



*European Communities
Commission
Press Release*

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HILLERY AT LONDON SEMINAR ON DISABLED

Visit to Aids Centre

Dr. Patrick J. Hillery, Vice-President of the Commission for social affairs, will be the main speaker on Tuesday morning, July 2, at the Fifth International Seminar on the Rehabilitation of the Disabled, which runs from July 1-5 at the Westminster Central Hall. The seminar is open to the press, and texts of Dr. Hillery's address will be available.

In the afternoon, Dr. Hillery and the Minister of State for the Disabled, Mr. Alfred Morris, will visit the Aids Centre run by the Disabled Living Foundation at 346 Kensington High Street, from 2.45 p.m. The press are also welcome there.

The Aids Centre contains the largest collection in the world of aids for people disabled or handicapped in any way. It is also the only aids centre in Britain until a regional centre is opened in Liverpool in September.

It is a centre for education of students and "caring professions", and the only place where disabled people may themselves experiment with aids without pressure from manufacturers and with the help of skilled professional therapist demonstrators.

Dr. Hillery's visit, meanwhile, is particularly appropriate because the Council of Ministers has just adopted a long-term programme for the re-integration of handicapped people into the open market economy - into normal working society. (More details on this long-term approach are available from this office.)

The Council also agreed to open Article IV of the Social Fund to provide about £15 million to finance pilot schemes in the City for retraining handicapped people. The Commission envisages wider use of Article IV for handicapped people and Dr. Hillery said the Commission would submit more proposals a year hence. Meanwhile the Council decision does not prevent Member States from making other claims for aid from the Social Fund as usual.*

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Towards the end of this year or early next year, the Commission expects to make further proposals for helping handicapped workers in sheltered workshops.

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* Britain was the largest recipient among the Nine from the Social Fund last year, with £24 million paid out towards retraining, moving, housing and other consequences of redevelopment. Money is also available for such help in the coal and steel industries from the European Coal and Steel Community budget. Member States match payments from the Social Fund and the E.C.S.C. budget.

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For further information on the week-long seminar, call Miss D. Pammenter, deputy-general secretary of the British Council for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled, at 387-4037/8. More information on the Disabled Living Foundation may be obtained from Colonel Tom. Christopher, at 602-2491.

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