

E U D

Minutes

13th Annual Conference 1997

DRAFT MINUTES
13TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF DELEGATES / GENERAL
ASSEMBLY
EUROPEAN UNION OF THE DEAF
27-28 SEPTEMBER 1997, BRUSSELS

1. OPENING, WELCOMING ADDRESS AND APOLOGIES

The President of the European Union of the Deaf (EUD), Mr. Knud Søndergaard opened the 13th Annual Conference of Delegates / General Assembly of EUD and extended a warm welcome to all persons present.

A special welcome was dedicated to Ms. Carol-lee Aquiline, General Secretary of the WFD and to the observers from the National Deaf Associations of Iceland, Switzerland and Luxembourg.

Apologies had been received from the French delegation.

It was agreed that two new items would be added to the agenda:

2A Adoption of the Agenda and

5A Acceptance Full Members.

2. ROLE CALL

See attached list of participants (*Annex III*).

2A APPROVAL AGENDA

The agenda was approved. It was decided that elections for the Board would take place after the lecture of and discussion with Mrs. Sophie Beaumont of the Disability Intergroup of the European Parliament.

3. MINUTES OF THE 12th AC HELD ON 12-13/10/96

Kevin Stanley (EIRE) requested the minutes to be shorter from now on and this was agreed with the minute-taker Monique Boone.

Spain said that on page 15 in the second paragraph Mr. Feliciano Limia was meant and not Mr. Luis Canon.

A discussion followed on the exact date of the International Day of Deaf Persons (page 18 of the minutes). Ms. Carol-lee Aquiline promised to inform the NADs of the exact date.

Finland remarked that the abbreviation of Finland is FIN.

**4. PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION ANNUAL REPORT
1996-1997 AND FINANCIAL REPORT 1996**

Knud Søndergaard started the discussions by saying the Sign Language Project Conference which had taken place prior to the Annual Conference on 25 and 26

September had been highly successful and he thanked the members of the Sign Languages Project Steering Committee and the EUD Staff for their hard work. The Resolution adopted at the Conference needed final approval and it was agreed to do this under item 7. of the Agenda in presence of Mrs. Sophie Beaumont of the Disability Intergroup of the European Parliament.

Markku Jokinen said that unfortunately Asger Bergmann (chair Steering Committee Sign Language Project) could not be present today. On behalf of Asger Bergman, Markku Jokinen thanked the National Committees for their excellent work throughout the year and Helga Stevens for her work as coordinator.

ANNUAL REPORT

Kevin Stanley (EIRE) asked if the report of the NADs could be added to the EUD Annual Report.

It was agreed that the countries who had not yet send in their written report would do so and be added to the minutes of this General Assembly (*national reports received are attached, Annex II*).

Germany, Spain, Finland, Greece and Ireland were thanked for sending in their reports.

The Women Conference was discussed. Monique Boone had made and distributed the Conference Report. All NADs were encouraged to appoint a female contact person to set up the European Deaf Women Network.

It was explained that EUD applied for funding to organise a course on assertiveness for Deaf women and that the European Commission had rejected this proposal.

Finland said that the report on the Multi Media Conference would be ready soon for distribution.

ACCOUNTS

Knud Søndergaard explained that the European Commission had not accepted all EUD's expenses regarding the 1996 cooperation and information budget.

± 42.000 Ecu had been rejected. Knud Søndergaard explained that this caused a lot of financial problems within EUD. Knud Søndergaard explained he would meet the European Commission on 6 October 1997 to clarify this situation.

Lars Åke Wikström asked for clarification regarding the Women Conference. SDR had been promised 20.000 Ecu and only 11.000 Ecu was allocated. Knud Søndergaard replied that he would solve this matter bilateral with SDR.

David Bullock (UK) thanked DDL for their excellent support work regarding the EUD finances.

Finland asked clarification of the increased salaries of the EUD staff in 1996 comparing to 1995 and Knud Søndergaard explained that the European Disability Forum had less contributed to Johan Wesemann's salary in 1996 than in 1995. Furthermore Finland asked for financial details regarding the Sign language Project and Knud Søndergaard promised to distribute these details later this year.

