

# **= DRAFT =**

## **MINUTES OF THE 11TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF DELEGATES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION OF THE DEAF 13 & 14 OCTOBER 1995, BRUSSELS**

### **1. OPENING WELCOMING ADDRESS**

The President of the European Union of the Deaf (EUD), Mr. Knud Søndergaard opened the 11th Annual Conference of Delegates of the EUD and extended a warm welcome to all persons present.

It would be a special Annual Conference as EUD celebrated at the same time it's 10th anniversary. He thanked everybody for their presence at the EUD reception on 12 October and explained that lot's of special activities had been organised around this Annual Conference. On Saturday evening 14 October and Sunday 15 October a cultural festival would take place.

Knud Søndergaard dedicated a special welcome to the delegates of the National Deaf Associations from Finland, Austria and Sweden, for the first time these countries were official delegates (*see point 4. for final adoption*).

He also dedicated a warm welcome to one of the founders of the EUD; Mr. Jock Young, to Ms. Liisa Kauppinen, president of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) and Mr. Giurana, member of the board of the WFD.

### **2. APOLOGIES**

Knud Søndergaard explained that due to financial problems the delegates of the National Deaf Association from Germany could not attend the EUD Annual Conference.

### **3. ROLE CALL**

See attached list.

### **4. ADOPTION SWEDEN, FINLAND AND AUSTRIA**

Knud Søndergaard explained that since 1 January 1995 Austria, Sweden and Finland had become official members of the European Union. According to the HELIOS II General Rules this meant that the National Deaf Associations of these countries became official members of EUD as well. Knud Søndergaard asked the delegates if anyone had objections to the adoption of the national Deaf associations of Sweden, Finland and Austria. As both the Council of EUD and the official delegates had no objections the national Deaf Associations of Sweden, Finland and Austria were adopted as official members of EUD.

## **5. MINUTES OF THE 10TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 09-10 OCTOBER 1994**

### Point 9. Motions

The Spanish delegates said that the Spanish Deaf Associations was a member of CERMI (the Spanish national umbrella organisations of disabled people), this was mentioned incorrectly in the minutes and would be corrected accordingly.

### Point 12. Programme of action 95

The Danish delegate, Asger Bergmann asked for a clarification, as the minutes only spoke about proposed Conferences and activities. Knud Søndergaard explained that the delegates had only given proposals and due to a lack of time no final list had been made. The Council had decided the final list with a Youth and Women Conference, a TV & Video Seminar and a Management & Leaderships Course as high priorities.

Knud Søndergaard continued by explaining that the EUD special commissions never worked well and that money had been returned to the European Commission as it had not been spent.

Knud Søndergaard asked the delegates if they could accept the minutes with the remarks made which they did. Minutes approved.

## **6A. ANNUAL REPORT 1994-1995**

The Annual Report 1994-1995 had been previously circulated.

Different topics of the Annual Report were clarified by Knud Søndergaard:

### Relation EUD with the European Disability Forum

Knud Søndergaard explained that EUD's General Director Johan Wesemann still had a double job as being Director General of EUD and Chair of the European Disability Forum. EUD was actively involved in the work of the Forum. Knud Søndergaard explained that the Forum worked towards adoption of a non discrimination clause based on sex, raised, religion and disability in the European Treaty of Maastricht which would be revised in 1997 during the Inter Governmental Conference. Thanks to a meeting Johan Wesemann had with Mr. Westendorp, Chair of a Reflexion Group preparing the Inter Governmental Conference, the non discrimination clause would be placed on their Agenda. Johan Wesemann explained that both the European Commission and the European Parliament were positive about such a clause but the decision to adopt the clause would be taken at national level. Johan Wesemann stressed the importance of delegates influencing and lobbying their national governments.

The Forum worked furthermore on it's future and the future of a European Social Programme as follow up of HELIOS II which would end in 1996. Knud Søndergaard stressed the importance of the Forum and the necessity of EUD being involved.

Johan Wesemann would be chair of the Forum until the end of 1996.

#### EUD Euro Programme 1995

In 1995 EUD organised a European Deaf Womens Conference in Verona, Italy, a European Deaf Youth Conference in Helsinki, Finland.

A Management and Leaderships Course in Denmark would take place at the end of October 1995 and also a TV & Video Seminar in Dublin, Ireland in November 1995. As EUD celebrated it's 10th anniversary many cultural activities had been organised around the 11th Annual Conference of delegates.

