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@-Bulletin

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For more information, please look at the web site www.eufami.org or contact EUFAMI at info@eufami.org

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Empowerment Leadership Meeting - Closing Date for Registration – 15th October!

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION EUROPE

Empowerment Leadership Meeting

The Leuven Institute for Ireland in Europe, Leuven, Belgium

27th and 28th October 2010

EUFAMI

Closing Date for Registration is Friday, 15th October – Register NOW. Log onto the EUFAMI website - www.eufami.org - to download the registration form and full instructions

Gábor Gombos elected to UN Disability Rights Committee

Gábor Gombos, Senior Advocacy Officer for the Mental Disability Advocacy Center (MDAC) has been elected to the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The election took place recently at the annual Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) at UN headquarters in New York. Gábor's term starts on 1 January 2011. Speaking on behalf of MDAC, Oliver Lewis, Executive Director, said, 'Gabor's in-depth knowledge of disability rights theory and practice across continents will enrich the Committee's work to advance the rights of 650 million people with disabilities worldwide.'

Gábor, a former theoretical physicist, has been a human rights advocate for twenty years. He led MDAC's input into the negotiation of the CRPD, and in December 2009 was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary in recognition of his work in the field of human rights of persons with disabilities. EUFAMI wishes to extend congratulations to Gábor on his election.

Protecting patients - EU to upgrade medicine safety monitoring

Patients will be better informed on how to use medicines, and enabled to report their adverse effects directly to national authorities, thanks to updates of EU laws agreed with the Council and endorsed by the EU Parliament at the recent plenary session in Strasbourg. The EU and Member States will set up pharmacovigilance web sites, and medicines that need special monitoring after being placed on the market will be marked with a black symbol.

MEPs amended the EU pharmacovigilance regulation and medicines code directive to require that EU and national web portals be set up to give information on medicinal products and their proven side effects. National web portals, to be linked to the EU one, will include assessment reports, summaries of product characteristics and patient information leaflets. The portals and patient information leaflets will also tell patients how to report any *suspected* adverse reactions, using national web portals or other means. The new EU pharmacovigilance legislation must be put into effect within 18 months of its publication in the EU Official Journal.

EUFAMI's Fifth European Congress – 2011 (A date for your diary)

EUFAMI is pleased to announce that its Fifth European Congress will take place in Basel, Switzerland from the 23rd to the 25th September 2011. The Congress will be co-hosted by EUFAMI and the Vereinigung der Angehorigen von Schizophrenie/Psychisch-Kranken (VASK), its Swiss member association. The theme for the Congress will be *"Community Care - a blessing or a curse?"*

Prospect – EUFAMI's Training Programme

Prospect, EUFAMI's Training Initiative, is currently being used by people in over 14 European countries. Prospect is a very unique peer to peer programme and was developed by EUFAMI members from many countries. If you would like to get further information, contact Rita Geerts on project.admin.office@eufami.org.

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