André Lathouwers (Belgium) asked if EUD could still afford to support the Partner organisations (page 7, financial report) and Knud Søndergaard explained that the European Commission decided in 1996 on these funding to the Partners. EUD received this money and distributed it immediately to the Partner organisations. EUD had no influence on this process and it meant no financial implications to EUD. Knud Søndergaard furthermore explained that these proceedings in 1997 had been changed due to the end of the HELIOS II Programme. EUD no longer had the duty to distribute funding to Partner organisations.

Terry Riley expressed his worries about the statement of the auditor in the report on page 3 "Additional Information" and said the NADs should take their responsibilities towards EUD.

Austria asked clarification on page 7 regarding Partner funding in 1995. Although 89.800 Ecu was mentioned under the item EU-fundings, 112.120 Ecu was mentioned under the item Organisational Support. Knud Søndergaard promised to find out about this mistake with the auditor.

The Annual Report 1996-1997 and the Financial Report 1996 were adopted.

Lars Åke Wikström explained the difficult (financial) situation of the National Deaf Association in France. It was agreed that all NADs and EUD would send support letters to FNSF. FNSF would use the letters in their Court case against the French government.

5. NEW EUD STATUTES

Johan Wesemann explained that an extra constitutional meeting had been organised in May 1997 attended by 9 countries. He furthermore explained that the new Statutes were officially signed and accepted by the Belgian King on 8 September 1997.

The Statutes now had to be published in the Belgian Monitor including names, addresses and professions of Board members. The publication would make the establishment of the organisation official and legally binding.

5A FULL MEMBERS

The 5 other countries who had not yet signed the Statutes were accepted as Full Members; Germany, the Netherlands, France, Austria and Portugal. Luxembourg was preliminary accepted as Full Member. The Council / Executive Committee would first study the statutes of the National Deaf Association of Luxembourg to check if the Luxembourg Association met the criteria as set out in the EUD Statutes.

7. MRS. BEAUMONT "OPEN DIALOGUE WITH THE MINORITY LANGUAGES GROUP"

Mrs. Sophie Beaumont was welcomed to the General Assembly and presented her lecture (*copy attached, Annex I*).

After the lecture time was allowed for questions and discussions.

Lars Åke Wikström (S) asked what had happen with the valuable work undertaken during the HELIOS II Programme and said DG V of the European Commission should use the declarations made during this period.

Sophie Beaumont responded that at the moment the Tavistock Institute carried out an independent research to evaluate the HELIOS II Programme. The results would be used to define a new Programme for disabled persons. Sophie added that the disability movement would need to lobby to get the positive outcome of this report recognised by the European Commission.

Markku Jokinen asked Sophie's opinion if Deaf people were sufficiently represented on a European level and Sophie Beaumont responded that Johan Wesemann being Director of EUD and Chair of the European Disability Forum (EDF) had a very high profile but added that more representation of Deaf people and disabled people in the different European institutions was needed.

Johan Wesemann warned that the EDF spoke only with one, general voice, the influence of specific groups like Deaf people was decreasing. The same tendency was noted at the European Commission and this was a very dangerous development.

He added that EUD would need to stay visible and present at all decision making processes. It would be dangerous for the NADs to think all work would be done at the European level. The work at the national level was of extreme importance as well.

Murray Holmes (Scotland / UK) asked a clarification about bioethics. Sophie Beaumont explained that a lot of genetic engineering took place at the moment and that the disability movement needed to ensure a positive impact of this engineering. The rights of disabled people, especially those with inherited disabilities should be respected and not stamped on through scientific

manipulation.

Rudi Sailer (Germany) asked if funding was available on a European level to fund local projects.

Sophie Beaumont explained that indeed funding was made available through the European Commission DG V to support innovative local projects. She stressed the need for organisations to try to find funding through other DG's. The narrow attitude of the European Commission to send all disability organisations to DG V had to be changed.

She advised the organisations to look for other funding possibilities and meet with European Commission representatives.

