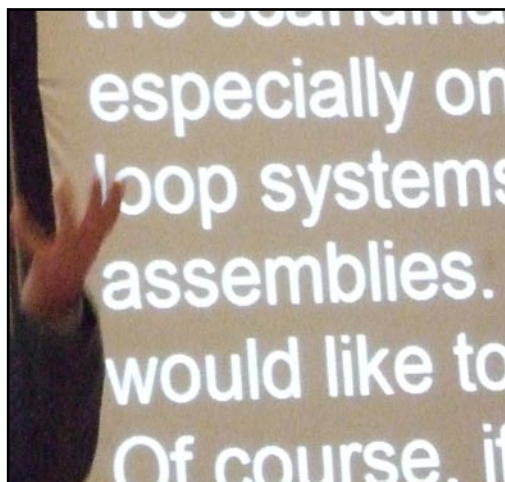


European Federation of Hard of Hearing People

## Headlines in this issue...



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DISABILITY INTERGROUP AT THE EUROPEAN  
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EFHOH president: Marcel Bobeldijk

## EFHOH President letter

Dear Friends,

"Welcome in the heart of Europe" was at the top of our program at the EFHOH Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2011 in Vienna, the beautiful capital of Austria, April 8 to 10. This yearly EFHOH event gave all the delegates and guests the chance to be part of the EFHOH movement. ÖSB (the Austrian umbrella organisation of hard of hearing people) had organized this AGM.

On Friday afternoon the AGM was held, the main topics were the board elections.

The members of the new EFHOH board are:

- Marcel Bobeldijk	President	2011-2013
- Knud M Ellingsen	Vice President	2010-2012
- Jan Lamby	Secretary	2011-2013
- Ritva Liisa Schading	Treasurer	2011-2013
- Lidia Best	Board member	2010-2012

At the AGM in 2012 we will have elections for the positions of the vice president and for the position of board members. Later this year the nomination committee will inform you about the details.

At the AGM we discussed two very important papers:

1. The EFHOH Subtitling Guidelines;
2. The European Standard of the Services offered by Hearing Aid Professionals.

We have sent these papers to our members and when you are interested in this documents you can find it at our website or you can contact us by email: [efhoh@hrf.se](mailto:efhoh@hrf.se)

I am happy that we had our first face to face meeting of the Subtitling expert group. Up until now most of the members of this expert group have contact by email or via Linked.in. It was a great honour that the Federal Minister of Austria for Labour, Social Affairs & Consumer Protection opened the conference day. The conference day was very interesting with different speakers. We had the next three sessions:

- 1e Subtitling;
- 2e Rehabilitation;
- 3e Hearing loops systems.

EFHOH, Thanks to all sponsors of this meeting, particularly Siemens (Platinum Sponsor) and GN Resound (Gold Sponsor).

On Sunday the delegates had the opportunity to take part in two different workshops, Come Together and the Gender workshop given by Karina Chupina, the president of IFHOHYP (International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People).

These two workshops took place at the ÖSB/VOX Office and Hearing Centre.



The gender workshop.



The current EFHOH board.

The next EFHOH AGM will be held on Monday morning 25 of June 2012 in Bergen/Norway the day before the IFHOH world congress. You are welcome!!

Wednesday 23 March 2011 Lidia Best (EFHOH board member) and I had a busy day in the capital of the European Union Brussels. First we had a meeting with Adam Kosa, he is the president of the Disability Intergroup of the European Parliament. We had this meeting together with delegates from:

- EUD (European Union of the Deaf)
- EURO – CIU (European Organisation for CI users)
- FEPEDA (European Organisation for parents of deaf and hard of hearing children)
- EDBN (European Organisation for Deaf and Blind People)

It was a historical moment that these five organisations for deaf and hard of hearing people together met with the president of the European Parliament Disability Group. After that we had also a group meeting at the office of EUD in the centre of Brussels. One of the most important outcomes of this meeting was that we start building up an European Council for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People (we are looking for the name of this new council).

So you may have read in the former EFHOH newsletter that we are looking for a new webmaster for EFHOH. Are you a volunteer or do you know a volunteer who will be our webmaster, please send an email to our general secretary Jan Lamby, email address is: [efhoh@hrf.se](mailto:efhoh@hrf.se)

Also articles for the EFHOH Newsletter about activities in your countries or other best practices about subtitling etc are very welcome.

I wish you a very interesting and sunny spring!  
Warm regards,

Marcel Bobeldijk  
EFHOH President.



Meeting with Adam Kosa





## Interview with Jurgen Schäding

Dear friends,

We are busy to write the history of EFHOH. Therefore we want to contact (former) board members to ask them to write their history. We ask you to answer all the questions below. Beside this questionnaire we have been researching the archives of EFHOH. We also want to publish the questions and your answers in the coming EFHOH newsletters.

Kees Twilt  
Marcel Bobeldijk

This time the Questionnaire for (former) board member Jurgen Schäding from Germany:

When did you get for the first time in contact with EFHOH?

\*ICHOHYP – first in 1969 I heard about an international rallye when I join the local hard of Hearing club (BdS e.v. Hamburg, Germany). In 1970 I took part during the International rally in Skarnes, Norway.  
(The begin of this international youth rallyies started 1967 in Denmark (DTJ Lejren, Middelfart, Fünen)

2. Can you tell something about yourself and your work at local and on national level in your country ?

In Skarnes, Norway, the discussion starts to form an international committee to organize international rallyies, meetings and information exchange. One of the important persons was Christopher Shaw, GB, and Kalle Tervaskari, FIN.

