

# helios

flash 6

## White Paper

### European social policy, a way forward for the Union

At the end of July, on a proposal from Mr Flynn, Commissioner for Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs, the Commission adopted the text of the White Paper "European social policy, a way forward for the Union". The paper sets out the Commission's approach to social policy for the period 1995 to 1999, and is due to be discussed by the Council of the European Union at its social affairs meetings on 22 September and 6 December. It develops four key themes:

- the need for a better correlation between economic and social policies;
- giving jobs the top priority;
- development and consolidation of Community social legislation;
- the launch and development of various measures, such as a new programme on equal opportunities for women and men and increased cooperation on social security systems. The White Paper also stresses the importance of dialogue between employers and workers and calls for cooperation with non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The Commission received over 500 comments and proposals further to the publication of its Green Paper "European Social Policy: Options for the Union" in November 1993, some 50 of them relating to disabled people. The scale of reactions from disabled individuals and organisations of disabled people was probably instrumental in determining the White Paper's emphasis on the integration of disabled people. The chapter on social exclusion makes systematic reference to them, and the document states that the principle of equal opportunities, often considered in relation to women, should be applied to everyone, disabled people included – a new move on the part of the Commission.

A chapter on the social integration of disabled people recalls the input of the European Social Fund, the HORIZON initiative and the HELIOS programme (including HANDYNET), and indicates that work in this area will continue. In addition, the Commission will:

- "build on the positive experience of the European Disability Forum to ensure, through appropriate mechanisms, that the needs of disabled people are taken into account in relevant legislation, programmes and initiatives. This includes ensuring that to the maximum extent possible Union programmes are accessible to disabled people and that they are actively encouraged to participate in them;
- prepare an appropriate instrument endorsing the UN Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities;
- as part of a process to encourage model employers, prepare a code of good practice in relation to its own personnel policies and practices, and encourage discussions within the framework of the social dialogue on how such a model could be extended more widely."

The Commission will also examine how Union action could contribute to the key issue of improved access to means of transport and public buildings, and press for the adoption of the proposal for a directive on transport for workers with reduced mobility, submitted on 28 February 1991.

Furthermore, the White Paper sets out one fundamental idea: in order to guard against all forms of social discrimination, the Commission believes that, when the treaties are next reviewed, serious consideration must be given to a specific reference to combatting discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, age or disability.

#### The White Paper

"European social policy, a way forward for the Union" is on sale, price ECU 7. A list of points of sale for official EU publications and further information on the White Paper and how to obtain it are available from DG V/E/5, Information and Publications, 200 rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels, fax: +32.2 296 94 29



# HELIOS exchange and information activities

Below are details of the study visits scheduled between 16 July and 15 September. The name and fax number listed refer to the person to contact for a copy of the proceedings (*available on payment of charges*).

The four study groups (*see Flash No. 5*) have continued the preparation of the review seminars on the work undertaken by the theme-based groups. These will be final reviews for themes not to be continued in 1995 and interim reviews for those which go on into next year. The seminars are open to participants in the exchange and information activities of the HELIOS programme only. We will keep you informed of the main conclusions.

## Functional rehabilitation

### Study visits

**Quality of the provision of services, treatments and their effect on the quality of life**, Instituto Psiquiátrico, Servicios de salud mental, Madrid (E), 8-11 September, J. Rahbek, fax +45.86 18 71 11

### Seminars

**Coordinated measures to facilitate a rapid return to social and professional life**, interim seminar, Paris (F), 5-7 November 1994

**The functional rehabilitation process for people with brain injury**, interim seminar, Wijk aan Zee (NL), December 1994

**Coordinated measures to help disabled people remain in their usual living environment**, final seminar, Ayr (UK), January 1995

## Education

### Seminars

**Human and technical resources needed for effective educational integration**, Lisbon (P), 24-25 November

**Early intervention in theory and practice: changes and innovations**, Munich (D), 5-6 December

## Economic integration

### Study visits

**Involvement of employers in assessment planning and implementation**, Centro de reabilitação profissional de Cascais, Estoril (P), 12-13 September, E. Villeneuve, fax +33.97 47 68 20

**Training of vocational guidance staff**, En AP Abruzzo, Lanciano (I), 21-24 July, R. M. Díaz Jiménez, fax +34.5 435 30 39

**Identification of opportunities and difficulties on the open labour market**, Tolne Efterskole (DK), 1-3 September, R. Kenler, fax +32.41 64 88 72

**Preparation of disabled people for the open labour market, including the need for particular qualifications**, Portland Training College, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire (UK), 16-18 September, J. L. Coulon, fax +33.1 43 55 19 16