Knud Søndergaard asked if the implications of the non discrimination clause on grounds of disabilities as adopted in the European Treaty of Amsterdam were positive or negative.

Sophie Beaumont said that the acceptance of the clause in general was a positive development. However the clause was subject to unanimous acceptance but the political climate at the moment was positive to use the clause. The disability movement now had to look how to best make use of the clause.

Terry Riley explained that Deaf people saw themselves as a linguistic cultural minority and asked how to establish contacts with the minority languages group and if it would be more wise from a financial view to stay within the disability movement.

Sophie Beaumont answered that regarding access to funding, more possibilities for EUD were indeed available within disability budget lines.

Sophie Beaumont would be happy to assist EUD in establishing contacts with the minority languages group as it was important to make a bridge. Diane Sutton in the past already had tried to access funding through the minority languages budget line, but this had caused hostility among this group. It was important to show this group EUD did not want to take their money.

Helga Stevens added that she and Johan Wesemann had visited the Bureau of Lesser Used Languages. It would be wise to have Sign Language introduced in the European Charter of the European Council of Lesser Used Languages. The Bureau had suggested that EUD should make contacts with the Council of Europe.

Markku Jokinen said he was extremely happy with the remarks of Terry Riley. The discussion should be focussing on minority languages and not on disability issues. The General Assembly should not continue the old way of thinking. The NADS should tell Sophie Beaumont what they really, really wanted. It was time to turn the page!

Markku Jokinen furthermore added that the officer working at the Bureau of Lesser Used Languages had attended the Sign Languages Project Conference. Markku Jokinen had spoken to this person who enjoyed the Conference very much and had said that the minority languages group and EUD shared many things in common. Maybe next year EUD could enter into an open dialogue with this bureau.

Sophie Beaumont said that the Sign languages Course and the Conference had increased her awareness on Deaf issues a lot and she would try to set up a meeting with the minority languages intergroup in the European Parliament. She added that she was looking forward to work with EUD in the future.

SLP Conference Resolution

The Resolution was slightly changed adopted (attached copy).

8. ELECTIONS BOARD AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following persons were nominated for and elected into the Board:

Portugal	Mr. Helder Duarte
Spain	Mr. Luis Cañón Reguera
Italy	Mrs. Ida Collu
Greece	Mrs. Helly Christopoulou
Austria	Mrs. Birgitta Palecek
Germany	Mr. Rudi Sailer
the Netherlands	X
France	X
Luxembourg	X
UK	Mr. David Bullock
Ireland	Mr. Kevin Stanley
Denmark	Mr. Knud Søndergaard
Sweden	Mrs. Elisabeth T. Lundqvist
Finland	Mr. Markku Jokinen
Belgium	Mr. André Lathouwers

It was decided that Belgium would follow a rotation system meaning FEVLADO and FFSB changing places in the Board every four year.

Candidates from France, the Netherlands and Luxembourg would follow later.

The following persons were elected into the Executive Committee:

President	Mr. Knud Søndergaard
vice President	Mr. Markku Jokinen
Treasurer	Mr. André Lathouwers
Member	Mrs. Helly Christopoulou
Member	Mrs. Ida Collu

9. MOTIONS

Motions had been received from Finland. The Finnish Association of the Deaf proposed EUD to make a survey on Deaf Education in Europe as a follow up of the SLP.

Germany and Spain said that EUD should think carefully of what kind of research was needed.

The motion was adopted.

Furthermore Finland proposed EUD to make an ethical survey on the effects of Cochlear Implants operations. Kaisa Engman explained that most research in this area was medical and that only few research was available on sociological aspects. More research was needed on the ethical, moral, philosophical and bio-ethical aspects to get a broader picture of cochlear implants. The right to be a Deaf person should be included in the survey.

Lars Åke Wikström (S) added that the medical world had so much power and that WFD and EUD should join forces regarding cochlear implants and for example organise a Conference.

Carol-lee Aquiline of WFD said the cooperation between WFD and EUD regarding cochlear implants would be extremely fruitful.

