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I. NEWS FROM MENTAL HEALTH EUROPE

Seminar on European Policies

The seminar entitled "European policies towards the integration of people with mental health problems" was held in Brussels 4 February 2005 in the framework of the EC supported project "Co-ordination of capacity building, fight against discrimination, and awareness raising in the mental health field". About 25 participants were present.

John Bowis, Member of the European Parliament (MEP), had a presentation on the role of the European Parliament in the development of European policies in mental health. He talked about recent developments in the last 6 years on raising the profile of mental health on the European agenda and gave advice to participants on ways of approaching MEPs on this issue.

Wallis Goelen, from EC - DG Employment and Social Affairs, Integration of People with Disabilities Unit - gave an extensive presentation on the global strategy of the European Union regarding disability issues and equal opportunities for people with psychosocial disabilities. Issues related to non discrimination in the field of disability were treated by Fiona Kinsman, a lawyer at the Unit Anti-discrimination and Relations with Civil Society.

An overview on the Commission activities on mental health, under both health information strand and health determinants strand, was given by Jürgen Schefflein (DG SANCO, Health Information Unit). He featured main projects on mental health supported by DG SANCO as well as some reports published recently. The public health Work Plan 2005 putting emphasis of on children and adolescents health was also highlighted.

Anne Tondevold, expert from Norway at the Social Protection and Social Inclusion Unit, Policy co-ordination - gave a presentation on the social inclusion process, giving special emphasis to the Community Action Programme to combat social exclusion.

In ensuing discussions, these themes were debated by participants who raised questions and shared experiences.

A complete report will soon be available at info@mhe-sme.org.

Board Meeting and Strategic Seminar

A short Board meeting was held on 5 February in Brussels. Board Members were briefed in the current financial situation and the budget for 2005 was approved.

A Strategic Seminar was held the same day, facilitated by Kerry Napuk. The aim of the seminar was to make Board members work together, to give them tools to work for MHE based on their experience and knowledge, so that they feel they "own" MHE and identify themselves with MHE.

The Board members welcomed and supported the WHO Declaration and Action Plan on Mental Health, approved in January at Helsinki, at the WHO Ministerial Conference on Mental Health. MHE is willing to support the implementation of the WHO Action Plan for Mental Health and a seminar will probably be held in

connection with the MHE General Assembly (3-5 June 2005). Dates, agenda and venue will be confirmed.

MHE representation at various meetings

On the 3rd of February, MHE President Claude Deutsch and Director Mary van Dievel had a meeting with Mme Christiane Bardoux, at the European Commission, DG Employment and Social Affairs, Unit of Integration of People with Disabilities. The aim of the meeting was to present MHE's activities and role of in the field of mental health and combating discrimination of people with mental health problems and to look at funding possibilities for MHE's future projects.

Colette Versporten (MHE Treasurer) and Roxana Radulescu participated in the Information Day for the Public Health Programme, organised by the DG Health and Consumer Protection on 3 February in Luxembourg. Speakers' presentations and frequently asked questions are available on EC Public Health website:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_programme/ho_wtoapply/infoday_2005/info_day_en.htm

On the 4th February a MHE delegation made up of Claude Deutsch, Mary van Dievel, Brian Howard (Ireland), Petr Nawka (Slovakia) and Margarita Mouza (Cyprus) had a meeting with Mr. Erdem Erginel, from Commissioner Kyprianou's Cabinet.

The objective of the meeting was to introduce MHE's activities and role and to inform him about the next MHE Conference which will be held in Cyprus, 11-13 May 2006. Other issues discussed were MHE's function as Liaison Office for Mental Health Promotion and MHE concern for DG Sanco's policy regarding the high own contribution requested for projects in the framework of the Community Public Health Programme.

During 12-13 February, Josée van Remoortel attended the EDF Board Meeting in Athens (more information page 5).

Elisabeth Muschik (MHE Board Member) participated in the Training Seminar on European Constitution organised by the Social Platform and Act4Europe in Brussels, on 16 February. On 21 February she represented MHE at the Social Platform Steering Group meeting and the meeting at the Fundamental Rights Working Group (more information page 6).

On 25 February, Mary van Dievel represented MHE at the Disability ENGOs Directors meeting. The major point of discussion was the further preparation of the collaboration meeting of European Disability NGOs, to be held in Brussels on 8 April 2005.

Mary Van Dievel attended on 14 February a meeting with the European Commission's Social Inclusion Unit and a number of social inclusion networks.

Key points discussed were :

1. the EU social inclusion process in the light of the mid term review of the Lisbon Agenda ;
2. the new PROGRESS programme ;
3. evaluation of the Open Method of Co-ordination ;
4. the NAPS/inclusion process in 2005 ;

5. mid-term evaluation of the Community Action Programme on Combating Social Exclusion ;
6. Implementation of the Community Action Programme on Social Inclusion.

A more extensive report is available upon request (info@mhe-sme.org)

General Assembly 2005

MHE's next Annual General Assembly (AGA) will take place during 3-4 June 2005, in Brussels. The AGA will be linked with a seminar on how to implement the WHO/EURO Declaration and Action Plan on Mental Health in the Members States.

The agenda of the meeting and further information will be provided soon.

MHE Conference 2006

Mental Health Europe will hold its next conference from 11 to 13 May 2006 in Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus. The Cyprus Rehabilitation Counselling Association will be organising this conference together with MHE.

The theme will be "Tetralogue: Together for Social Inclusion". "Tetralogue" is Greek and means "deliberation between 4 parties".