Knud Søndergaard stressed the importance of extended activity and financial reports made of the Conferences. In order to receive subventions of the European Commission and to develop good lobby actions extended reports were necessary.

#### EUD and WFD

the position of EUD within the World Federation of the Deaf was unclear. There were a few disagreements as EUD did not fit in well within the structure of the WFD. EUD does not represent Europe, only the EU countries. Knud Søndergaard stressed the importance of EUD being involved within the WFD.

#### EUD within HELIOS

Knud Søndergaard explained that EUD was coordinator of the Sector Hearing and Speech disabilities. EUD had regular meetings with the Sector in where six Partner organisations were represented:

IFHOH-Europe	International Federation of the Hard of Hearing - Europe
ELSA	European League of Stutterer Associations
EDbN	European Deaf blind Network
EFSLI	European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters
ESMHD	European Society of Mental Health and Deafness
CPLOL	Comité Permanent Logopedistes and Orthophonistes

Knud Søndergaard added that the cooperation with the Partners was pretty good at the moment, but EUD would maybe get bigger competition in the future as IFHOH-Europe was extending their activities and influence.

#### EUD and it's Staff members

Knud Søndergaard explained that Angélique Nijman had left the EUD and was replaced by Monique Boone. Johan Wesemann worked part time for EUD. Knud

Søndergaard thanked Johan Wesemann and Monique Boone for their work the past year.

#### EUD and it's Working Group on Cochlear Implants

Johan Wesemann explained that EUD on a request of the European Commission had set up a European Working Group on Cochlear Implants to investigate the status of Cochlear implants in Deaf children and to make recommendations. Johan Wesemann explained that in the past no dialogue at all had taken place between the consumers and professionals about cochlear implants. The EUD Working Group was composed with consumers, professionals and parents. In 1994-1995 they met 5 times. A questionnaire had been made and sent to all hospitals implanting Deaf children with CI, to Deaf Associations and Parent Associations of Deaf children.

The answers received on this questionnaire would be represented on a Seminar on 1 and 2 December 1995 in Brussels where Deaf consumers and professionals would meet for the first time on a European level and would discuss the position of cochlear implants in Deaf children in Europe.

Johan Wesemann invited all the delegates to attend this Seminar and asked them to keep EUD updated on their national situation on cochlear implants. EUD would unfortunately not have enough subvention to reimburse the travel expenses of the participants attending this Seminar.

Gloria Pullen asked the delegates of Austria, Belgium, Ireland and Italy to respond to the questionnaire on behalf of Austin Reeves (member working group).

Asger Bergmann expressed his concern that the Annual Report did not contain visions for the future and that no political problems were mentioned.

Knud Søndergaard responded that EUD would start a new newsletter where future visions would be discussed. Johan Wesemann added that EUD also needed more feedback from the grassroots level.

A discussion followed about the small EUD staff. Definitely more funding was needed to increase the number of Staff members. Liisa Kauppinen (WFD) suggested that national Deaf Associations should do more lobby work on national level. Markku Jokinen (F) said that EUD needed a long term vision. Discussed were the resolutions made after EUD Conferences. Asger Bergmann said that the follow up of the resolutions was as important as the resolutions itself.

The Annual Report 1994-1995 was approved.



## **6B. ACCOUNTS 1993-1994**

The Accounts of 1993 and 1994 had been previously distributed. Knud Søndergaard explained that the Commission still worked on approving the final accounts of 1994. EUD was still waiting for the last 30% of the 1994 subvention.

Lars Åke Wikström (S) asked for clarification about FEPEDA (European Federation of Parents of Deaf children). Knud Søndergaard explained that FEPEDA each year received a subvention from EUD.

Apart from the EUD Partners who receive a subvention each year, (FEPEDA is no official Partner of EUD), EUD subventioned other organisations when organising European activities relating to Deaf issues.

Lars Åke Wikström warned for the strength of FEPEDA and that EUD needed be careful that FEPEDA would not take over the leading position of representing the Deaf community.

Lars Åke Wikström asked also clarification why IFHOH-Europe (International Federation of Hard of Hearing people in Europe) received such a low subvention comparing to EUD. Knud Søndergaard explained that EUD as leading coordinator decided the amounts for the Partners.

Knud Søndergaard explained that the Council of the EUD had adopted a new financial rule. If a National Deaf Association would organise a European Conference under EUD auspices only 70% of the subvention would be sent by EUD to the national association. After approving by EUD of the financial report of the Conference the last 30% would be transferred. The EUD Guidelines on how to organise a European Conference would be send again to all National Deaf Associations to avoid confusion in the future.