In Germany the youth organization of the "Deutschen Schwerhörigenbund e.V." installed the position of international matters (Auslandskorrespondent) in 1971 or 1972.

3. When did you join the board of IFHOH/EFHOH and why? Who were in the board? What have you done within IFHOH/EFHOH?

\*ICHOHYP – The committee was founded in 1973.

First chair man was Christopher Shaw, first vice chair man Jürgen Schädling, treasurer David Brown (?), General secretary ?

In 1976 Christopher Shaw left the ICHOHYP board and started working to settle the IFHOH. So I became chair man for the next period.

In 1977 (Berlin) there was a meeting of the leaders of national hard of hearing organizations from Europe. The target was to form an international organization for all hard of hearing people. I attend this meeting for ICHOHYP (Here the young people was more flexible and faster than the organizations of the older one)

2 years later IFHOH was founded in Hamburg, Germany (1979).

It was always difficult to get money to run the business of IFHOH (voluntary base). The board tried to get some grants from the EU – but this was not possible because IFHOH is an international organization.

To solve this problem they form a new section for EU area: Euro-IFHOH. Later this was renamed to EFHOH with an own location in the Netherlands.

4. What is your opinion about the role/tasks of EFHOH as a European NGO for HOH people?

There must be a non governmental for HOH people to fight for better integration and respecting their specific rights and tasks. If we do not reach this target on an EU base the HOH people in many EU countries will be in a poor position.

5. What was for you personally the most important subject/moment/topic in your period?

From 1973 – 1978 the most important matter was the international rallies as place to meet each other for exchange and learning how things can work and problem could be solved.

6. What was the most sad or difficult moment/topic in your period?

The greatest problem was to get in contact for information exchange (communication). Telephone cost was terrible expensive (and not all could hear at the phone). Fax was not available (just under development). No Personal computers, no translating programs, no internet, just time consuming dictionaries ...)

You must use letters – handwritten or type writer – copy the letters and sending them by post (extra costs for stamps)

7. How do you see the future of EFHOH?

EFHOH is the voice of the hard of hearing people in EU. It is part of the social systems of handicapped people and has the possibility of influence to the political area – much better then the national organizations can do it (in several countries they are still too small).

8. Congresses, like Vancouver and the loop system conference are very important. What do you think about their role in future?

The first international congress of the hard of hearing was held in Hamburg from 8th – 10th August 1980.

The program included a wide range of different aspects of hard of hearing matters. The wide range gave a lot of possibilities for the attending people for contacts and information exchange.

From my point of view the congresses should be a place for knowledge exchange, present actual developments and shows missing things to the public and governments (local and national areas).

What I am missing is something like a "central place" where all this information's will be available for anyone. This should be possible with our actual technologies.

9. What were you going to do in your free time when you had left the IFHOH/EFHOH board?

Some small actives in the local hard of hearing club.

Best regards

Jürgen Schädling

## WANTED: PICTURES OF LOOP SYSTEMS

I'd like to suggest that all of you who do have pictures to share consider uploading them to a free web site like <http://picasa.google.com>, make the folder public so that different loop advocates can use the photos for their presentations. Doing this would allow many people to use those pictures for other presentations created to publicize loop systems in your country, and this would save you time, too.

You wouldn't have to get involved with emailing pictures to people, and you would be able to add more pictures to the album as you get them.

It would need to be made clear that these pictures may be used for presentations and for other publicity for loop systems. (It would also be a good idea to ask people who \*do\* use your pictures to share their presentation files with you so that you can see how they've worked with them.)

The free presentation software that I am developing for the loop conference will be made available for free to anyone online (as long as there's a site for it). It can also be used as a model for other presentations that loop advocates can develop on their own.

I am planning to create it as a slideshow that can be shown during the lunch at the conference so that people can relax, enjoy their lunch, and network with other people, but

people will be able to download it afterwards and get more information about a particular loop installation by clicking on the picture.

The lunch hour is generally being used to show \*free\* presentation files that will be shared online with other loop advocates (with an emphasis on slideshows).

If any of you already happen to have a free slideshow of loop installations and would like to share it with us or have it shown during the lunch, please let me know.

Please note we have a very different kind of project in mind which would provide information about each loop installation with live links to web pages (if any) about those loop installations. We would all benefit if each country had software like that!

Dana Mulvany, MSW  
Consultant, 2nd International Hearing Loop Conference  
[LoopConf@gmail.com](mailto:LoopConf@gmail.com)

# More subtitled programs using new Innovations

To subtitle TV programs and movies is a labor intensive and expensive process. As a result the amount of subtitled data for deaf and hearing impaired people is limited in many countries or costly in areas where it is available on a larger scale.

There have been many attempts in the last decades to improve these processes and using new technologies to reduce the time required to subtitle TV programs. This resulted in a few valuable innovations, but even today, it is a manual and still labor intensive process.

In the last years, reducing costs is high on most agendas. That could result in even less subtitled material and will hold back the introduction of subtitling in countries where this is not available at all.

Often, in areas where processes are being automated, the efficiency is initially limited, only a few percent, but grow over time. A solution to reduce the subtitle creation time has to be significantly more efficient than the current processes, especially in areas where no subtitling is available yet.