Mental Health Europe being at the crossroad of the partnership of the 4 parties that work towards the inclusion of people with mental health problems - people with mental health problems themselves, their families and carers, professionals and civil society - has taken a particular interest in this theme since a few years.

"Dialogue" and "trialogue" are part of our daily vocabulary, but "tetralogue" - including the involvement of civil society - is a rather new concept.

"Partnership" is also a well known word, but the content is not always understood in the same way by every party involved and needs to be further developed.

Exchange of good practice in partnership will be promoted during workshops.

Cyprus, one of the new EU Member States, is an attractive venue, and the weather circumstances in May are perfect: sunny, but not too hot yet.

We kindly recommend to pencil these dates already now in your 2006 diary, and encourage you to foresee the necessary funds for your participation in your 2006 budget.

A first preparatory meeting was held on 19 February in Nicosia. Claude Deutsch (MHE President), Nace Kovač and Dimitris Tataridis (Board members) and Mary Van Dievel (Director) discussed on this issue with representatives of the Cyprus Rehabilitation Counselling Association, who will be the organisers of MHE Conference in 2006.

More practical information will follow soon. We will keep you updated via our monthly Newsletter.

Do not hesitate to contact us should you be interested in participating in and contributing to this conference: info@mhe-sme.org, tel. +32 2 280 04 68, fax +32 2 280 16 04.

Call to MHE Members

Re : transport - people with mental health problems

Mental Health Europe was asked to attend together with Inclusion Europe (European association of people with intellectual/learning disability) a meeting in Paris of the European Committee of Ministers of Transport, in order to discuss the problems people with mental health problems and people with intellectual/learning disability encounter in access to public transport.

If you have any experience (good or bad!) or if you have suggestions, please contact urgently Josée Van Remoortel via MHE (info@mhe-sme.org). Thank you.

EAAD Project

Mental Health Europe is involved in the European Alliance Against Depression project, having responsibility for dissemination of the project outcomes. Lucas Institute (Catholic University Leuven) is working on campaign materials in Flanders, Belgium, on behalf of MHE.

Based on the successful work of the German "Nuremberg Alliance Against Depression", the project aims to conduct intervention programmes against depression in 18 European regions, at four levels : (1) cooperation with general practitioners, (2) public relations activities, (3) training sessions for multipliers (e.g. priests, social workers, media etc.), (3) special offers for high risk groups and self help activities.

There have been some developments recently that we want to share with you.

A preliminary catalogue of evaluation material (including questionnaires) is now ready. A few issues the questionnaires look at are: socio-demographic information (opinion of and attitudes towards depression, opinions on causes and symptoms, attitudes towards suicide), assessment of suicide attempts and deliberate self-harm, evaluation of training effects among general practitioners, analysis and comparison of prescription rates of antidepressants.

This catalogue is thought to be a kind of "cooking book" for the assessment of the EAAD core evaluation indicators stating the core items to be used within the project.

Further information on this project is available at www.eaad.net.

EMIP Project

The full title of the project is "Implementation of Mental Health Promotion and Prevention Policies and Strategies in EU Member States and candidate countries ». The project brings together a Consortium of 7 leading health Networks (among which MHE) to concentrate efforts on sharing experience on what works in promotion activities and how to reduce risks and prevent mental ill-health. The project is coordinated by the Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (FIOSH), Dortmund, Germany.

Policy proposals and recommendations for promotion and prevention strategies for coping with stress, anxiety, depression and related disorders have been developed in an earlier EC funded project (2001-2003) conducted by MHE. Now this project is proposed to introduce and implement these strategies in EU Member States and candidate countries.

On 16 March, a meeting will be held with the partners in this project, during which they will be informed on the background and objectives of the project, their

tasks at the national level, and the expected outcomes. A Manual with Guidelines for the project is currently being prepared.

The Consortium will meet on 17 March.

John Henderson, Senior Policy Adviser, and Mary Van Dievel, Director, will attend these meetings.

IMHPA Project

The project, Implementing mental health promotion action, is co-ordinated by the University of Nijmegen (The Netherlands). MHE is one of the European partners.

The project aims to develop and disseminate evidence-based mental health promotion and mental disorder prevention strategies across Europe and to facilitate their integration into countries' policies, programmes and health care professionals' daily clinical work.

The project started in 2003 and will end in summer 2005. A partners meeting will be held in Brussels on 14-15 March.

John Henderson is involved in this project on behalf of Mental Health Europe and will participate in this meeting.

For further information, please visit the project website: <http://www.imhpa.net>.

II. NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS

Slovakia -State Secretary's statement on cage-beds

Our member organisation INTEGRA drew our attention that, in an article in the Slovak newspaper "Zdravotnícke noviny", (č.4, ročník X, 27.1.2005) on the WHO European Ministerial Conference on Mental Health (Helsinki, 12-15 January 2005), the State Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Ján Gajdoš, declared, among others, that Slovakia has to solve the serious problem of net-beds (cage-beds).

Although the Slovakia case wasn't mentioned directly at the WHO Ministerial Conference on Mental Health (Helsinki, 12-15 January 2005), the existence of cage-beds was criticized by several discussants at the Conference, not only members of NGO's, but also experts from other countries.

Dr Gajdoš's statement paves the way for raising awareness on the issue of involuntary treatment for people suffering of mental health problems, of respect of their rights and dignity.

