

17 December 2009

ENIL newsletter Dec 09/1



European Network on Independent Living

Launch of ENIL Position papers on UN Convention

ENIL is pleased to announce the release of two new ENIL position papers on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Both papers were written by Debbie Jolly. Debbie has worked on disability issues and research with CILs, universities, local and central government for over a decade. Topics have included independent living, multiple discrimination, disability and employment, disability representation and human rights issues. She is an editor of the UK based journal Disability and Society and has produced numerous sole and co-authored papers on disability.

Paper 01/09 '**The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**' provides an overview of the convention examining the design, articles and the potential barriers and enablers that the convention puts in place for disabled people and disabled peoples organisations.

Download from:

http://www.enil.eu/elib/app/webroot/files/ENIL_Position_CRPD_final.doc

Paper 02/09 '**Personal Assistance and Independent Living: article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**' considers the misconceptions and misunderstandings of the terms 'independent living' and 'personal assistance'. The paper also highlights current problems with personal assistance and the ways in which national governments are limiting or preventing access to personal assistance.

Download from:

http://www.enil.eu/elib/a...and_independent_living_art_19_final2.doc

Elena Pecaric Meets the New EU President in Slovenia

Our friend Elena Pecaric from YHD Slovenia got to meet the new EU Union President Herman van Rompuy and she sent us this report:

The new president of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, was received by the guard of honour with the Slovenian Prime Minister Mr Borut Pahor by his side. I was waiting for him in the rain and in the cold with a camera fastened to my wheelchair until he arrived. Using the new elevator, I ascended to the salon where the press conference was to be held, where both presidents gave their statements, however, journalists were not allowed to ask questions.

Mr Van Rompuy is, at first sight, inconspicuous, a bit pale, in a word: Belgian. Some of us who have read and written about the dangers of the Lisbon Treaty will remain critical so that the possibility for direct democracy and cooperation in all socio-political fields is not reduced to nothing.

I did not miss my opportunity to give him a present, a package with the Manifesto of Independent Living, the Freedom Drive 09 demands and the CD of the march, as well as my book titled EUtopia with the following dedication: "Nothing about us, without us".

I would like to thank the government service who helped me to my spot in the hall, for the first time, but certainly not the last - Elena



EU Parliament – Disability Intergroup Established

Within the European Parliament, there are so called Intergroups. For almost 20 years, there has always been a Disability Intergroup in every term. However, with each new election, there are new negotiations as to which Intergroups will be established.

On 8 December at the meeting of Secretaries, it was agreed that the Disability Intergroup would be among the newly established Intergroups. The group will have 76 members from all seven political groups. If you would like to know the member from your country, please write to our PR Officer tanja.richter@enil.eu

Petition About the Portability of Benefits

Any citizen of the European Union, or resident in a Member State, may, individually or in association with others, submit a petition to the European Parliament on a subject which comes within the European Union's fields of activity and which affects them directly.

UK MEP Diana Wallis informed us about a petition on portability of benefits. This is to allow the employment of PAs when moving or traveling to other countries in Europe. The portability of PA was also one of the Freedom Drive demands.

The petition was submitted by Mrs Kirkbride. We will keep you updated.

If you are a UK citizen, you can also contact Diana Wallis' assistant Angela Hunter angela@dianawallismep.org.uk

“Creating conditions for Independent Living” Conference

On 3 December, ENIL Board Members were in Brussels for the conference “Creating conditions for independent living”. Our Executive Director Jamie Bolling writes about the speech by outgoing EU Commissioner Vladimir Spidla. He promoted access to personal assistance and the elimination of barriers.

http://www.enil.eu/enil/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=314

ENIL Independent Living Seminar in Valencia

Foro de Vida Independiente, ENIL Secretariat and the Fundació Bancaixa organised an interesting seminar last week in Valencia. The title was “Asistencia Personal y Vida Independiente”.

The objective was to focus on the different approaches used by some key regions in Spain as far as personal assistance and the application of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability. The speakers were all representatives of pilot programs initiated in different areas of Spain.

Participants said they had gained relevant knowledge and were confident to apply this new knowledge in their work.

http://www.enil.eu/enil/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=339

Essay Kevin Caulfield: Evaluation of Freedom of Movement

Kevin Caulfield is a disabled law student in London and also a disability activist. For his studies, he wrote an extended essay on the freedom of movement across the EU for disabled people who need community care/ personal assistance support.

Kevin sent us his essay and we made it available to you in our e-library. If you would like to use it, please acknowledge its author. Also, if you are working on similar issues, please contact Kevin (via our secretariat).

http://www.enil.eu/elib/app/webroot/files/EUextended_essay_KC_2.doc

ENIL Secretariat
Gran Vía Marqués del Turia nº 49 - 7º 12ª
46005 Valencia Spain
Voice: +34 96 325 54 57
Mail: secretariat@enil.eu
newsletter by Tanja Richter

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