This is not an easy task. However, in the last year we have developed solutions that can reduce creation of subtitling significantly. It is a combination of newly developed innovations with existing technologies, and new processes, but we also make use of the added value people (editors) can bring to complete the process. It can create subtitles for deaf

and hearing impaired people about twice as fast compared to the classic manual process, although this does depend on the type of TV program and language. In the years to come, it will be further improved to increase the efficiency.

The solution can be made available in any European language and is ideal for both new subtitle initiatives to speed up the introduction of subtitling, or existing subtitle companies to reduce costs and make more subtitled material available.

For more information, please contact Lidia Best email address: [efhoh@hrf.se](mailto:efhoh@hrf.se)

Jan Mooijweer, Managing Director Sempre Sole.

## A DEAFENED WOMAN FROM SLOVAKIA SPEAKS OUT

My name is Anna Bartalova and I live in the Slovak Republic. I am deafened from my childhood, I do not hear anything on both my ears. I grew up among hearing people and when I communicated with them, I always relied on the speech, speechreading or writing.

9 years ago, I became a party to legal proceedings. They hired a sign language interpreter for me, but I did not understand sign language at that times. It is not my language until now.

There did not exist any help for those of us, who became deaf and used only Slovak language. The entire lawsuit was completely incomprehensible to me. I had no opportunity to actively defend, I did not know how the process actually takes place, I was just a passive observer of my own judge trial, without understanding what goes around me. The lawsuit is still not over, it has been pulled from 2001.

Last year, I met through friends in the Czech Republic with the possibility of simultaneous transcription in real time, speech-to-text. For the next court hearing, I requested permission from the judge to get the speech to text service for me. I wanted to pay for the captionist by myself and I even took him with me to the court by my car. But the judge refused his service and did not allow me to have speech-to-text. He told me that I had no right by law for it. I feel to be discriminated against my human rights to get equal access to information at the trial. I did not understand anything what get around me and I could not defend my rights at the juridical process. It seems to me to be currently almost impossible to solve this situation. This was a strong motivation for me to fight for the right for me and the other deafened people.

In the mid of 2010, I was elected to be the President of the Association of Slovak Deaf People (ANEPS). I have no interpreter, no speech-to-text services.

Also, I asked for incorporation the speech to text into the National Programme for people with disabilities. To my disappointment, the hearing person responsible for the rigths of Hearing Impaired Persons, refused to incorporate the speech-to-text into the National Programme. It made almost impossible to solve this situation in the nearest time.

Nevertheless, I am not giving up and I am going to fight against the discrimination of the deaf people at the court, according to the model in the Czech Republic.



Text: Vera Strnadova  
Photo: Jaroslav Winter





## Disability Intergroup at the European Parliament meeting with EC Vice-President Viviane Reding

13 January 2011 – Brussels

Shortly before the entry into the force of the UN Convention on 22 January, Commission Vice-President Viviane Reding addressed the Disability Intergroup at the European Parliament along with EDF President Yannis Vardakastanis and President of the Intergroup Adam Kósa.

EFHOH was invited to take part in the meeting and I was delegated to represent us.

The importance of conclusion of the UN Convention is especially valid to EFHOH as it gives us grounds towards full accessibility in society.

Previous Directives issued by Commission will now be part of the law and the Commission will be enforcing them. The steps to be taken are;

- Setting up special research with fact finding how Members States have been implementing EU directives.

- Checking progress of Directives implementation in Member States.

- Commitment to monitor and enforce existing measures.

Those steps are especially important to EFHOH members with regard to full accessibility for people with hearing

loss. I hope this will ensure that all EU States will now have legal responsibility to provide access to their citizens including subtitles on TV, cinemas, theatres and installation of inductive loop systems.

One of the statements Miss Reding made during the meeting was;

“There is too much focus on the cost and not seeing the benefits.”

The EDF president Yannis Vardakastanis and President of the Intergroup Adam Kósa have both welcomed the stance European Commission is taking and called for actions.

Next I meet with Ms Geringer de Oedenberg MEP who is our great supporter in subtitling campaign at the EU level.

Together we reviewed our approach towards improving access to subtitles on TV and agreed on an action plan.

This was presented during the EFHOH Conference in Vienna on 9th April 2011 by our Board and Ms Geringer provided a video message in her absence.

Lidia Best  
Board Member

Author: Lauren E. Storck, Founder of the CCAC  
 Email: ccacaptioning@gmail.com



## The COLLABORATIVE FOR COMMUNICATION ACCESS VIA CAPTIONING INVITES YOU TO JOIN

ADVOCACY FOR QUALITY CAPTIONING UNIVERSALLY IS THE CCAC MISSION. We invite you to join us in the online grass-roots project called the CCAC if you support the CCAC mission, hearing or not, deaf or not. Captioning speaks to us all – it's our language, and it is missing in too many places.

Many of us cannot comprehend speech well in many group situations, even with other resources and technologies. Good communications are vital for everyday life. We require quality captioning/subtitles in many places, and the CCAC outlines ten places we call the ten CCAC categories of life, from education, employment and entertainment, to government, healthcare, transportation, and more. In the autumn of 2009, it was decided that a new focused captioning advocacy project was needed, at first in the USA, and quickly it attracted international members. CCAC is neither a deaf nor a hearing loss association. It is an advocacy community aiming to educate and advocate on many levels for inclusion of quality captioning where none exists now. CCAC builds bridges among all individuals and groups for captioning advocacy.