Fokus Association - project on efficiency of community mental health services

A transformation process from classical psychiatric care to the system of community care for people with mental health problems has been running in the Czech Republic (CR) for 15 years.

Although in CR there are community rehabilitation and social reinsertion services, they cover at present just a fraction of needs of the target group. A quicker development of these services is also hindered by the fact that they are entirely considered to be social services, while traditional services are included in the resort of healthcare. The separate financing of social and health services is one of the barriers in the transformation process.

In a project supported by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Fokus Association joins eight regional non-governmental non-profit organisations offering services for people with long-term mental health problems, aiming to:

- set up and verify tools for efficiency evaluation of community social and health services for those living with long-term mental health problems ;
- to make use of the acquired results for quality improvement of services ;
- to publish applied methodology and results for the needs of other NGOs rendering comparable services, for the needs of institutions responsible for management, financing and planning of social and social-health services, and for service users.

The services chosen for evaluation were: rehabilitation and sheltered workshops, day service centres, case management, „half way“ houses, on „half way“ flats.

Thanks to Jan Stuchlik and Pavel Novák from Fokus Association.

For further information: info@fokus-cr.cz and www.fokus-cr.cz.

III. NEWS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN ORGANISATIONS

SOCIAL PLATFORM

"Mr Barroso, you killed the European dream!"

In a press release issued on 3 February, the Social Platform stated: "Social NGOs are outraged at the Commission's proposals for the 'new start' of the Lisbon strategy. Mr Barroso has killed the balanced European strategy set in Lisbon five years ago. By abandoning social and environmental objectives of the Lisbon agenda, the EU will widen the gap of trust between the institutions and the citizens". Social NGOs believe that economic policies must take into account the impact they have on societies: "If all policies are aimed at increasing jobs and growth alone, the number of working poor will increase, those unable to work will be left behind, the number of people living in poverty and social exclusion will increase, and people will feel less and less secure".

Comparing the three Lisbon priorities to children, Mr Barroso said that the fact that a father concentrates and puts all his efforts on helping a sick child does not mean that he does not love the others. "It is not about love, it is about responsibilities; you cannot starve the social child, because the economic one is sick", said the Social Platform. "Economic policies will not thrive without strong social policies".

For further information :

<http://www.socialplatform.org/>

Further developments on this issue: page 7.

Training Seminar on the European Constitution

The aim of this seminar entitled *The European Constitution: What's in it for Social NGOs* held on 16 February 2005, was to improve the knowledge Social NGOs have of the European Constitution.

A good understanding of the content of the Constitution is crucial for many reasons: to assess whether the Constitution constitutes a progress or not and in which sectors, to pass the right information to the NGO community throughout Europe, to decide to engage or not in the ratification debate, and to prepare for the implementation of the Constitution if it is going to be ratified.

As a base for the discussion Professor Jo Shaw from the Edinburgh Law School presented the report she has made on the issues of the social dimension of the constitutional treaty.

One key question is whether and to what extent the Constitutional Treaty departs from the historical pattern in which social policy is given a "Cinderella status" in comparison to economic objectives in practical policy-making.

The rhetoric of the Constitutional Treaty concerning social policy is quite encouraging. The Charter of Fundamental Rights becomes an integral part of the legal order. The Constitutional Treaty offers more genuine opportunities for groups to intervene the policy-making process and to claim the right to be heard – and to be listened – by the EU-Institutions.

After Professor Shaw's presentation participants split in smaller thematic groups (fundamental rights, equality and non-discrimination, citizenship, democracy and governance) and discussed the questions:

- Why is the Constitution relevant for your members?
- Which articles do they need to be aware of?
- How to pass the information at the national level?
- How to anticipate the ratification of the constitution and make the most of key articles?

The seminar functioned as a "train the trainer" seminar, and the participants got materials to help them prepare their own materials for their network.

The ECAS (European Citizen Action Service) has worked out "50 Questions and Answers on the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe", which could be very helpful for NGOs, if they want to organise meetings for debate

For further information: www.socialplatform.org, and www.ecas.org

(Thanks to Elisabeth Muschik, who represented MHE at this training, for this contribution).

Social Policy Working Group

The Social Policy Working Group met on 25 January and discussed the planning of the work over the year and ways in which the Platform can assist members in communicating what the Working group is doing.

A first discussion of the Platform's planned Conference for 2005 on "Making European Social Rights a Reality" was held and members agreed to inform the Platform whether they would be interested in organising their own seminars or workshops as part of the conference.

Other items discussed include a campaign on employment and social protection, the Services Directive, the Troika meeting and informal social affairs Council in April, and the evaluation of the Open Method of Coordination.

Elisabeth Muschik, MHE Board Member represented MHE at this meeting.

(Source: Social Platform Mailing 210).

For further information:

<http://www.socialplatform.org>

Steering Group meeting

At the Steering Group meeting on 21 February, Platform members adopted a statement in advance of the Spring Summit next month.

Several campaigns ideas were discussed. The European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN) proposed a national day of action on 21st of March in all the EU member states. All Social Platform members and their networks were invited to support and join the campaign. EAPN will focus not only on the general social issues, but also on the importance of a special focus on poverty and social exclusion issues.

Solidar and trade unions are drawing up a petition called SOS Europe (Save Social Europe). They hope to gain signatures from as many organisations around Europe as possible. The petition will be an autonomous campaign (there will not be any logos on it). The idea is that its activity will also continue beyond the Spring Summit, perhaps also gain a million signatures and become a citizens' initiative (following Article I-47).

