



BRUSSELS DECLARATION ON EDUCATION

Today, here in Brussels, representatives of service providers in special educational needs, European non-governmental organisations and governmental organisation being members of EASPD - the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities - unanimously agreed upon the following

DECLARATION

Preamble

- 1 Many children with disabilities cannot exercise their right to education.**
- 2 Many children with disabilities are denied their right to choose an inclusive, appropriate educational setting, fitting to their special educational needs.**

With reference to

- UNICEF's Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the General Assembly resolution 44/25 of November 20th 1989
- the Salamanca statement and framework for action on special needs education dated June 10th, 1994
- UN Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of People with Disabilities, article 24
- CoE Action Plan
- EU charter of fundamental rights, article 14
- The standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, rule 6

We hereby declare that:

- twelve years after the Salamanca conference where representatives of 92 countries and 24 non-governmental organisations adopted a declaration and a framework for action defining efficient actions geared towards the management of children and adults with special educational needs, a great number of children and adults, due to various reasons, are not granted their right to education or are not at all included in an educational system adjusted to their special educational needs.
- immediate political decisions in many European countries and regions are necessary to guarantee, without further delay, the right to education for all people with disabilities according to the international conventions and declarations mentioned above.
- EASPD through their member organisations across European countries will continue to fight for the rights of all people with disabilities by, among other actions, informing about and referring to many existing examples of “good practice” to prove that “Education for All” and “Inclusive Education” are not at all just prestige words.
- EASPD will research and tackle the needs of service providers, providing education in order for them to be able to come to education for all people with disabilities in appropriate settings and forms.

- EASPD's Standing Committee on Education will with immediate effect start a multi-annual action plan by inviting all bodies concerned and interested in "Education for All" to build up an interest-group on Special Educational Needs working on basis of existing research and practical knowledge.
- EASPD's Standing Committee on Education will contact all organisations involved or interested in Special Educational Needs to arrange a joint follow-up conference in 2009 under the title "15 years after Salamanca, what has been achieved – what has still to be done?"

We call for action from:

DG EAC to

- facilitate collection and exchange of models of good practice in the field of education for people with disabilities,
- set up a High Level Group on Special Needs Education,
- develop a multi-annual action plan concerning the right to education for all
- develop legal instruments for combating discrimination
- To evaluate the undertaken measures including the views of all relevant stakeholders, not only the national governments.

Council of Europe, European Agency and the Member States to

- start stakeholder cooperation
- promote the Salamanca Agenda and the putting into practice of its ideas and recommendations

Brussels, December 8th 2006



Brian O'Donnell, Ireland
EASPD president

Franz Wolfmayr, Austria
Chairman of the EASPD
Standing Committee on Education

Luk Zelderloo, Belgium
EASPD secretary general