The CCAC is all volunteers, with free membership, and a "working community" online. A public website, blog, and social media extend the work of CCAC members online.

Membership has a nice balance of "consumers" and "providers" – all working together to encourage and create new captioning inclusion projects. Any captioning advocacy project, from a small local one, to a regional or national project, and collaborations internationally too, are encouraged. Sharing questions and knowledge in the CCAC group is very effective. In year one of the CCAC, captioning inclusion achievements include CART for Court, requests for CART for professional conferences, captioning reminders for Internet videos, captioning advocacy for live theater and museum videos, and much more.

While many established organizations advocate for captioning (and CART, real time speech-to-text, with various names in different countries), those organizations have wider agendas (they advocate for many other resources also) or wider constituencies (they advocate for people with many different disabilities). The CCAC focuses is one single theme, inclusion of quality captioning universally.

### **Collaborations are invited!**

CCAC is not-for-profit and not selling any services or products. Consumers are the ones who "drive" progress by asking for speech to text, sometimes facing many "no's" and often a long process that requires persistence and a "do not give up" attitude. CCAC provides encouragement, support online, and great information.

Inclusion of quality captioning benefits many thousands of other people as well. Captioning enhances learning to read, learning languages, search online, and provides records (transcripts) for knowledge- building. Many people with different language and learning needs use quality captioning, even though they do not have a hearing loss. United we can advocate, agitate, and legislate, yet this sometimes takes years.

The CCAC has helped members in "CCAC Action Requests," not only for specific information, but also with "letters of support" when any member is seeking real time speech to text. The CCAC also offers public data-collection documents on the website – for all to submit information about local and broader captioning advocacy, so others can be inspired, and share advocacy experience. In 2011, CCAC designed a creative "Community Service," not only to benefit consumer CCAC members, but also to allow

captioning education and demonstration local communities. CCAC provider members provide one hour of free service to eligible consumer situations at a convenient time during 2011. Consumers and providers can advocate together.

In some countries, real time captioning is expensive, and we aim to find ways to demonstrate how important it is. Captioning is our "ramp" for equal communication access, similar to wheelchair ramps which are generally accepted and provided in most countries in the modern world. There is much more information about the CCAC on the website, including the membership form. We welcome your interest and support! The web address is [WWW.CCACAPTIONING.ORG](http://WWW.CCACAPTIONING.ORG). The email [ccacaptioning@gmail.com](mailto:ccacaptioning@gmail.com).

## News of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

### Global News

#### CRPD ratifications reach 99

The ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol (OP) by Togo on 1 March 2011 has increased the number of the States Parties to the CRPD to 99, while the OP has 61 ratifications. The number of signatures of the Convention is 147 while the OP has 90 signatures.

#### State Reports submitted to the CRPD Committee

Austria, Hungary, Spain and Sweden have recently submitted the first European countries to submit their national reports to the CRPD Committee. From 14 March – 1 April 2011, the Human Rights Committee met in New York for its 101st session to review the reports of the European countries as Serbia and Slovakia.

#### Parallel reports to the CRPD Committee

The disability movement from Sweden has recently submitted a parallel report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities providing information on how Sweden complies with the UN CRPD.

#### More information

For more information about IDA, so as you know is IFHOH is very active in IDA, its CRPD Forum and its member organisations, please visit: [www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org](http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org).

Contact us via email at: [ifhoh@hrf.se](mailto:ifhoh@hrf.se)



## **You cannot miss the IFHOH World Congress 2012 in Norway, the Land of the Midnight Sun!**

**The last World Congress was in Vancouver, Canada in 2008 and the next one will be in Bergen, Norway on the 25-28 of June 2012.**

Bergen is a beautiful and charming historic city on the west coast of Norway, and I can assure you that you will fall in love with the city. Bergen has many beautiful and interesting sites and is surrounded by seven mountains. You can go by funicular from the center of the town to the top of one of the mountains and get a wonderful view of the city, the fjords and the ocean. Bergen has a very lively, but compact city center where “everything” is just a few minutes' walk away. Bergen is also a very good starting point to explore the Land of the Midnight Sun. The city is also known as “The Gateway to the Fjords”.

We really believe that attending the World Congress in Norway in 2012 will be an experience that you will remember for the rest of your life: the beautiful country, the summer nights when the sun never really sets, meeting with people from all over the world and an inspiring and exciting program.

The Congress starts with an opening ceremony and a reception on Monday evening June 25<sup>th</sup>, followed by an inspirational and educational program lasting three days. The Congress will end with a wonderful banquet on Thursday night.

The hotels are all located in the center of the town, just a couple of minutes walk from the venue for the Congress, The Grieg Hall. The standard of the hotels varies from inexpensive to first class, giving everyone the possibility to find the right accommodation for their needs.

### **A Better Quality of Life!**

The theme for the World Congress in 2012 is “A Better Quality of Life!”. The program will focus on the challenges facing hard of hearing individuals of all ages in achieving a better quality of life. Both professionals and people who are hard of hearing will share their experiences through lectures, seminars and poster sessions.

