation of the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020. The Strategy is EU's main instrument to support the EU's implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

The progress report gives an overview of the different actions taken by the European Union since 2010 as they are foreseen in the Strategy, and provides progress on the implementation of the Concluding Observations of the CRPD Committee. Please send your thoughts and comments to An-Sofie Leenknecht [Ansofie.leenknecht@edf-feph.org](mailto:Ansofie.leenknecht@edf-feph.org).

## Join us and follow the vote in the Internal Market Committee of the European Parliament on 25 April

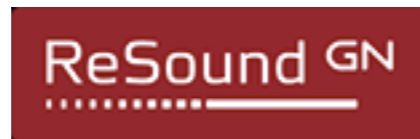
The negotiations on the Accessibility Act in the Internal Market Committee of the European Parliament (IMCO) are entering its last round.

The final vote in the IMCO committee is now scheduled for 25 April 2017 and you are very welcome to attend it live at the European Parliament in Brussels, together with us.

If you would like to attend, please send your details (full name, date of birth, nationality, and ID/passport number) as well as specific accessibility requirements to Etienne Cuhe. Deadline for registration is 14 April.



*EFHOH would like to acknowledge our sponsors generosity helping us continue our efforts in European advocacy*



## EFHOH MEETINGS 2017

2017	2017	2017	2017
20-22 April	Helsinki	EURO-CIU AGM	Juha
22 April	Gent	B-Audio	Lidia
28 April	Brussels	Subtitling meeting	Lidia and Marcel
5 May Time 09:00-11:00	London	Board meeting	All board members
5-6 May	London	EFHOH AGM	All board members
7 May Time 10:00-13:00	London	Board meeting	All board members
12 May	Madrid/Spain	Platform meeting	Aïda and Marcel
13-14 May	Madrid/Spain	EDF AGA 2017	Aïda and Marcel
24-28 June	Paris	IFOS meeting	Lidia
June/July	Helsinki	IFHOHYP AGM	Juha
3-4 July	Geneva	WHO stakeholders meeting	Lidia
September or October	Brussels	Platform meeting	Aïda and Marcel
4-5 October	Berlin	IFHOH board meeting	Marcel
6-7 October	Berlin	IFHOH Loops Conference	All board members
8 October	Berlin	EFHOH board meeting	All board members
24 October	Copenhagen	Hear-It AGM	Aïda and Marcel
23-24 October	Doha	Media for All	Lidia
November	Brussels	4 <sup>th</sup> European Parliament of Person with Disabilities	Marcel
December	Brussels	European Day of Persons with Disabilities 2017	Aïda and Marcel

Version 18-03-2017

## 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.