

**From Policy to Practice:
Advancing Hard of Hearing Inclusion Across Europe**

EFHOH Annual Conference and AGM 2026

Date: 17-19 April 2026

Format: On-site

Location: Maison des Associations Internationales, Brussels Room.

Address: Rue Washington 40, Ixelles, BE

Programme

Friday, 17 April 2026

Time	Programme
12h - 14h	Event Registration and Welcome Lunch
14h - 14h30	Keynote Speech Inmaculada Placencia Porrero (Senior Expert in Disability and Inclusion, Directorate-General on Justice, European Commission) Lidia Best (President, EFHOH)
14h30 - 16h	Panel 1: Implementing the Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities How the European Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is being put into action, through concrete examples that show progress, challenges, and lessons learned in advancing inclusion. Moderation: Lidia Best (President, EFHOH) Dragos-Lucian Ciobanu (Head of Speech Processing and Language Accessibility, European Parliament) Julia Stewart-David (Climate Change and Resilience Adviser, DG ECHO, European Commission) Elisabetta Degiampietro (Head of Conference Services Unit, DG Interpretation, European Commission) Alejandro Moledo (Deputy Director & Head of Policy, European Disability Forum)
16h - 16h30	Coffee Break
16h30 - 17h30	Panel 2: The European Accessibility Act and Hard of Hearing People How the EAA is improving access for hard of hearing people across key services and technologies, as communication, media, and digital environments become more inclusive through innovation. Moderation: Alf Lindberg (EFHOH) Inmaculada Placencia Porrero (Senior Expert in Disability and Inclusion, Directorate-General on Justice, European Commission) Daniel Casas Ballester (Senior Accessibility Policy Officer, European Disability Forum) Shadi Abou-Zahra (Principal Accessibility Standards and Policy Manager, Amazon) Sam Burkinshaw (Head of Global Business Development - Ampetronic) Mitchell Rutledge (Technology and Security Policy Manager, CCIAnet)
17h30 - 18h30	Panel 3: Inclusive Education and Employment How inclusive education and employment practices create equal opportunities for persons with disabilities in building accessible learning environments and inclusive workplaces. Moderation: Claire Landesmann (General Secretary, EFHOH) Marta Chomicz (Lecturer, The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin) Adriana Zekveld (Assistant Professor, Otolaryngology, Amsterdam UMC) Maria Skoczyńska (Accessibility Expert, Stowarzyszenie "Twoje Nowe Możliwości") Gavin Phelan (Founder, ALRM)
19h - 21h	Welcome Reception Venue: Maison des Associations Internacionales Rue Washington 40, Ixelles, Brussels, BE The Welcome Reception is sponsored by Apple.

Saturday, 18 April 2026

Time	Programme
08h - 09h	Event Registration and Coffee
09h - 10h	<p>Panel 4: Mainstreaming Inclusion and Participation for Hard of Hearing People How system structures across public services and institutions are essential for the equal participation of hard of hearing people, and the challenges faced when putting hearing accessibility into practice.</p> <p>Moderation: Morten Buan (Vice President EFHOH) Sabine Lobnig (Director Communications, Mobile & Wireless Forum - MWF/GARI) Peter Aksel Villadsen (Senior Vice President, Global Business Development, GN Hearing) Andrew Thomas (Chairman, International Association for Hearing Accessibility) Gina Welleman (Accessibility Advocate, Hoornetwerk Vlaanderen; Board Member, AHOSA vzw)</p>
10h - 10h30	Coffee Break
10h30 - 11h30	<p>Panel 5: Empowerment Through Leadership How inclusive environments and culture are enabled through the participation and representation of hard of hearing leadership.</p> <p>Moderation: Ida Hansson (Chairwoman, Unga Hörselskadade) Jonathan Elebjörk Wahlström (Co-Chair, EDF Youth Committee; General Secretary, Unga Hörselskadade) Karina Chupina (EFHOH's Representative at the EDF Women's Committee) Paulina Lewandowska (Vice-President, SUITA) Tania Galián Martín (Secretary, IFHOHYP) Olivia Lori Iglesias Ucendo (Content Creator and PhD Candidate)</p>
11h30 - 12h30	<p>Panel 6: Do we need EU Strategy on Hearing Loss? How to advance hearing access and inclusion in policies, services, and society through an EU Strategy on Hearing Loss that strengthens rights and coordination across the EU.</p> <p>Moderation: Darja Pajk (Treasurer, EFHOH) Lidia Best (President, EFHOH) Mark Laureyns (President, AEA) Patrick D'Haese (Member of the European Hearing Health Forum EU) Frank Lin (Apple Health, Apple) Jonas Sahlberg (President, HRF)</p>
12h30 - 14h	Lunch
14h - 15h	<p>Workshop: Future of Strategy for the Persons with Hearing Loss in Europe Moderation: Lavinia Rotundi (Advocacy Officer, EFHOH) and Henrique Raskin (Project Manager, EFHOH)</p>
15h30 - 18h30	<p>EFHOH Annual General Meeting EFHOH Members Only Venue: Main Conference Room (Brussels Room), at Maison des Associations Internationales</p>
19h30 - 23h	<p>Gala Dinner Venue: Cocina Chatelain Rue Washington 149, 1050, Ixelles, Brussels, BE</p>

Sunday, 19 April 2026

Time	Cultural Programme
10h - 12h	<p>Visit to Parliamentarium Venue: European Parliament Place du Luxembourg 100, Brussels</p>