We take this opportunity to invite you to Bergen and the World Congress 2012. We also invite you to give a presentation if you have something you wish to share. With this letter you will find a call for proposals. We would also like to encourage you to spread the word about this opportunity to anyone with an interest in the challenges facing hard of hearing individuals on their path to a better quality of life.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Congress Secretariat by e-mail at [ifhoh2012@hlf.no](mailto:ifhoh2012@hlf.no). All submissions must be done electronically in word documents as attachments. The Congress website is [www.ifhoh2012.no](http://www.ifhoh2012.no)

See you in Bergen!

Yours sincerely,

Knut M. Ellingsen  
President  
HLF (The Norwegian Association of the Hard of Hearing)

# "A Better Quality of Life"

## Call for Proposals to Present

HLF (THE NORWEGIAN ASSOCIATION OF THE HARD OF HEARING)  
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF HARD OF HEARING PEOPLE (IFHOH)

CONGRESS 2012

June 25-28-2012, Grieg Hall, Bergen, Norway

Call for Proposals:

The theme of the Congress is "A Better Quality of Life". The congress sessions will be held over three days. The programme will include plenary sessions, parallel sessions and poster sessions.

This is a Call for Proposals to present at this Congress. Proposals that relate to all ranges of hearing loss from infancy, and childhood, to young and older adults are welcomed.

Topics on hard of hearing young people are included as a part of the congress programme. Proposals may involve innovative research, ideas, projects or topics related to hearing loss.

This Congress aims to examine local and national issues in a global context. Suggested topics may be, but are not limited to:

- Quality of Life Issues for Persons with Hearing Loss
- Technology and Technical Advances
- Education and Employment Issues
- Early Childhood Intervention and Development Programs
- Problems Related to Old Age and Hearing Loss

The Congress will consist of three types of presentations:

Plenary sessions:

One and a half hour in duration. Involves presentation of material plus adequate time for discussion, 2-3 presentations.

Parallel sessions:

One and a half hour in duration, includes 3 presentations of 15-20 minutes with 10-15 minutes for questions and discussion.

Poster Sessions:

An opportunity to display information and to discuss a topic with delegates at a defined time and place.

If you are interested in giving a presentation at the IFHOH world congress please have a look at the congress website [www.ifhoh2012.no](http://www.ifhoh2012.no)

Should you have any questions, please contact the Congress Secretariat by e-mail at [ifhoh2012@hlf.no](mailto:ifhoh2012@hlf.no)



# ***DISABILITY STUDIES: EVERY BODY IN***

## **INAUGURAL CONFERENCE**

**University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

## **Call for Papers**

Disability Studies is an interdisciplinary academic field that focuses on the experiences, perspectives, rights and leadership of disabled people. Interpreting disability within a social justice framework, Disability Studies encourages the exploration of disability issues across a wide range of disciplines as well as different socio-cultural, political, economic, historical, legal, health, and educational contexts.

The aim of this inaugural conference is to provide a forum for people from diverse backgrounds and life experiences to share their knowledge and research with others. We warmly welcome the participation of:

- ★ People with impairments, family/whānau, support people
  - ★ Educators, practitioners, service providers
  - ★ Legal, business and community representatives
  - ★ Policy makers, government employees
- ★ Researchers, students (including school, undergraduate and postgraduate students)
- ★ Anyone who has an interest in disability and social justice matters

The conference theme, *Every Body In*, is deliberately broad, in the hope that presentation topics and means of delivery will reflect the diverse nature of Disability Studies. We welcome innovative and creative presentations that are engaging and accessible, and that reflect a wide range of experiences, knowledge and research regarding disability matters in national and international contexts. The conference will be structured to encourage participants to meet and interact within and across particular interest and sector groups.

### **Keynote Speakers**

<b>Anne Hawker</b> President of Rehabilitation International	<b>Professor Patricia O'Brien</b> Chair in Disability Studies & Director, Centre for Disability Studies, University of Sydney	<b>Dr Tom Shakespeare</b> Author, social scientist, bioethicist and editor of the <i>World Report on          Disability</i>
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Please submit proposals for presentations by **26 June 2011** using the format provided on the conference website <http://www.otago.ac.nz/disabilitystudiesconference/>

All proposals will be peer reviewed and abstracts published online as part of the conference proceedings.

Presenters will be notified by **17 July 2011** of the acceptance of their proposal.

All presenters must register for the conference (registration details to follow).

Presentations will be scheduled in 25 minute sessions  
 (20 minute presentations; 5 minute discussion).

### ***DISABILITY STUDIES: EVERY BODY IN***

**27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

### **SUBMITTING PROPOSALS**

**Final submission date: 26 June 2011**

**Notification of acceptance: 17 July 2011**

### **REGISTRATION DETAILS**

**WILL BE AVAILABLE BY THE END OF APRIL**

# International Summer Holiday

For adults with hearing loss

6- 13 August 2011



- Adults over 35 years old
- Language English / Polish

## The place

Hotel "Harnas"

Centralny Ośrodek Sportu  
Ośrodek Przygotowań Olimpijskich



We are looking forward to welcome 47 participants from 8 different European countries.

Watch this space for the special report!

Contact details; Lidia Best [smolarek-best@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:smolarek-best@hotmail.co.uk)

# WANTED

## I VOLUNTEER TO JOIN THE STUDY SESSION TEAM

### WHY?

Because there's a vacant in the Study Session team working on the IFHOHYP Study Session that will be hold from the **20th to the 27th of November 2011** at Strasbourg.