Knud Søndergaard promised to give a short description for each project next year in the final accounts of 1995.

The Final Accounts for 1993 and 1994 were accepted and decided was that a thank you letter would be sent to Denmark for their cooperation.

## **EXTRA ITEM ALL PARTY DISABLEMENT GROUP (APDG)**

Ms. Diane Sutton of the secretariat All Party Disablement Group, a group of European Members of Parliament (MEP's) which secretariat is funded by European Disability Organisations (where under EUD), was welcomed at the Annual Conference.

Ms. Diane Sutton explained about an existing budgetline on minority languages. An amendment by Mary Banotti (Irish MEP, vice chair APDG) had been send in to include sign language in this budget line. Unfortunately it had been rejected.

Diane Sutton suggested that the Irish delegates would thank Mary Banotti for her work and said that the National Deaf Associations needed to work and lobby hard on national level to influence national MEP's and national governments for the position of sign language.

*Note: in November/December 1995 the European Parliament earmarked an amount of 500.000 Ecu for a research on the position of sign language in EU countries. EUD has been appointed head contractor of this budget. An extended programme has been developed to spend this money. Among other things an academical institution will carry out a survey on the status of sign language in the European Union.*

## **7. RESOLUTIONS DESIGN FOR ALL CONFERENCE**

The resolutions of the Design for All Conference were accepted. (attached to these minutes).

## **8. RESOLUTIONS WOMENS CONFERENCE**

Before the resolutions were approved there was a short discussion.

The Italian delegates remarked it was the EUD Womens Commission who organised this Conference and not the ENS, the Italian Deaf Association. Dimitra Kokkevi Fotiou remarked this was the second Womens Conference as the first one was held in Greece.

The Finnish delegate remarked that the names of the Finnish delegates were missing in the resolutions.

Asger Bergmann asked clarification of the position of the EUD Womens Commission. Knud Søndergaard answered that in principle all EUD's Commission had stopped. If people would be interested in a follow up Womens Conference they could express this when discussing the EUD Euro Programme 1996.

After this brief discussion the resolutions of the Womens Conference held in Verona, April 1995 were approved.

*After this point the first day of the Annual Conference was finished. Continued would be the next day. On the second day Knud Søndergaard first welcomed the representative of the Norwegian Deaf Association, Ms. Tone Handberg. She would be an observer of the Annual Conference.*

## 9. ORAL REPORTS OF THE NATIONAL DEAF ASSOCIATIONS

### GREECE

*Garlakis Constantinos reported.*

The Greece report was rather optimistic comparing to last year. A lot of improvements had taken place.

In 1989 a law passed in Greece that at least 5% of people working in the public sector should be disabled. At the moment 60 Deaf people were working as public servants in Greece.

The Greek Deaf Association applied for a funding in the HORIZON project for a interpreters training project. They were waiting for approval.

Since this year sign language interpreters were paid by the government (before that time it was the Deaf person itself).

The Greek television was now obliged to have 5 minutes news for Deaf people each day. This law was passed in August 1995.

### SPAIN

*(written report attached)*

### UNITED KINGDOM

*Gloria Pullen reported:*

The British Deaf Association had a new constitution according to the one man-one vote system. A Deaf chief executive had been appointed this year.

Two pilot projects had started to train people for relay services. Two new offices were opened in Scotland and in Wales both with a Deaf community service officer to make contact with the Deaf people in these areas. More and more funding was received to council Deaf people with aids. The lobby on the disability bill had become much stronger and more and more people in the UK and MEP's became aware of Deaf people. The discuss on cochlear implants continued and an awareness project on Usher had started.

### AUSTRIA

*Peter Dimmel reported:*

The World Federation of the Deaf Congress had been organised this year in Austria. Hoped was this Congress would be a big stimulance for the Deaf community in Austria.

In Austria no funding exists for text telephone services for Deaf people. There was 20 hours a month of subtitling on the Austrian television. The Austrian Deaf Association was trying to increase these hours up till 40 hours.

More and more Deaf children in Austria got a cochlear implant. About 50% of these operation turned out to be successful. Of the 7 schools in Austria for Deaf children, only 1 is bilingual, two schools were developing teaching programmes in sign language, four schools were oral.