Members acknowledged the importance of press work around the Spring Summit. The Social Platform Secretariat will organise a press briefing and issue two press releases the week before the summit as well as promote interviews with members of the Management Committee with mainstream media organisations.

MHE Board member Elisabeth Muschik attended this meeting on behalf of MHE.

EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM

Board Meeting

On 12-13 February 2005, the European Disability Forum held its Board Meeting in Athens.

All Disability Councils of the new EU Member States were invited to attend since this was the last meeting before the new elections would take place.

Major items on the agenda were the financial situation and the membership issue. A new financial strategy was proposed to be adopted by the General Assembly and the new categorisation of EDF members was approved.

EDF's Committees will be revised after the annual General Assembly. The report of the external evaluation was discussed at length, as was the work programme 2005-2006.

Josée van Remoortel, Senior Policy Adviser is MHE's representative at EDF Board.

New project on capacity building of disabled people's organisations

EDF has been mandated by the European Commission, CARDS programme, with a new project called "Capacity building of disabled people's organisations".

The project is targeted at non-governmental organisations of disabled people in all CARDS countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, The Former

Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro).

The aim is to strengthen the capacity to promote the rights and interests of people with disabilities, to promote the establishment of local and national cross-disability councils, as well as a Balkan co-ordinating structure for NGOs in the disability field.

Information will be provided regarding the EU, Council of Europe and UN and disability laws, convention and policies.

For further information: <http://www.edf-feph.org/>.

OTHER NGOS

FEANTSA statement on healthcare to the homeless

The European Federation of National Associations Working with the Homelessness FEANTSA's Working Group on health and social protection finalised two policy statements: one targets health professionals who have occasion to work with homeless people and the other is aimed at policy-makers in the area of health.

The papers examine the particular health vulnerability of homeless people, the barriers they face within the healthcare system and effective ways of creating a healthcare system that can deliver a holistic care to homeless people.

For further information and for paper copies: Dearbhal Murphy, Communications Officer, FEANTSA, Tel. +32 2 534 49 30, Fax. +32 2 539 41 74, e-mail dearbhal@feantsa.org, www.feantsa.org.

EASPD - new knowledge centre

The European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disability (EASPD) has launched a new web-based Knowledge Centre, www.start-labor.org, elaborated together with 21 project partners of the EU funded LABOR project. A brochure "From Disability to Ability" was published, summarizing the main information contained in the Knowledge Centre.

This Centre was established by EASPD in co-operation with 21 service provider organisations, research institutes and regional authorities throughout Europe and with the financial support of the EC Leonardo da Vinci Programme. The Knowledge Centre website is available in English, French and German

For further information : www.easpd.org and www.start-labor.org.

Call for partners in EUROPAID project

On 10 February a call for tender was issued for a new PHARE project in Romania to set up a «Public Awareness Campaign - Information of the disabled people on their rights and the services they can access and fighting discrimination and stigmatisation» (EUROPEAID/119099/SV/RO).

Mercury Promotions (www.mercurypromo.ro) is seeking for a partner organisations with experience in the disability field in order to create a Consortium for the implementation of the project.

Mercury Promotions currently takes part in consortiums implementing a campaign on the rights of the child, a campaign on the social and economic cohesion in Romania and other smaller projects. However, Mercury Promotions does not have any

experience in the field of disability which is a pre-requisite for the participation in this call.

For further information, please contact : Mircea Stanciu, Project Manager, Phone: +40 21 204 65 65, Mobile: +40 745 503 379, Fax : +40 21 204 65 66, E-mail : mircea.stanciu@mercurypromo.ro

Deadline for the submission of applications : **14 March 2005**.

IV. WORLD FEDERATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Support for mental health NGOs in countries hit by South Asia tsunami

In an effort to assist in-country grassroots mental health organisations responding to the mental health consequences of this disaster, The World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) is encouraging donations through WFMH's « Donnate Now » button on its website :

<http://www.wfmh.org/support/donate.html>.

All proceeds received through this account until **31 March 2005** will be placed in a special fund from which small grants will be made to mental health organisations that are undertaking specific programmes and services in the areas stricken by the tsunamis.

For further information and to offer ways in which your organisation can help, please contact Deborah Maguire, Director of Programmes, dmaguire@wfmh.com.

2005 WFMH World Congress

The overall Congress theme is "Equity and mental Health", which will be reflected in plenary sessions, workshops and special training tracks.

The "Call for Abstracts" deadline for workshop and poster sessions at the 2005 WFMH World Congress (Cairo) is **30 April**.

The abstract form can be filled out online and is on the congress website:

<http://www.wfmh.org/2005Congress.htm>.

The workshop topics for which abstracts are invited include:

- Heightening public awareness about the importance of equity in mental health;
- Promotion of mental health and optimal functioning;
- Prevention of mental, behavioural and psychological disorders;
- Improving care, treatment and rehabilitation of those with mental, behavioural and psychological disorders;
- Cultural and societal mental health issues, including mental health and victims of trauma and war, the mental health needs of refugees and displaced persons, mental health and HIV/AIDS and mental health and physical disability.

The lead organisers are the Giza Mental health association and the Eastern Mediterranean Regional Council of the WFMH, in co-operation with the World Islamic Association for mental Health and the Arab Federation of NGOs for the Prevention of Substance

Abuse. The sponsors are the Carter Center, the Ministry of Social Work, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Youth.

For further information: www.wfmh2005.com.

