



October 2005

EUFAMI Lobbying

“BEWARE, EUFAMI IS COMING TO POLAND IN 2007!”

These were the words, spoken by Mr. John Bowis, Chair, to the delegates of the Polish Ministry during the afternoon session, on 24th October 2005, of the Conference on launching the Green Paper. This Green Paper reflects the intentions of the EU-Commission on the strategy on Mental Health for the period 2008 - 2013. During the morning session in many of the speeches - e.g. by the Commissioner of Health, Mr Kyprianou, Member of Parliament, Mr. John Bowis, and of course also by the EUFAMI President, Inger Nilsson - the burden and needs of the families were mentioned. This recognition is very promising. In the forthcoming period, until 31st May 2006, EUFAMI will discuss this Green Paper to highlight action points etc. This discussion will include all the member associations. The text of the Green Paper (in all official EU languages) can be downloaded from



http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_determinants/life_style/mental/keydo_mental_health_en.htm

Remission in Schizophrenia

Also on the 24th October 2005, in Amsterdam, EUFAMI Secretary General Kevin Jones spoke at a press conference during the 18th ECNP Congress (European College of Neuropsychopharmacology) where he told the journalists present that EUFAMI, during its General Meeting in Voulà, (Greece) had discussed the concept of Remission and both welcomed and fully supported this concept. He also told the journalists that EUFAMI were willing to engage, with other partners, in further work in this area. The press conference was sponsored by Janssen-Pharma, one of our funding partners.

Meetings

General Meeting and Board of Directors in Voulà

EUFAMI held its General Meeting in Voulà, Greece, on 21 and 22 October 2005. A Board Meeting was also held on 23 October 2005. It was the first time that so many people attended a General Meeting: there were about 57 members and 25 guests and observers. Guests were e.g. Mr Yannis Vardakastanis, President of EDF, (European Disability Forum); another guest was the Deputy mayor of Voulà, Mr George Stanpelos, who welcomed EUFAMI into his beautiful town. Mr David Crepez-Leau, member of MHF (UK), Chairman of Objective 12 (NGO working group which follows up the Helsinki Declaration, was also invited to attend this GM to learn more about EUFAMI.

SOPSI, the EUFAMI member that hosted the meeting, had arranged all things for an excellent surrounding for the meetings: the town hall for the meetings, a fine taverna for the dinners, even with music one night. Also a visit to the Hospital for Mentally ill people in Athens, a sightseeing tour, a dvd on SOPSI and Voulà for everyone and even.....fabulous weather!



It felt so good to meet each other in person. Many new people were there, still we missed others.....During the General Meeting, 7 new persons were elected to the Board. Presentations were held by Prof. Eija Stengård (Journey of Hope and Despair) and by Prof. Jozef Peuskens, the latter on the Remission Consensus. Also EUFAMI's next congress in Torun, Poland in 2007 was launched. During the Board Meeting, 2 associations, LSPZGB from Lithuania and Sympathea from Czech Republic, applied for membership and were welcomed openheartedly. This was the same for an associated member from Malta, the Malta Mental Health Foundation, who applied for full membership.

Next meetings

Sponsor meeting: on 24-11-2005, from 12.00-15.00: the ExCom will have a meeting with the contact persons of EUFAMI's funding partners in the Leuven office. *ExCom meeting:* 24/25/26-11-2005 also in Leuven.

Working Together - Reminder

Articles for Working Together can be sent in until 21 November – *We count on you!*

Staff and ExCom are looking forward to your contributions for the next @-Bulletin

▶ EUFAMI Lobbying

▶ Remission Consensus

▶ EUFAMI Meetings

▶ EUFAMI Newsletter

For more information, please look at the web site www.eufami.org or contact EUFAMI at info@eufami.org

EUFAMI
Diestsevest 100
B-3000 Leuven
Belgium

Tel +32 16 74 50 40
Fax +32 16 74 50 49