She explained that in Australia a (divorced) couple; a Deaf women and hearing men with a Deaf child had gone to court. The father wanted the child implanted, the mother did not. The judge now had to decide if the child would get the implant or not.

Carol-lee Aquiline said the mother needed support both financially and morally from the Deaf community all over the world.

The motion was adopted.

10. EUD WORK PROGRAMME 1997-1998

11. DISCUSSION ON VISION AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Markku Jokinen explained about the EUD Vision and EUD's objectives and that linked to those objectives EUD had sent in 6 project proposals to the European Commission:

- * a course for Deaf women on assertiveness training,
- * a course for Deaf young people on management and leadership training,
- * a multi media seminar,
- * a UN Standard Rules awareness raising seminar,
- * a Sign Languages Interpreters training project,
- * a meeting with the Partners in the Sector Hearing and Speech Disabilities within the European Disability Forum and
- * funding to maintain the EUD secretariat.

The Commission unfortunately only had accepted the Awareness Raising Seminar

on the UN Standard Rules. Funding was preliminary awarded for the maintaining of the EUD secretariat but with the condition that EUD would establish a legal organisation.

Markku Jokinen asked the General Assembly if they could accept this situation.

Helder Duarte said that the NADs should take up responsibility to organise the different projects.

Luis Cañón said Spain might could organise a course for Deaf women on assertiveness training, he needed to liaise this with local organisations before a final decision could be made.

Lars Åke Wikström suggested that Sweden could organise the Interpreters Training Project in cooperation with EFSLI. Kaisa Engman from Finland said that Finland could join this Project as well.

Birgitta Palecek said that Austria would be chair of the European Union in the second half of 1998 and in conjunction with this, Austria might could organise a Seminar on Multi Media. Ofcourse this would need negotiation at the Austrian Deaf Association and the help of Finland who organised a Multi Media Seminar in 1996 would be needed.

Markku Jokinen expressed gratefulness to the NADs who proposed their support to organise seminars and conferences. EUD now had a new structure, a Board and an Executive Committee which meant a better network.

12. CLOSURE

Knud Søndergaard extended a warm thank you to Mr. Terry Riley and Mr. Miguel Jimenez Mesa who had left the EUD Council after years of good and hard work. Both Terry Riley and Miguel Mesa thanked the General Assembly and Terry Riley stressed in his speech that it was vital that the NADs with members in the Executive Committee would support these members. The Executive Committee had to work as a team.

Knud Søndergaard announced that the interpreters would safe part of their salaries to support the Australian mother in her battle at the court. The interpreters would send cheques to Monique Boone. The interpreters were thanked by the General Assembly for this great gesture.

Knud Søndergaard thanked all participants of the 13th General Assembly for their fruitful contributions and the interpreters for their work and closed the meeting.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
13th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF DELEGATES /
GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1997
EUROPEAN UNION OF THE DEAF

PORTUGAL

Mr. Helder Duarte
Mr. Joã Carvalheiros

BELGIUM (FEVLADO)

Mr. Andre Lathouwers

BELGIUM (FFSB)

Mr. Maurice Hayard

FINLAND

Ms. Kaisa Engman
Mr. Jorma Kuosmanen

SPAIN

Mr. Luis Jesus Cañón Reguera
Mr. Feliciano Sola Limia

ITALY

Mr. Sebastiano Mancigli
Mr. Franco Zatini

GREECE

Mrs. Agapi Dimopoulou
Mr. Konstaninos Gargalis

AUSTRIA

Mrs. Trude Dimmel
Ms. Birgitta Palecek

UNITED KINGDOM

Mr. David Bullock
Mr. Murray Homes

IRELAND

Mr. Kevin Stanley
Mr. Reggie Carroll

The 1997 Annual General Assembly of the European Union of the Deaf agreed to the following resolutions:

We recognise and approve the work done by the European Parliament in encouraging the implementation of the European Parliament Resolution of 17 June 1988 on Sign Languages of Deaf people at national and European level and we call on the European Parliament to act on these resolutions

- 1. As citizens of the European Union, we call upon all EU Member States and all EU institutions to guarantee full and equal participation of Deaf people in society and to respect their human and civil rights. Their right to use Sign Language must be fully accepted and implemented in all aspects of life.*
- 2. We call upon all EU Member States to legally accept each country's Sign Language within the framework of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (Strasbourg, 5 November 1992).*

Brussels, 28 September 1997.