**Strategies for transition from sheltered towards open employment including the needs and aspirations of disabled people**, CO IN, Rome (I), 1-3 September, A. Aibeo, fax +351.2 610 22 31

**Transition to different sectors of employment, including new technologies**, Asociación Guipuzcoana por Minusválidos, San Sebastián (E), 14-17 July, N. Heintz, fax +352. 30 71 04

### Seminars

**Vocational guidance**, final seminar, 7-8 November, Nuremberg (D)

**Sheltered employment with a view to transition to the open labour market**, interim seminar, Kortrijk (B), December 1994

**Difficulties and opportunities on the open labour market**, interim seminar, Denmark, 12-14 January 1995

## Social integration

### Study visits

**Technical adaptation and fitting-out of housing. Types of housing with training and assistance**, Kennis- en Adviescentrum Toegankelijkheid, Mobiliteit en Technologie (*Adviescentrum TMT*), Almere (NL), 13-18 September, G. J. Meijer, fax +31.1820 752 01

**The role of technical aids and means of communication in promoting independence for people with a sensorial disability**, Royal National Institute for the Blind, Scotland, Edinburgh (UK), 10-13 September, A. Murray, fax +44.31 313 18 75

**Technical requirements for the adaptation of housing. Technological aspects (computer/electronic aids)**, Nationale Woningraad and Rehabilitation Centre "Het Roesingh", Almere (NL), 13-18 September, E. Nolte and J. Van Slooten, fax +31.36 539 16 23 / +31.42 86 55 94

**Daily life - involvement of families - technical assistance for people with learning difficulties**, Fondation APEMH, Luxembourg (L), 2-3 July, E. Cathrein, fax +352. 54 66 54

**Leisure activities for people with a multiple handicap, the situation in Belgium**, Association de parents et de professionnels autour de la personne polyhandicapée (AP3), Court St Etienne (B), 21-24 August, E. Renard, fax +32.67 77 28 80

### Seminars

**Social integration of people with mental health problems or learning difficulties**, Ghent (B), 25-26 November

**Transition from residential care to community life: the issues and perspectives**, Bordeaux (F), 9-10 December

**Building design, special equipment and information technology**, London (UK), 20-21 January 1995



## handynet

The seventh update of the HANDYNET CD-ROM came out in September. Paradoxically, it contains "only" 40,000 items of information - less than CD-ROM No. 6. This is due to the improvements in the way the information is presented.

The new search procedure reflects the observations of the evaluation report in late 1993/early 1994, and now includes the following features:

- ▶ greater flexibility in the searching method, either by access to lists of key words or by direct query;
- ▶ indications of the size of technical aids in both metric and imperial measurements;
- ▶ indications of the price of the technical aid both in the currency of the data base user and in Ecus.

The CD-ROM includes 3,000 diagrams, illustrating 2,500 of the technical aids listed.

## Europrogrammes

Rehabilitation International (RI) held its sixth European conference in Budapest (Hungary) from 4 to 9 September. The event targeted "quality of life for all", and attracted participants from all over the world. A number of the final recommendations focused on RI's internal organisation, while others were of a more general nature, such as the restatement of the need for the rehabilitation of disabled children to take place within the mainstream education system. A stand near the conference halls provided information on the HELIOS programme and the HANDYNET system throughout the event.

For information on the conference, contact: RI-ECA, Square Ambiorix 32, B-1040 Brussels, fax: +32.2 230 53 90

The "Universités européennes d'automne" (European "autumn schools") in Metz (F) on 17 and 18 October on the theme of "businesses and disabled people working together, were an opportunity for representatives of eight European countries to exchange their ideas and experience.

Contact: Confédération européenne pour l'emploi des handicapés (CEEH), c/o Bruno Betz, fax +33.87 31 80 66

The European colloquium "Speech impairment: another communication", organised by the Comité national français de liaison pour la réadaptation des handicapés (CNFLRH - French national liaison committee for the rehabilitation of disabled people) in collaboration with RI-ECA, is to be held at AUTONOMIC at the Parc des Expositions, Porte de Versailles, in Paris on 4 and 5 No-

vember 1994. In particular, the meeting will discuss the personal communication difficulties of non-speaking people, and the considerations which should precede and accompany the use of a technical aid to communication.

For information and registration, contact: CNFLRH, Téléthèses service, tel. +33.1 45 48 90 13 fax +33.1 45 48 99 21

"Europe '94, people with disabilities - living and learning", conference on special education, Aachen (D), 11-12 November (*developments in basic education for disabled children, vocational training and adult education for disabled adults, new technologies, independent living, etc.*). Organised by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachheilpädagogik, Verband Deutscher Sonderschulen, and the European Association for Special Education (EASE).