Guidelines for Media Reporting on Children's ADHD

These international guidelines, developed by the World Federation for Mental Health, provide journalists with information for reporting on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), with understanding and respect for those who live with the disorder. The WFMH considers that, when emotional and behavioural disorders affect young people, it is particularly important to be sensitive and aware of the facts.

In 2003, the World Mental Health Day was dedicated to the emotional and behavioural disorders of children and adolescents.

For further information :

<http://www.wfmh.org/aboutus/initiatives/adhd.html>

V. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Regional Director Marc Danzon re-appointed

At its 115th session held in Geneva (17-25 January 2005) the World Health Organisation (WHO) Executive Board re-appointed Dr Marc Danzon as Regional Director for the WHO European Region. A national of France, he began his second five-term on 1 February 2005.

As a medical doctor who has specialized in public health, psychiatry and health management and economics, Dr Danzon has held various public health related posts at both national and international levels. Dr Danzon's experience working for WHO goes back two decades. He served as Director of the EURO Department for Country Health development and Director of the Department of Health Promotion and Disease.

Dr Danzon has been supporting the mental health issue for years, efforts that culminated with the WHO Ministerial Conference for Mental Health (Helsinki, 12-15 January 2005).

Mental Health Europe congratulates Dr Danzon for his re-appointment and wishes him every success for this new mandate.

For further information: www.euro.who.int and www.who.int/governance/eb/en.

WHO Mental health assistance in South-East Asia

In January 2005, WHO conducted an extensive on-site assessments in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Maldives (and co-incidentally in conflict-affected Darfur), which has reaffirmed WHO perspective of what should be done in terms of psychosocial and mental health assistance.

Through the years, WHO has published a number of documents that summarize advice on post-disaster activities, based on experience and scientific literature. These documents are applicable to a variety of crises, whether caused by natural disaster or conflict.

The guidance documents can be consulted at:

http://www.who.int/mental_health/resources/tsunami/en/print.html

VI. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Interview with MEP Claude Moraes

Claude Moraes is the Labour European spokesperson on social affairs and the European Parliament's rapporteur on combating discrimination in the enlarged EU.

In an interview to « Equal Rights in Practice, Issue 3. Spring 2005 », he states that the Green Paper has come at just the right time, that there is a need to know if views on anti-discrimination have changed with enlargement. There is a need to maintain the momentum of the Article 13 Directives and a need to be able to deal with cases of multiple discrimination.

According to Mr. Moraes, on the issue of mainstreaming, the first emphasis has to be on the labour market: « Work is after all the starting point for many people, including, for example, immigrants ».

« The European Parliament has asked for enforcement of the existing directives and the Commission has shown a very positive commitment on this. But it's clear that legislation alone is not enough: there's a need for other measures and for political leadership to change attitudes ».

The report on the Green paper will be the result of an open process, involving social partners and NGOs, including the possibility of a public hearing.

Regarding the experience of the new Parliament, Mr. Moraes stressed that there was a need for listening to the experiences of MEPs from the new Member States, who were not involved in the original antidiscrimination legislation.

(Extracts from «Equal Rights in Practice », Issue 3. Spring 2005).

VII. EUROPEAN COMMISSION

New Social Agenda: "Death of the Social Child of Lisbon Strategy"

On 9th February, the Commission published its new Social Agenda from 2005.

Instead of a Europe based upon social, economical and environmental objectives, the priorities would be in future only on growth and jobs. Although the issues of fighting poverty, building a cohesive society and promoting equal opportunities are mentioned, the social pillar of the Social Policy Agenda is very much weakened.

In a reaction paper to the Commission's review, Simon Wilson, the Director of the Social Platform talks about « the death of the social child of Lisbon »:

«In March 2000 the EU gave birth to a vision of a European social model which was based equally upon social progress and economic growth. There were high hopes for these twins, with the fifteen wise men who witnessed the birth promising to support and maintain both children until their tenth birthday in 2010.

Unlike their distant cousin, the American model, the twins of the European social model would be treasured equally for social cohesion, as for economic strength (...) Action was taken to promote full employment, to develop a cohesive society, to strengthen the economy and make it more competitive. After 2001, the twins had a new sister, environmental sustainability (and

although there was some sibling rivalry, all accepted that they needed each other).

However, as time passed, it became clear that some of the wise men were finding it burdensome to support the social and environmental children, and became frankly embarrassed at being confronted with the bastard offspring of their youthful passions.

In particular, they tired of being reminded of their promises to create a society based upon social cohesion, by combating social exclusion, improving the quality as well as the quantity of jobs, fighting discrimination, and supporting gender equality. (...)

The mid-term review of the Lisbon process gave Mr Barroso the opportunity to save the sick economy by sacrificing social policy (...) it was clear that the social child of Lisbon was dead – killed to make room for her economic sibling. (...)

But ironically, those who tried to kill the social child did not realise that her sibling, the economy, depended upon strong social policies to thrive. Without one, the other could not prosper... »

The complete article by Simon Wilson can be read at:
<http://www.socialplatform.org/code/en/soci.asp?Page=668>

The Communication on the social policy agenda is available on the Europa website:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/social_policy_agenda/social_pol_ag_en.html

DG EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Speaking at the Dutch Presidency conference in the Hague on 22 November, Vladimír Špidla, the Employment and Social Affairs Commissioner, announced that his services will come forward with a Communication on the further development of anti-discrimination policy before the end of 2005.