### WHAT IS A STUDY SESSION?

It's a non formal education activity that IFHOHYP designs and runs in cooperation with the Council of Europe. A group of IFHOHYP volunteers form the Study Session team, whose mission is to organize the activity and run it in November 2011.

The topic of the Study Session 2011 is: **"Striving towards policy impact, awareness rising and access to social rights"**. The objective is to equip participants with knowledge on concepts of human rights, social inclusion and discrimination; to learn methods on campaigning in order to raise awareness on hearing loss; to develop lobbying competences and skills to influence policy makers; to work in an intercultural environment and to share good practices of awareness rising.

### WHO ARE THE CURRENT STUDY SESSION TEAM MEMBERS?

Laura Scholler (Germany), Juliane Grosse (Germany), Cristina Dumitru (Romania), Andrea Sabová (Slovak Republic) and Carlos Muncharaz (Spain).

We will be aided and complemented by an educational advisor from the CoE and a couple of lecturers, experts in the field of campaigning and lobbying.

### REQUIREMENTS

- The volunteer must be able to **attend the Study Session in November and a preparatory meeting in September 8th - 10th**. Travel and accommodation costs are covered.
- Must be able to be in **communication with the other team members** via e-mail or Skype.
- **Must be male**, for gender balance.
- **Accounting experience or skills is an asset** to be in charge of the financial issues.
- Motivation and commitment.

This is a great learning opportunity and a chance for personal development.

If you are interested to join the team, write to: [ifhohyp.studysession@gmail.com](mailto:ifhohyp.studysession@gmail.com)

ALDA, Inc. and ALDA-NW Indiana present the

**23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF  
THE ASSOCIATION OF LATE-DEAFENED ADULTS**

**OCTOBER 26 - 30, 2011**

**INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA**



**ALDAcon 2011 WILL BE COMPLETELY COMMUNICATION ACCESSIBLE.**

**OUR MOTTO IS,  
"WHATEVER WORKS!"**

**COMMUNICATION ACCESS INCLUDES**

- CART  
(REALTIME CAPTIONING)
- SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS
- ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES
- PEN AND PAPER

**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION INCLUDES**

- INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKERS
- INFORMATIVE WORKSHOPS
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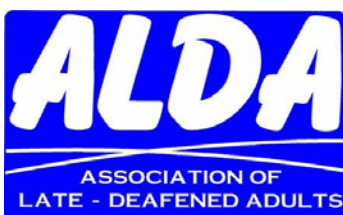
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## EDF NEWS

### CLEAR VIOLATION OF EU REGULATION LEADS TO DISCRIMINATION OF PASSENGERS WITH DISABILITIES

Brussels 15 April 2011 /// Last week flight passenger Shuaib Chalklen was refused to board flight number LX353 London- Geneva on the grounds of his disability. The airlines motives for refusing this passenger stand in direct violation of EU law governing the rights of disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility when traveling by air. On Monday, Vice President of the Commission responsible for transport Siim Kallas released a report on the functioning and effect of this regulation. This report additionally demonstrates the gravity of such discriminatory behavior. Freedom of movement is the EDF's top campaign in 2011, therefore, in response to this incident, the disability movement calls on the EU to step up its monitoring of EU law and for a clear definition of concepts to improve the journey for 80 million persons with disabilities.

On Monday 4th April, UN Special Rapporteur on Disability and wheelchair user, Shuaib Chalklen was informed that if he planned to travel unaccompanied he would be denied boarding his flight LX 353 London-Geneva. The rationale behind this threat issued by the Swiss Air Medical Department was that the passenger could not independently use the sanitary facilities. The standard flight time for this route, from London to Geneva is 1h40 and Mr Chalklen is a frequent and thus experienced flyer yet, he was refused access on the grounds of his disability.

The EU regulation concerning the rights of disabled people and persons with reduced mobility when traveling by air clearly states that it is against the law to refuse carriage on the grounds of disability and that these rules be applied to all commercial passenger air services on departure, transit or arrival within the territory of a Member State, in this case the UK. The only exception to this rule can be made 'in order to meet applicable safety requirements established by international, Community or national law'. However Mr Chalklen was denied carriage due to the fact that he could not independently use the bathroom, clearly not a flight safety issue.

Transport Commissioner Kallas published a report on this regulation, mentioning that 'some carriers tend to mix up requirements related to flight safety'. The Commission repeats that 'if boarding is denied for safety reasons, this

must be done solely for flight safety reasons,' recognizing that there are still problems with the implementation of the regulation and hinting towards the misuse of the rules.

This incident is a prime example of the discriminatory attitudes persons with disabilities face on a daily basis when traveling. In response to this case, Vice President Kallas clearly stated that the series of measures contained in the commission report, released earlier this week, intended to clarify and strengthen their rights, with the purpose to 'avoid situations where people with a disability or reduced mobility are unduly refused access'. To further alleviate the situation and limit such barriers to free movement the disability movement suggests that airlines consider improved staff trainings that include a disability perspective to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

The EDF has devoted its efforts in 2011 to particularly the issue of freedom of movement and increasing the accessibility to transport and similar services. The EDF regards that in this case, like in many others, the right to free movement was infringed due to a lack of understanding and awareness of disability issues. Yannis Vardakastanis, President of EDF adds that 'persons with disabilities cannot yet freely move, work and live in other countries as simply as can other EU citizens. The EU has committed itself to guaranteeing freedom of movement to all citizens; it is now time to deliver this promise to the 80 million European with disabilities as well'.

### PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES CONTINUE TO BE EXCLUDED FROM THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

The EU wants to reduce early school leaving, as indicated in Europe 2020, the EU growth strategy for the next decade. Persons with disabilities represent 15% of the population of Member States: a focus on inclusive education and special needs would reduce school dropout rates. Nevertheless, the European Commission adopted the communication: "Tackling early school leaving" at the end of January and didn't recommend anything to include persons with disabilities.

The European Commission has just unveiled a strategy to counter early school leaving across the EU with the aim of reducing the drop-out rate to below 10%. A major omission in the strategy was a recommendation from the disability movement to include persons with disabilities in main-



stream education. Including persons with disabilities in the education system would help improve the situation and the target of Europe 2020 could potentially be reached. If mainstream education was more accessible, the amount of students who leave school early would decrease due to the participation of persons with disabilities. It is crucial that education is provided to suit the needs of every student, for example, the allocation of special needs assistants, the accessibility of schools and university buildings or providing accessible documents.

The disability movement continues to highlight the need for regulation to fight disability discrimination in education. It would be important to follow the model of the employment directive for fighting discrimination on the grounds of disability.

## TAXI INDUSTRY JOINS FORCES WITH THE EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM

The International Road Transport Union (IRU) and EDF publish recommendations to taxi drivers to improve accessibility to people with disabilities and reduced mobility.

The International Road Transport Union and EDF have joined forces to develop and disseminate an Accessibility Checklist with recommendations to help taxi drivers improve the quality of the services they provide to customers with disabilities and reduced mobility.

Stig Langvad, EDF executive member and the chairman of the EDF transport expert group, welcomed this fruitful collaboration with IRU: "Awareness-raising of transport personnel is an important means for improving the travel possibilities for persons with disabilities and it is also the most cost-efficient way of doing so. In order to guarantee the equal right to transport for persons with disabilities, and their increased possibilities for participation and social inclusion, EDF also calls for future developments of taxi services to ensure they become increasingly accessible. In Europe, taxi services are the most important means for ensuring spontaneous transport for many persons with disabilities or reduced mobility."

Based on the existing detailed voluntary IRU Guidelines, the checklist contains recommendations for taxi drivers offering services to people who are blind or partially sighted, including customers with assistance dogs, are hard of hearing or have speech impairments, have mobility impairments, including customers using wheelchairs or have hidden disabilities.

Hubert Andela, President of the IRU Group "Taxis and Hire Cars with Driver" concluded, "The taxi industry is willing to shoulder its responsibilities towards all its customers, including by improving its services to those with disabilities and reduced mobility. Such developments also provide a good opportunity for the taxi industry to demonstrate to

policy makers that we have all the credentials to be fully recognised as an integral part of the public mobility chain, and that taxis should be given due consideration in the upcoming White Paper on the future of the EU Transport Policy in the period 2010-2020."

## THE LAST HIRED AND FIRST FIRED

The right to work is far from being a reality for millions of Europeans with disabilities willing to work. 75% of people with severe disabilities do not have the opportunity to fully participate in the European labour market.

Having a job is one of the most important aspects of social inclusion. EDF considers that promoting and guaranteeing access to employment is a key issue of high relevance for young persons with disabilities.

According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) the global recession has hit young workers particularly hard. The youth-unemployment rate (the unemployed as a proportion of the labour force aged 15-24) increased by 4.9% between 2007 and 2009, to 18.4%. The crisis has also influenced young persons with disabilities. For example, in Ireland disability pensions have been reduced by 5% and 4% respectively in the last two years. Supports to services for disabled persons have also been reduced by similar amounts.

EDF supports the European Commission's suggestion that young persons with disabilities remain a high priority in the agenda of the Member States employment policies (see EDF position paper). Promotion of equal opportunities for ALL shall be encouraged by the European Commission with the special focus on disadvantaged youth and young workers with disabilities.

It is also critical that measures undertaken should not be limited to improving access to employment, but should also ensure better qualifications and the acquisition of further skills and abilities to do a job or to maintain it. Further efforts should be made to make ICT tools more accessible to people with learning disabilities.

Young persons with disabilities willing to undergo an internship or find the first job abroad face high difficulties to benefit from the freedom of movement. The accessibility needs should be taken into account. Employment services should cater for disabled jobseekers and be fully accessible for them. This means that employment offices should be fully accessible as well as the information material provided. In addition personal support should also be available.

It is important that the European Union guarantee that European regulations affecting the interests of people with disabilities, such as State Aids in employment for disabled people and Structural Funds regulations, do ensure that disabled workers fully participate in the labour market.

## THE SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE NETWORK

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are vital to making possible the professional and cultural inclusion of persons with disabilities. At the same time, when they are not accessible, ICTs can create new obstacles and can lead to new forms of discrimination. The disability movement is collaborating on the eAccess+ project: a network to improve e-accessibility. It is funded by the European Commission/e-inclusion unit under the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme, ICT Policy Support Programme and will support the implementation of e-accessibility throughout Europe. This project has two main goals: knowledge sharing and networking in order to provide accessible forms of communication.

eAccess+ is a thematic network to improve e-accessibility in 3 domains: web, accessible convergent communication (e.g. digital television) and self service terminals. EDF is one of the 25 partner organisations in all 3 domains, as there are serious accessibility barriers for persons with disabilities.