Contact: EASE, tel. and fax +45.98 99 21 15

European conference of the European Society for Mental Health and Deafness on the theme "Deafness and welfare", Paris (F), Maison de l'Unesco, 14-16 December 1994. Main topics for discussion: the implications of deafness for family life, prevention in the field of mental health, therapeutic and clinical aspects, epidemiological aspects, the coordination of mental health services, topical issues (*cochlear implants, AIDS, etc.*).

Contact: conference secretariat, GESTES, 8 rue Michel Peter, F-75013 Paris, tel. and fax: +33.1 43 31 25 00

For other Europrogramme activities in November-December, see HELIOS Flash No. 5.

## other activities

### European Day of Disabled Persons

The second European Day of Disabled Persons is to be held on 3 December. The aim of the event is to highlight disabled people's human rights not only at European level but also nationally, regionally and locally, in accordance with Resolution No. A3-0025/93 of the European Parliament. After consultation with the European Disability Forum, the Commission assigned the task of organising the event to a preparatory working group which in turn commissioned Disabled Peoples' International-European Union Committee (DPI-EUC) to manage the practical arrangements. The activities scheduled so far include a one-and-a-half-day meeting on the theme of human rights, to be held in Brussels in October. Four issues are on the agenda: the European definition of "disabled person"; eugenics, bioethics and euthanasia; independent living; and sexuality. Each Member State will be represented at the plenary session by three disabled people; each European NGO will also send a representative. A report on the meeting and a resolution will then be submitted to the European Parliament and the Commission on 1 December.

On 3 December, the report and resolution will also be officially submitted to the local or national authorities and the heads of public and private-sector organisations. We also hope that organisations of disabled people will seize the opportunity to stage as many events as possible throughout Europe.

For possible cooperation and further information, contact: European Day of Disabled Persons, c/o DPI-EUC, 11 Belgrave Road, London SW1V 1RB. Tél. +44.71 834 04 77 Fax: +44.71 821 95 39

### Human rights

The United Nations Decade of Disabled Persons came to a close in 1992. One of its results has been a report on human rights and the disabled person, adopted by the UN Commission on Human Rights. Although the approach was not really new, since organisations of disabled people in North America had been pursuing the same line since the 1960s, it was nonetheless original in that it moved beyond the welfare- and charity-based conceptions which still all too often prevail in the case of disabled people. The Dutch disability council, the Nederlandse Gehandicaptenraad, which is a member of Disabled Peoples' International, has now launched a project on human rights and disabled people in an attempt to promote this approach. One of the project's goals is to compile an anthology of legislative and legal instruments in Europe and elsewhere relating to the recognition of disabled people's human rights.

To foster this approach to human rights in connection with disabled people, particularly in Europe, the Nederlandse Gehandicaptenraad organised a meeting of specialists on 13 June. The conclusions of the meeting included the following points:

- the need for closer cooperation between human rights organisations and associations of disabled people;
- the need to raise awareness among human rights organisations of the rights of disabled people;
- the need for associations of disabled people to be more familiar with and make better use of legislative and judicial instruments to gain recognition for and defend their rights.

Contact: Theresia Degener, chairwoman of the working group, c/o Nederlandse Gehandicaptenraad, Postbus 169, NL-3500 AD Utrecht. Fax +31.30 34 02 47

## European Parliament

Ms Barbara Schmidbauer was appointed to be the new chairwoman of the All Party Disablement group on 29 September.

Intergroup secretariat: Diane Sutton, MAE 429, rue Belliard 97-13, B-1047 Brussels. Tel. +32.2 284 75 29 or 55 29 Fax +32.2 284 95 29

ECAS (*Euro-citizen-action-service*) is an "international non-profit making organisation which informs associations and assists them in defending the rights and the interests of the citizen with the European institutions." ECAS is concerned with the issue of the "use" citizens make of the European Parliament, and has produced a helpful and concise brochure in which it suggests possible means of action.

For information on ECAS's work: rue Defacqz 1, B-1050 Brussels. Tel. +32.2 534 51 66 Fax +32.2 534 52 75

**Mental health** The Commission (DG V/F/1) organised an information session for experts in the mental health sector in Luxembourg on 5 July, at which it presented its health programmes (*further to the Maastricht treaty*) and in particular those aspects relating to mental health.

Information on these programmes is published in a number of Commission communications, in particular COM (93) 559 final of 24 November 1993 (*action in the field of public health*) and COM (94) 202 final of 1 June 1994 (*health information, training and education*). These documents should be available from the Offices of the European Commission in the Member States.

At the meeting of 5 July, a representative of DG V/E/3 (*Integration of disabled people*) gave a presentation on the HELIOS programme. NGO activities at European level in the field of mental health are coordinated within the programme by the NGO European Regional Council-World Federation for Mental Health (ERC-WFMH). However, the ERC-WFMH representative stressed that, in her opinion, there is not sufficient involvement or representation of people with mental health problems among the partners designated by the governments of the Member States for the exchange and information activities of the HELIOS programme.