EUROPEAN UNION OF THE DEAF
ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF DELEGATES 1997

MOTIONS

At a meeting of the

Board of the Finnish Association of the Deaf

(name of association), held on April 26, 1997 (date),

it was agreed that the motions listed below be submitted to the Secretariat of
EUD for the Annual Conference of Delegates 1996 in Brussels, Belgium
on 4 and 5 October 1997.

27 and 28 September 1997

The Finnish Association of the Deaf would like to propose the following motions for the EUD Annual Conference:

1. to make a survey on Deaf Education in Europe
2. to make an ethical survey on the effects of Cochlear Implant operations

Signed by  (Chair)

Markku Jokinen

**This completed form must be sent to the EUD office
Rue Franklin 110 B - 1000 Brussels
Fax: +32.2.735.53.54
not later than Friday 16 May 1997**

The Annual General Assembly of the European Union of the Deaf on 27 September 1997 agreed to the following resolutions:

We recognise and approve the work done by the European Parliament in encouraging the implementation of the European Parliament Resolution of 17 June 1988 on Sign Languages of Deaf people at the national level and we call on the European Parliament to act on these resolutions

- 1. As citizens of the European Union, we call upon all EU Member States to guarantee full and equal participation of Deaf people in society and to respect their human and civil rights. Their right to use Sign Language must be fully accepted and implemented in all aspects of life.*
- 2. We call upon all EU Member States to legally accept each country's Sign Language within the framework of the European Charter of Lesser Used Languages.*

Done in Brussels on 27 September 1997.

ANNEX IEUD General Assembly, The Disability Intergroup Secretariat
presentation by Sophie BeaumontINTRODUCTION

I am very pleased to be here today to introduce myself to you as the new Secretariat for the Disability Intergroup. I took over the job from Diana Sutton in April this year and over the past 6 months have been keen to familiarise myself with the particular aims and objectives of each of the disability organisations I am now working with. Just recently I attended a sign language training course organised as part of the sign languages project, which I found to be an extremely valuable introduction to the principles of the language. My own disability means the ability I have to use signing myself is restricted but the awareness raising element of the course has been very important for me.

In this talk I will outline the central aspects of my work as Disability Intergroup Secretariat, which are of specific interest to you as members of EUD. I see myself working as part of team, in cooperation with the Intergroup members and the European Disability Organisations and I will illustrate how the EUD, in particular, has been working in cooperation with the Disability Intergroup Secretariat. I will conclude by giving a general overview of how I see my work programme developing over the next few months. This will leave time for informal discussion with you on the subject areas of particular interest to you as members of the EUD and as representatives of the National Deaf Associations.

As you are aware, the primary aim of the Disability Intergroup is to raise awareness of disability issues and influence policy making, first within the European Parliament itself, and then more widely, to the other EU institutions and member states governments. The Disability Intergroup has, for some time now, been involved in promoting awareness amongst MEPS of the concerns of the deaf community and of the official recognition of sign language at EU and member state level.

I will be working with Johan Wesemann and Helga Stevens to ensure all Members of the European Parliament are informed of the results of this very successful sign language project. The project must not lose momentum and key decision and policy makers within the EU institutions must be involved in the follow-up process for the project.

Other areas to consider in 1998 is the issue of bioethics and the Commission communication, agenda 2000 on the enlargement of the European Union and its implications.

In the next few weeks I will be drafting a proposed work programme for 1998 and I will want the input of the EUD on this. It is, of course, important that I am aware of the priorities set by the disability organisations themselves for next year.

I shall conclude there and I would be very interested to hear your views on how you consider the Disability Intergroup Secretariat can best assist you at national level.