**Knowledge sharing:** The eAccess+ hub has the aim to become the encyclopaedia that answers concrete questions about accessibility of websites, digital television and self service terminals. Therefore it collects, good practices, policies, standards, training materials, test tools and studies. An encyclopaedia does not create new things but brings them together, filters out what is relevant and structures content. Technically the website uses the same software as Wikipedia. The search field is your friend- if you do not find what you were looking for, create an account and don't hesitate to add it yourself.

**Speak to the right people:** Countless studies have demonstrated a very slow increase of e-accessibility. E-accessibility should be mentioned more often, not only within disability related organisations, but also externally by contacting organisations and industries to ask why they are inaccessible and to guide them in the right direction to change this. These include producers of self service terminals, CMS developers, TV broadcasters, web agencies, manufacturers of household equipment etc.

To provide to the consortium the perspective of users with disabilities and explaining their accessibility requirements. To disseminate information, raise awareness about e-accessibility and reach out to new external stakeholders at both EU and national level.

## EUROPEAN VOICE PORTRAYED MEP ADAM KÓSA AND DISABILITY VOICE INTERVIEWED MARK WHEATLEY

As a follow up, Disability Voice (DV) interviewed Mark Wheatley, Executive Director of the European Union of the Deaf (EUD), member of EDF

*DV: MEP Ádám KÓSA is President of the Disability Intergroup. Is he doing a great job for Deaf and hard of hearing people?*

Mark Wheatley: Yes, because he is the first MEP who uses sign language he increases the visibility of the Deaf Community at European level. Furthermore, he is the first disabled President of the Disability Intergroup at the European Parliament. This gives the Intergroup new credibility and more media attention. These results in addressing Deaf-relevant issues and showing the barriers to access that still exist at national level but also at the Parliament and other EU institutions themselves. This includes access to sign language interpreters but also subtitling on TV and access to emergency services.

In November 2010, the European Union of the Deaf (EUD) organized the 'Implementation of Sign Language Legislation Conference' at the European Parliament (more information can be found on the EUD website). MEP Ádám Kósa co-hosted this event and was an indispensable contact in carrying out and managing the conference. At this Conference, the "Brussels Declaration on Sign Languages in the European Union" has been presented to the attendance including the Vice-President of the European Commission, Ms. Viviane Reding.

*DV: What is the aim of the Brussels Declaration?*

Mark Wheatley: The Brussels Declaration is an important tool to promote the rights of Deaf people across Europe. It was signed by MEP Ádám Kósa, the Presidents of several European and International organizations (the European Union of the Deaf, the European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters, the World Federation of the Deaf, and the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters) as well as the representatives of all National Associations of the Deaf who are full EUD members. The aim is to ensure the voice of Deaf people is heard and taken into consideration when drafting new legislation or amending existing ones. We hope it will be a useful tool in achieving equality for Deaf people, especially at national level. One of the main aims is Sign Language recognition at both EU and national level to ensure access to employment, education, and services.

*DV: What are the future actions planned by the European Union of the Deaf in collaboration with MEP Ádám Kósa?*

Mark Wheatley: EUD are very keen to work together with MEP Ádám Kósa in the coming years. The most important aspect of his work is – in our opinion – to raise awareness and visibility of sign language at European level. His positive example will lead other Deaf people to follow in his footsteps. In the long term we want to ensure that the national sign languages are recognised at both European and national level and MEP Ádám Kósa – as a sign language user and Deaf lawyer – is very supportive to our cause.

## EFHOH MEETINGS 2011 & 2012

2011	2011	2011	2011
13 January	Brussels / Belgium	EP Disability intergroup	Lidia
9 February	London / UK	Workshop Subtitling making Opera accessible	Lidia
4 March	Stockholm / Sweden	IFHOH board meeting	Marcel
23 March	Brussels / Belgium	Meeting with EUD, FEPEDA, EURO-CIU and EMP Adam Kosa	Lidia and Marcel
8-10 April	Vienna / Austria	EFHOH AGM	All EFHOH board members
28 April-1 May	Innsbruck / Austria	Euro-Ciu AGM	Lidia
30 April	Belgrade / Serbia	IFHOHYP AGM	Knut
11 May	London / UK	Reduction levels in Subtitling	Lidia
28 May	Budapest	EUD AGM for sign the co-operation paper between EUD, EURO-CIU, FEPEDA and EFHOH	Marcel
18 June – 20 June	Washington DC / USA	2e International Hearing Loops Systems Conference	Marcel and Knut
29 Juni-1 July	London / UK	4e International Media for All Conference	Lidia and Jan
1-3 July	Bonn / Germany	25e anniversary DTL and EUTI conference	Ritva Liisa
6-13 August	Szczyrk / Poland	International Summer Holiday	Lidia
14-14 October	Krakow / Poland	Audiovisual Conference	Lidia
29 October	Hamburg / Germany	EFHOH board meeting	All board members
2012	2012	2012	2012
13-14 April	Tallinn / Estonia	Euro-Ciu AGM	One of the board members
25-28 June	Bergen / Norway	IFHOH World Congress	All the board members

## 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.