He also highlighted that the Commission intends to launch a feasibility study in early 2005 to examine possible initiatives to complement the current EU legal framework for tackling discrimination.

Training sessions for NGOs

The European Commission is organising a series of thirteen national training seminars targeting NGOs combating discrimination, which will take place during 2005, one in each of the ten new Member States and the three candidate countries. The seminars are aimed at providing knowledge of European anti-discrimination policy and building the capacity of the civil society to support the implementation of the new legislation. A specific training manual will be produced for the seminars, which will be made available in all EU languages.

Decade of Roma Inclusion

2 February 2005 will see the launch of a regional initiative by eight European countries and a number of international organisations, including the European Commission, to promote social inclusion and equal opportunities for Roma communities.

The "Decade of Roma inclusion" is backed by the governments of Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech republic, Hungary, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia & Montenegro

and Slovakia, and sets out a series of goals to be achieved through coordinated national action plans, many with the support of EU funds.

(Source for the above articles: "Equal Rights in Practice", Issue 3 Spring 2005, the news review of the Community Action Programme to combat discrimination.

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/fundamental_rights/index_en.htm)

New website on social dialogue

The website will contain a database of all the agreements and joints texts reached between management and labour at European level under the social dialogue process supported by the Commission. These texts, which cover cross-industry and sectoral agreements reached at EU level, already number hundreds of pages.

Visitors to the site will find texts ranging from legally binding framework agreements to joint statements, guidelines, codes of conduct and compendia of best practice, covering areas as diverse as lifelong learning, working conditions, corporate social responsibility, health and safety, telework and disability. The website will have other items such as the Commission's Industrial Relations reports, studies, information about enlargement, calls for proposals, and much more. There will be also a news page and an archive.

See:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/social_dialogue/index_en.htm

DG JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY

Priority on fundamental rights

Justice Commissioner Franco Frattini has emphasised that respect for fundamental rights will be at the heart of the Commission's freedom, security and justice programme.

In a speech to the Bundestag in Berlin on 14 Feb 2005, Mr Frattini put forward the Commission's freedom, security and justice priorities. On immigration, the Commission will consider:

- the possibility of jointly processing asylum applications;
- setting up a European Migration Monitoring Centre;
- creating a European Border Agency;
- extending the Schengen acquis to the new member states.

Running through all these proposals is the guiding principle of safeguarding individual liberties, underlined by the accession of the Union (via the new Constitution) to the European Convention on Human Rights.

For further information:

<http://www.euractiv.com/Article?tcmuri=tcm:29-135548-16&type=News>

VIII. COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Resolution on Safeguarding Adults and Children with Disabilities against Abuse

At their meeting on 2 February 2005, the Committee of Ministers (in its composition restricted to the Representatives of the States members of the Partial Agreement in the Social and Public Health Field) recommends that the governments of the members states draw up national action plans on safeguarding adults and children with disabilities against abuse, encourage participation of relevant non-governmental organisations in the elaboration of such action plans and implement such action plans by initiating appropriate measures and actions.

Member States are recommended to ensure that all measures are coordinated within and between authorities, as well as between authorities and relevant non-governmental organisations and to ensure the widest possible dissemination of this Resolution among all parties concerned.

In this Resolution abuse is defined as « any act, or failure to act, which results in a breach of a vulnerable person's human rights, civil liberties, physical and mental integrity, dignity or general well-being, whether intended or through negligence, including sexual relationships or financial transactions to which the person does not or cannot validly consent, or which are deliberately exploitative ».

The Resolution is available on the Council of Europe website:

<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=817413&BackColorInternet=B9BDEE&BackColorIntranet=FFCD4F&BackColorLogged=FFC679>.

IX. VARIOUS NEWS

UN Committee negotiates Treaty on Persons with Disabilities

The General Assembly Ad-hoc Committee on a convention on the rights of persons with disabilities concluded its 5th session after reaching further agreements on draft articles addressing access to justice, privacy, family, independent living, full inclusion in the community and other individual rights. Different views remain on some issues, such as the procedures for appointing a personal representative when a person with disabilities is unable to exercise legal capacity and the issue of separating the issue of forced intervention and forced institutionalisation from the article prohibiting torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment and treatment.

For further information:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/>

WOMEN - BEIJING+10: European Ministers adopt a common declaration

A European conference was organised by the EU Luxembourg Presidency on 2ⁿ and 3rd February 2005 on the review of the implementation of the Beijing platform for Action and the follow up documents of the 23rd session of the General Assembly 2000.

A report on progress made within the EU on implementing Beijing was presented during the

conference (available on:

http://www.mega.public.lu/Documents_PDF/Eu2005_Iu/Rapport_P_kin_10.pdf).

The conference was followed by a Ministerial Meeting Beijing +10 on 04.02.2005, where a common Declaration was adopted by the EU Ministers of gender equality, which is to be presented at the 49th session of the UN Commission of the status of Women in March 2005.

The Declaration is available under:

http://www.eu2005.lu/en/actualites/documents_travail/2005/02/04pekin-declmin/index.html

(Source : European Women Lobby News Flash, 14 February 2005)

2010: European Year of combating exclusion and poverty!

At a meeting of the Bureau of the EU Social Protection Committee (SPC) on 15 February, some new ideas in the Social Agenda were well received, in particular the proposed Community initiative on minimum income schemes and the integration of people excluded from the labour market. It was also proposed to establish 2010 as the European Year of Combating Exclusion and Poverty.