### ITALY

*Manlio Marcioni reported:*

The situation in Italy for Deaf people was alarming at the moment. The government saved it's money and spend less money on disabled people. The Deaf community were planning a strike at the end of 1995. Deaf children mainstreamed in regular education. Deaf people were unable to obtain a university degree.

### IRELAND

*Helena Saunders reported:*

A new video project started in Ireland and both Deaf and hearing people were working together.

Problems had occurred within the relay services, the staff had no training. The Irish Deaf Society already complained but so far no change had been made.

The Irish Deaf Society applied for a subvention in the Horizon project but their proposal had been rejected.

The Irish Deaf Society raised funds for a Deaf Study project which would focus on Deaf women and Deaf youth issues and would try to raise awareness on Deaf issues among hearing people.

In November 1995 Ireland would host the EUD TV & Video Seminar.

### FINLAND (written report attached)

*Markku Jokinen reported extra:*

Important projects for the Finnish Deaf Association in 1995:

1. An employment project had been set up together with Denmark.
2. A multimedia project had been set up focussing on the video phone and with involvement within the TIDE project.

General information:

In Finland had a Folkhighschool for the Deaf, a child care centre for Deaf children and a centre for Deaf elderly people.

Sign language was included in the Finnish constitution. There were projects with Tanzania, Zambia and Mozambique. There was news in sign language each day on the Finnish television and there were text telephone and relay services.



In Finland no Deaf children got implanted with a CI, so far only Deaf adults had been implanted.

### SWEDEN

*Lars Åke Wikström reported:*

30 Deaf children so far got implanted with a CI, a dialogue had been established with professionals and the Deaf community. The Swedish Deaf Association was involved in the Horizon project and Employment project. Sweden strived for a good cooperation with the blind people. Information has been exchanged with the minister of social affairs. Lars Åke Wikström was representing Sweden in a social integration commission. The task was to establish Deaf networks all over Europe and to lobby the MEP's.

### PORTUGAL

*Helder Duarte reported:*

A new President had been elected at the Portuguese Deaf Association; Helder Duarte. A lot of work was waiting for him. The Portuguese government did not recognise sign language. The schools were oral although some teacher accept sign language. Portugal was preparing a big lobby for the acceptance of sign language.

30 Deaf children now have been operated with a CI in Portugal. Portugal was planning a serie of seminars on cochlear implants.

### FRANCE

*Arlette Morel reported:*

In France finally the Deaf community and the professionals agreed with each other that Deaf children should learn first sign language before they got implanted.

The Deaf community finally represented itself in stead of the Parent organisation. A Deaf television programme started (for and from Deaf people) in December 1994, 30 minutes a week.

The French Deaf Association had 12 employees and special youth training projects. They were planning projects on Deaf identity awareness and a project on Aids.

## BELGIUM Flemish part

*André Lathouwers reported:*

The Belgium Flemish Deaf Association suffered from communication problems. André Lathouwers got appointed as new chair. Hopefully these problems would get solved in the near future. A big interesting project was planned; Deaf education through multi media (within the Horizon project). A publication on a Flemish sign disc "what have Deaf people to say" on Deaf culture and their social situation was spread through the Flemish Deaf community.

New contacts with the Parent associations had been established even as contacts with a television programme about Deaf culture and sign language.

16 programme each a half hour were planned.

## the NETHERLANDS

*Marti Koolhof reported:*

The statutes of the new Dutch Deaf Association were finally ready to send to the World Federation of the Deaf. An interim board had been established. The government was willing to fund the new Association only if they were officially founded.

A working group had been set up for the recognition of sign language in the Netherlands.

At the end of October 1995 a seminar on cochlear implants had been planned to inform the public on Cochlear Implantation.

In the Netherlands subtitling was arranged by private companies.

The education of sign language interpreters would stop after 1996 as their level was insufficient. The Dutch interpreters did not know enough about the Deaf culture. A special working group would examine the possibilities for a future interpreters training course. Definitely in depth knowledge of the Deaf community would be necessary for the interpreters to enter the new interpreters school.

## DENMARK

*Written report attached*

Liisa Kauppinen addressed the delegates by saying she was happy to attend the Annual Conference. The World Federation of the Deaf has six regional secretaries at the moment. New were Middle Asia and Central America (Caribbean).

Liisa said EUD maybe did not ask much for help from WFD but that definitely the national Deaf Associations need the WFD, so the involvement of the EUD within the WFD for the future was very important.