**Employment week** DG V of the Commission (*Employment, Industrial Relations and Social Affairs*) is organising its second European Employment Week, to be held at the Palais des Congrès in Brussels from 15 to 17 November. This is a week of conferences, meetings and exhibitions targeting a range of audiences: public authorities, analysts, employers and others. The White Paper on "Growth, Competitiveness, Employment" will naturally be a focus of discussion. The Division "Integration of disabled people" and the HELIOS programme will be taking part, in particular on the DG V information stand.

### HESTIA: towards employment

DG V/E/3 (*Integration of disabled people unit*) has just launched a survey of the situation of disabled people in central and eastern Europe, entitled HESTIA (*Handicap à l'Est-Intégration-Autonomie - disability in Eastern Europe-integration-independence*), which focuses on two main areas:

- assessment of the institutional, legal and social measures taken to support disabled people in Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary;
- examination of provision for the vocational training and employment of disabled people in these countries.

The survey is commissioned from the NGO Rehabilitation International-European Communities Association (RI-ECA), a member of the HELIOS programme's European Disability Forum, and the centre for occupational and functional rehabilitation of Nateau-sur-Lunain, F-77792 Nemours, France. The conclusions are expected in March 1995.

### Books, conferences and exhibitions

#### Aimer au-delà du handicap.

**Vie affective et sexualité du paraplégique**, by Dr Bernadette Soulier, Editions Privat, Paris (tel. +33.1 40 92 65 37).

The author seeks to give a response to the emotional and sexual problems faced by paraplegic people.

**Altogether better**, an information pack (*brochure + video*) for schools, to promote the integration of disabled children in mainstream education.

Produced by Comic Relief, 74 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1EF.

Tel. +44.71 436 11 22  
Fax +44.71 436 15 41

**European conference of national employment services on the employment of people with disabilities** in Nuremberg (D) on 9 November, organised by the Bundesanstalt für Arbeit (*the German public employment services*) in collaboration with the German Federal Ministry for Employment and Social Affairs and the European Commission (DG V/E/3).

**Study meeting of the groupe de recherche sur l'autisme et le poly-handicap** ("GRAP - group for research into autism and multiple handicaps) on the theme of "Deafness in children and psychological disorder", 18 November 1994, Hôpital de jour Georges Vacola, Paris.

Contact: GRAP,  
tel. +33 42 02 19 19  
fax +33.1 42 08 00 00

## Autonomic 1994, Paris

The Integration of disabled people unit (DG V/E/3) has moved  
rue Joseph II, 27  
B-1040 Brussels.  
phone +32.2 295 50 39  
fax +32.2 295 10 12

**Correspondence:**  
Mr B. Wehrens, Integration of disabled people unit,  
DG V/E/3 -J 27,  
rue de la Loi 200,  
B-1049 Brussels.

Independence in daily life for elderly and disabled people is the central theme of the AUTONOMIC 94 fair, to be held in Paris from 4 to 7 November (*Parc des expositions, Porte de Versailles*). There will be displays of products and services by over 250 exhibitors from Europe and North America.

HELIOS/HANDYNET will run an information stand, in collaboration with the CNFLRH, the CFHE and other French partners in the programme.

**Further information on AUTONOMIC is available on:**  
Tel. +33.1 43 39 41 15  
or minitel 3615 HANDITEL.

A number of seminars and conferences will also be held at the AUTONOMIC fair, including:

**Community programmes on disability and how to take part (HELIOS, TIDE, COST, HORIZON, etc.)**, Friday 4 November at 4 pm. Open to industrialists, researchers and functional reeducation and rehabilitation professionals.

Contact: HANDITEC,  
tel. +33.1 64 42 20 44  
fax +33.1 64 06 66 06

**Functional rehabilitation in Europe**, a debate on the way functional rehabilitation is organised in the countries of the European Union, with experts from the HELIOS working groups, on the morning of Saturday 5 November. Open to

functional reeducation and rehabilitation professionals: doctors, occupational therapists, reeducation and rehabilitation centre managers, etc.

Contact: HANDITEC,  
tel. +33.1 64 42 20 44  
fax +33.1 64 06 66 06

**The HELIOS seminar** (*open to programme participants only*), part of the exchange and information activities in the functional rehabilitation sector, on three main themes: returning home, social reintegration and vocational training.

And a reminder that the European conference "Speech disability: a different kind of communication", organised by the CNFLRH, is also to be held at the fair.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL  
FOR EMPLOYMENT,  
INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