Mental Health Media- New Anti-discrimination Training Pack

Mental Health Media is an organisation based in London working in the fields of communication and mental health.

Mental Health Media's project "Open Up" has just produced a new set of multimedia resources that will support people to come together and lead the way in taking positive action against discrimination - at work, in their local neighbourhood, from friends and family, or in the media.

Featuring a training pack, discussion guide and video clips, the resources are available in multiple formats and are designed to suit a wide range of circumstances, levels of experience and participants' needs. The video/DVD includes powerful and inspirational footage of people with experience of mental distress talking about the discrimination they have faced and how they have responded to it.

For further information:

<http://www.mhmedia.com/products/new.html> and jenny.pearman@mhmedia.com.

Mental Health Today Scotland Exhibition

This one-day exhibition is held on 9 March 2005 and provides a timely opportunity for staff, managers, carers and service users to look at how final preparations are progressing while move towards full implementation of the new Act.

The implementation of the Scotland Act 2003 will further improve and significantly enhance the delivery of mental health services in Scotland

An exhibition of 45 key organisations at the Moathouse Hotel Glasgow, the event also features a programme of cutting-edge seminars throughout the day, an arena of art and performance, a Relaxation Zone offering free therapies and a Chill-out Zone.

Mental Health Today Scotland will showcase key organisations from the mental health field including:

service providers, publishers, advocacy organisations, professional associations, voluntary organisations, recruitment agencies, product manufacturers, education and training providers.

For further information : Graham Hoare, exhibitions@pavpub.com, www.mhtodayscotland.co.uk.

X. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

10 March 2005

"The health implications of an expanded EU: Threats and opportunities for the UK and Europe?", Royal College of Physicians, London, UK

The conference will discuss the impact of the expansion of Europe on the European health (especially the UK), the impact on healthcare professionals' mobility and finally the importance and relevance of the new neighbourhood countries.

Further debate will cover the economic implications of the changes and the potential for the use of health as a tool of foreign policy.

Info: <http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/conferences@rcplondon.ac.uk>.

4-5 April 2005

Conference on Patients Safety - "Making it happen - The European Perspective", Luxembourg

The objectives of the conference are to identify interests and challenges related to patients' safety, to share best practices and experience and to sustain and strengthen political momentum.

Themes covered include safety in hospitals and primary care, improved adherence to treatment regimes, patient data and IT approaches to improving safety. Successful mechanisms for monitoring and reporting safety issues will be explored

The Conference is organised by the Standing Committee of European Doctors in collaboration with other health partners, under the auspices of the Luxembourg EU Presidency and the European Commission DG Health and Consumer protection.

Info: <http://www.epha.org/a/1572>

20-22 April 2005

"Mental Health Promotion - Going from Strength to Strength", Dublin Castle, Ireland

The Conference addresses issues like:

- information about on-going research and successful programmes, policies and organisational models;
- collaboration on the development of new knowledge and the implementation of programmes and strategies;
- effective use of scarce resources.

Participants are invited from policy makers and policy administrators in local and national government, professionals in health and social care, service users, researchers, representatives of education, legal and labour organisations.

Info : www.charity.demon.co.uk/dublin

12 -13 May 2005

Congress, "Balanced Care. Innovative Perspectives on Psychiatric Rehabilitation, Geel, Belgium

The congress is organised by OPZ Geel (Public Mental Hospital) and will offer an opportunity to exchange

experiences and innovative ideas on psychiatric rehabilitation.

Info:

http://www.opzgeel.be/en/nieuws/htm/congress_2005.asp

9-12 June 2005

15th Alzheimer Europe conference takes place in Ireland, hosted by the Alzheimer Society of Ireland. The theme of the conference is "Dementia matters"

Info: Conference Organisers Ltd, Clifton House, Lower Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin 2, Ireland. Tel. +353 1 662 01 25, Fax +353 1 662 01 26, e-mail

info@conferenceorganisers.ie; www.alzheimer-conference.org;

18-21 June 2005

9th European Conference on Traumatic Stress (ECOTS), Stockholm (Sweden)

The main themes of the conference will be: Effects of Disasters and Terrorism, Neurobiology and Trauma, Memory and Trauma, Children and Effects of Early Traumatization, Sexual Exploitation and Trauma, PTSD and Complex Traumatization, Exile Trauma, The Impact of Prevention and Acute Interventions, Methods of Treatment of Today, Helping the Helpers, Media and Disaster.

Info: <http://www1.stocon.se/ecots2005/9/12734.asp>

7-9 July 2005

8th European Conference on Drugs and Infections in Prisons : « Unlocking Potential - Making prisons Safe for Everyone », Budapest, Hungary

The Conference is organised by the European Network on Drug and Infections Prevention in Prison and aims to provide participants with the opportunity to contribute to the development and implementation of effective drug and health promotion policies and services in prisons throughout Europe.

Info : <http://endipp.net/index.php?pid=46>

4-8 September 2005

The 28th Congress of the World Federation for Mental Health - "Equity and mental health" will be held in Cairo. (further information at page 6)

Info: www.wfmh2005.com

13-16 September 2005

XXII World Congress of the International Association for Suicide Prevention, Durban, South Africa

The congress will include a wide range of topics and themes, with particular emphasis on appropriate representation of speakers and inter-disciplinary communication in suicide prevention in diverse cultures.

The overall theme for the congress is "Scaling the Summit. Preventing Suicide Behaviour in Diverse Cultures".