At the moment the WFD had no secretary general. At the board meeting in January 1996 a new secretary general would be appointed.

At the moment Liisa was working on funding for the WFD to fund poor countries, funding had been asked to the World Bank which had replied positively, also the WFD had applied for funding from the EU through a Far East Programme.

At the moment the cochlear implant issue was one of the most important priorities for the WFD. Liisa promised to keep everybody informed with information and newsletters.

Tone Britt Handberg, president of the Norwegian Deaf Association, observer of the Annual Conference got the opportunity to explain about the situation for Deaf people in Norway.

## 10. MOTIONS

Three motions had been handed in.

### Motion Council                      (*motion attached*)

The Council of the EUD suggested to change the constitution of the Council. The position of of a treasurer would be changed into a ordinary Council member. Knud Søndergaard briefly explained that Denmark with Knud Søndergaard had the responsibility for the financial affairs of EUD and that a treasurer in the EUD Council was not really necessary.

This motion was adopted.

### Motion Finland                      (*motion attached*)

Markku Jokinen briefly explained this motion.

Sign language should be recognised in legislation in the education of Deaf children. As the European Parliament adopted a resolution to advice countries to recognise sign language on national level as a minority language a survey on European level should be held to explore the situation of sign language in education in EU countries. EUD should strive to achieve a directive on Sign language

A relay service and a net of text telephone transmission centres and information and alarm systems available for Deaf citizens in EU countries should be developed.

This motion was adopted.

Lars Åke Wikström explained that as the EES countries had the right to participate in HELIOS activities and they should be part of EUD.

A brief discussion followed. Knud Søndergaard said that the European Commission was not very clear on the status of the EES countries and that no extra money was available from HELIOS to include the EES countries.

Johan Wesemann suggested that the EES countries could participate in EUD activities but they should always pay for themselves. Markku Jokinen added EUD could learn a lot from the expertise of the EES countries.

Knud Søndergaard stressed that in the EUD statutes only EU countries can become member of EUD.

As the situation was rather complicated decided was that this motion would be parked until the Annual Conference of 1996.

## **11. ELECTION OF A TREASURER OR COUNCIL MEMBER**

Election forms for candidate ship were received from Salvatore Triolo (Belgium, French), from Markku Jokinen (Finland) and from Manlio Marcioni (Italy).

As Salvatore Triolo was no official delegate and candidates need to be an official delegate according to the statutes, Salvatore Triolo could not participate in the election.

Tone Britt Handberg and Jock Young were in charge of the procedure. Markku Jokinen was elected as new Council member. (11 votes for Markku Jokinen, 1 vote for Manlio Marcioni and 1 vote blank).

The Greek delegate explained that Greece had voted blank as they did not agree with the procedure. According to the statutes the Annual Conference of delegates had to vote for a Treasurer and not for a Council member.

Markku Jokinen was congratulated by everybody and welcomed to the EUD Council.



## **12. EUD EURO PROGRAMME 1996**

France proposed a project on bilingualism in education.

Sweden proposed a project on the vision and aim of EUD for the future.

Belgium (French part) proposed a cultural project.

Finland proposed a project on multi-media.

Agreed was that the Council would decide on the final Euro Programme for 1996 as there was insufficient time left.

## **13 CLOSURE**

Knud Søndergaard thanked all delegates for their active participation and the sign language interpreters for their work. He invited everybody to participate in the Cultural Festival that evening and the next day to celebrate the 10th anniversary of EUD. Deaf artists were invited to perform for the delegates of the Annual Conference and everybody interested.

Knud Søndergaard closed the 11th EUD Annual Conference. Umbrella's were handed out to everybody to celebrate EUD's birthday and to remember this memorial year.

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**  
**OF THE 11th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF DELEGATES 1995**  
**OF THE EUROPEAN UNION OF THE DEAF**

**PORTUGAL**

Helder Duarte

Hugo Lousada

**BELGIUM (FEVLADO)**

Andre Lathouwers

**BELGIUM (FFSB)**

Maurice Hayard

**FINLAND**

Markku Jokinen

**FRANCE**

Mr. Bimont

Arlette Morel

**SPAIN**

Luis Jesus Canon Reguera

Vicente Barreiros

**PRESIDENT WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF**

Liisa Kauppinen

**ITALY**

Manlio Marcioni

.....

