



April 2009



EUFAMI, in association with Lietuvos Sutrikusios Psichikos Žmonių Globos Bendrija (LSPŽGB), its Lithuanian family member association will host

## **THE FORGOTTEN CHILDREN**

*A major European Conference addressing the subject of Children of parents with a mental illness  
Vilnius, Lithuania, 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November 2009*

*A **Poster Exhibition** will take place alongside the Conference and details will be announced in mid May on the EUFAMI website. Also, registration for the Conference will commence in mid May. See [www.eufami.org](http://www.eufami.org) in the coming weeks for full details.*

### **European Parliament Special Interest Group (SIG) on Carers**

Reina van Mourik, Secretary EUFAMI, represented EUFAMI at the meeting of this SIG, which took place on the 15<sup>th</sup> April in the European Parliament. The topic was the Green Paper on the Workforce for Health and a presentation was made by Marta Abrantes, European Commission (DG SANCO). There was criticism that the views of family carers had not been requested or recognised and a lively discussion took place. It was the last meeting of the group before elections take place in June.

### **Second Geneva Conference on Person-Centred Medicine (From Concepts to Practice)**

This is organised by the World Medical Association (WMA), the World Organization of Family Doctors (Wonca), and the International Network for Person-centred Medicine, in collaboration with several international medical and health organizations, with the cooperation of the Paul Tournier Association, and with the auspices of the University Hospitals of Geneva (HUG) and will take place from on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May at L'Auditoire Marcel Jenny, University Hospitals of Geneva. EUFAMI will be represented by its President, Sigrid Steffen.

### **European Brain Council**

EUFAMI was warmly welcomed as a member with observer status at the EBC's Council meeting, which took place recently in Brussels. A brief presentation was made by Reina van Mourik on the aims and objectives of EUFAMI.

### **European Social Fund - Opportunities for Investing in Health**

A number of opportunities exist at EU level whereby patient and family carer groups can apply for structural fund monies and one in particular is the European Social Fund. It is important to note that these funds are awarded and administered at national level.

If any member association is interested in finding out more about the opportunities in your country and how to go about making application, please make contact with your national contact point by logging onto [http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/esf/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/esf/index_en.htm), (details are also available in a number of local European languages). If you do need more information or advice, contact Rostislava Dimitrova [rostislava.dimitrova@ec.europa.eu](mailto:rostislava.dimitrova@ec.europa.eu).

### **Annual General Meeting of the European Patients Forum (EPF)**

The AGM of EPF took place recently and Reina van Mourik, Secretary, and Inger Nilsson, Past President of EUFAMI, represented EUFAMI at the meeting. EUFAMI is a member of the EPF. A number of EU initiatives, such as the Pharmaceutical Package, Patient safety and Cross Border Healthcare, were discussed during the second part of the meeting. Once again the important role of the family was stressed by EUFAMI and this was strongly supported from the floor.

### **Barriers to Healthcare Services for People with Mental Disorders**

Reina van Mourik represented EUFAMI during a "Policy Seminar": 'Barriers to Healthcare Services for People with Mental Disorders' organised by the (European Health Management Association (EMHA)) on the recently published study "Quality in and Equality of Access to Healthcare Services" financed by DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, and led by EHMA.

### **WPA International Congress in Florence – April**

A number of events took place on the sidelines of the WPA Congress in Florence in April at which EUFAMI was represented. Janet McCrae, past Vice President of EUFAMI, took part in a roundtable policy meeting on Physical Health at which she provided insights and views of families on the subject. Also, Sigrid Steffen, President, spoke at a Keeping Care Complete event and again provided the family perspective on the subject.

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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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