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## ***PRESS RELEASE***

### **EUFAMI launches the ‘Friends of the Forgotten Children’**

EUFAMI today launched its virtual Action Network at a Mental Health event in the EU Parliament in Brussels. The event, Toward Europe 2020: The role of Mental Capital and Well-being, was hosted by Nessa Childers, MEP from Ireland. This virtual network, which is titled the ‘*Friends of the Forgotten Children*’, has been created by EUFAMI as a follow up to the very successful conference which it held in Vilnius, Lithuania in November 2009. The conference was a cross sector multi disciplined event, where delegates discussed and tackled the issues and challenges faced on a daily basis by children across Europe whose parents are affected by mental illness. The network uses Facebook, which is currently the most widely used social networking platform, and will be managed and monitored by EUFAMI.

The objective of this network is to create a forum whereby the issues which were raised and debated at the conference can be further discussed and debated. It can also be used to share examples of good practices and actions which are taking place across Europe. These can then be accessed by anybody who may be looking for information in order to re-create similar work in their own countries. EUFAMI will shortly be issuing invitations to all delegates to the conference, representative bodies, policy makers, key opinion influencers, MEPs, etc to join as members of this Action Network.

#### **Background Information on the EUFAMI conference held in Vilnius**

Approximately 180 delegates from 25 countries across Europe came together in Vilnius, Lithuania on Thursday and Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November 2009 to attend *The Forgotten Children* conference which was hosted by EUFAMI (European Federation of Associations of Families of People with Mental Illness) in association with its Lithuanian member association, LSPŽGB. The conference was supported by the EU Commission (Directorate for Health and Consumers – DG SANCO), the European office of the World Health Organization, UNICEF and the Lithuanian Ministries for Education and Science, Health and Social Security and Labour.

Following on from the conference, EUFAMI has committed to undertake a number of actions, with specified deliverables. Amongst these is the establishment of the virtual Action Network which was launched today. Two of these deliverables can be viewed when one logs onto the ‘*Friends of the Forgotten Children*’; these are the Conference Declaration and the Conference Consensus Paper.



For more information, please look at the web site [www.eufami.org](http://www.eufami.org) or contact EUFAMI at [info@eufami.org](mailto:info@eufami.org)

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