**GREECE**

Garlakis Kostantinos

Nikolas Spanos

**AUSTRIA**

Peter Dimmel

Brigitta Palecek

UNITED KINGDOM

Gloria Pullen  
David Bullock

IRELAND

Helena Saunders  
Kevin Stanley

DENMARK

Asger Bergmann  
Annegrethe Pedersen

SWEDEN

Lars Åke Wikström  
Annette P. Löfgren

THE NETHERLANDS

Martie Koolhof  
Marjan Stuifzand

OBSERVERS

John Young (founder of EUD)  
Tone Britt Handberg (Norway)  
Armando Giuranna (WFD)

EUD COUNCIL

Knud Søndergaard  
Terry Riley  
Miguel Jimenez Mesa  
Dimitra Kokkevi Fotiou

EUD STAFF

Johan Wesemann  
Monique Boone

**FINAL RESOLUTIONS  
EUROPEAN SEMINAR OF DEAF WOMEN  
VERONA, ITALY 11-13 MAY 1995**

The Womens' delegations of the European union of the Deaf met to discuss themes concerning Deaf women. They started from the fact that they are first of all women and in the second place Deaf people.

They want to draw the attention of Governments of country members to their right to be considered European citizens and therefore they ask to accede as protagonists at any level of scholastic, social, professional and working life.

In particular they insist upon:

1. their right to have access to professional training through the use of Sign Language used in their country;
2. their need of the training of Sign Language Interpreters, and in particularly female Interpreters when they discuss typically female issues, and the settlement of the Interpreters' professional status.
3. the activation of actions that help the insertion of Deaf women in the world of work, arts and professions.
4. the proposal of support actions for Deaf mothers with Deaf or hearing children.
5. the realisation of a scientific research in order to learn about the real importance of the presence of Deaf women in Europe.  
This task must be entrusted to the respective National Associations of the Deaf, within which Womens' Committees operate.
6. the guarantee of their protection and the predisposition of support actions for Deaf women as concerning their access to information, especially concerning prevention in health.



The European delegations of Deaf women attending the first European Seminar for Deaf Women ask their governments and the European government the appropriation of adequate subventions and a substantial engagement through actual legislative documents in order to realise the points above mentioned.

Italian	delegation	: <i>Lucia Lorette</i>
Irish	delegation	:
English	delegation	:
Belgian	delegation	: <i>Liesl Stasie</i>
Danish	delegation	:
Dutch	delegation	:
Spanish	delegation	: <i>[Signature]</i>
Austrian	delegation	:
Greek	delegation	: <i>[Signature]</i>
German	delegation	: <i>Gerlinde Gebauer</i>
Swedish	delegation	:



The deaf consumer's viewpoint on future telecommunication developments in Europe

## 2nd DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

Recognizing the increasing interest in the international standardisation of text telephone services, the conference participants wish to declare their commitment to the following points:

1. to support and provide input to scientists and researchers in their quest for critical mass
2. to ensure that deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind and hearing people have equal access to telecommunications and related services (information, emergency, shopping, etc.) at equivalent average cost and similar ease of use
3. to urge the United Nations and the International Telecommunications Union to consult the WFD and its regional secretariats before any international telecommunications standard for the deaf will be accepted
4. with respect to future telecommunications, the conference sees a product incorporating sound, picture, text and video facilities to achieve wider communication choices (critical mass scenario)
5. public payphone should incorporate text facility in all mass transit sites but must take advantage of new technologies, see under 4
6. to urge the standardisation of textphone keypad symbols
7. to ensure that the textphone setup procedure is standardised
8. to encourage the establishment of relay services across Europe using identical protocols and procedures, using short access codes
9. to ensure that all public services are directly accessible by textphone
10. to encourage the establishment of a deaf and hard of hearing consumer action group in each country to act as a focus for consultation purposes and to monitor trends. These groups be encouraged to form an European association and sit on national reference groups to COST
11. text telephones must have standardised connections for a braille rail and a braille printer
12. deaf-blind people must be involved in time in the design of text and video equipment to develop new communication methods as electronic finger spelling, etc.
13. to encourage the European Commission to oversee legislation, regulation and standardisation of protocols in agreement with ITU, COST and consumer action groups
14. to promote the use of the textphone logo in public places and ensure that these are prominently displayed

A European Conference will be held on the 3rd and 4th of November 1994 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands (Congress centre 'De Doelen').

Under the supervision of the European Community Regional Secretariat of the World Federation of the Deaf in cooperation with COST 219/220.

Organized by SWEDORO in relationship with the Dutch Council

Rotterdam, 4 November 1994