Info: <http://www.interaction.nu.ac.za/IASP2005/>.

20-22 September 2005

34th International Hospitals Federation (IHF) Congress: "Hospitals and their challenges: Risk, quality, skills and research", Nice, France

Among congress topics:

- Hospitals: role in sustainable development;

- Managing anaesthetic risks in the operating theatre;
- Malpractice insurance and patient safety;
- Culture and the hospital;
- Defining indicators and benchmarks;
- Research in hospital management;
- Ranking hospitals;
- Post-graduate training for paramedical personnel: challenges and opportunities;
- Competence: what are the stakes and for which professions?
- Recognition and valuation of hospital personnel;
- E-health: impact on hospital;
- Hospital research: financing, assessment, impact;
- Clinical research in hospitals: legal, medico-scientific and ethical considerations.

For further information and registration:
www.fih2005.com.

23-25 September 2005

From Children to Parents: The impact of parental mental illness on their children", Athens, Greece, The congress will deal with issues like :

- What is the role of prevention and how can it be achieved?
- How can a healthy spouse, quality parenting or family interaction influence the development or not of problems in the child?
- Can primary health care providers help by screening, educating, supporting and referring parents to mental health professionals?

Abstract submission deadline is **15 June 2005**.

For further information:

<http://www.parentsonchildren.gr>

28-30 September 2005

The International Network for Psychiatric Nursing Research (NPNR) launches a call for papers for its 11th conference "Continuing our journey ... the next generation ...", to be held in St Cross Building, University of Oxford, United Kingdom.

The NPNR particularly invites papers with themes covering the following issues:

- Getting research into practice;
- working with service users and carers;
- Education and training: involving students in the research process;
- Supporting practitioners to engage and participate in research;
- New journeys, new themes and research questions.

Closing date for submission of abstracts is **26 March 2005**.

Info: Annelie Guard, NPNR and Mental Health Programme Administrator, RCN Institute, Radcliffe Infirmary, Woodstock Road Oxford OX2 6HE, annelie.guard@rcn.org.uk, Tel +44 (0)1865 224640, Fax +44 (0)1865 246787.
<http://www.man.ac.uk/rcn/diary/npnr28sep05.pdf>.

19-22 November 2005

Congress of the European Academy of Childhood Disability, Monaco

The congress will be an unique opportunity for multidisciplinary exchanges between physicians

involved in medicine of disabled persons, speech therapists, physiotherapists, psychologists, psychomotor therapists, research scholars, public health specialists.

New methods, research reports, advanced teaching sessions, multidisciplinary exchanges will be promoted. Through satellite symposia and exhibitions, associations of parents and patients, associations of nurses and social workers will be involved in this event.

Info: www.eacd2005.org.

XI. REPORTS/PUBLICATIONS

"Le suicide et sa prevention" (Suicide and its prevention)

The book is edited by Dr Agnès-Batt-Moillo and Professor Alain Jourdain and gathers fifteen contributions proposing reflections on suicide prevention from authors coming from a diversity of backgrounds: philosophers, sociologists, general practitioners, psychiatrists, public health professionals, researchers from France and other countries. The first part deals with issues like taboo surrounding suicide and suicide as a public health problem. Regional suicide prevention programmes are illustrated in the second part, while the third part treats the ways in which nations try to prevent suicide.

The book (24€) can be ordered from:

Editions de l'Ecole nationale de la Santé publique (ENSP), Av. Du Pr Léon Bernard, CS 74312, 35043 Rennes cedex, France; Tel. +33 2 99 54 90 98, Fax +33 2 99 54 8, e-mail editions@ensp.fr, www.editions.fr.

Discover the Road Ahead – Support and Guidance Handbook for Everyone affected by Schizophrenia

The handbook is an initiative of the INFORMED Network (International Network for Mental Health Education), which gathers 17 international, and national mental health advocacy groups (Mental Health Europe is one of them).

It provides information on detecting the early signs of schizophrenia, dealing with diagnosis, and the progression of the disease and it outlines the latest treatment and support that is available.

The book was piloted with people with schizophrenia in the United Kingdom, who reported it to be "different, very much needed, easy to read, open and accurate with useful case studies from a range of ethnic groups."

For further information :

<http://www.eufami.org/cgi/member/edit.pl?categoryID=20&id=11&lang=en>

For information about ordering the book:

info@wfmh.com.

European Report on Prevention Strategies and the Fight Against Homelessness – by FEANTSA

The report offers an overview of FEANTSA (The European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless) work on the theme of prevention of homelessness, summarizing the debates of a Conference on this theme held on 7 October 2004, in Budapest (Hungary). The report highlights a variety of preventive approaches with examples from Belgium, Hungary, Spain, Czech Republic, Austria, Ireland and Luxembourg.

Info:

<http://www.feantsa.org/files/Month%20Publications/EN/prevention%20winter%202004%20Final.pdf>

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Should you have any questions or should you wish to make a contribution, please do not hesitate to send us an e-mail at info@mhe-sme.org.

Mental Health Europe is committed to:

- the promotion of mental health and prevention of mental distress
- protecting the rights of people with mental health problems
- removing stigma and discrimination
- ensuring a fair share of resources for mental health

Do you share our vision? Then join MHE now and you will strengthen the voice for mental health in Europe.

First name:

Family name:

Address:

—

City:

Country:

Tel.:

Fax:

E-mail:

Occupation or organisation:

—

Date: _____

Account number:

Bank details: _____

Completed form to be returned to:

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