



The 11th European E.D.E. Congress set to start

Twenty years after it was established, the European Association for Directors of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly will hold its 11th European Congress on September 24, 2009 in Luxembourg, the city where it all started. The Congress is organised jointly with GRIPA, the Luxembourg care home directors' association, and patronage has been taken over by Grand Duke Henri and Grand Duchess Maria Teresa.

The Congress programme was worked out by committed E.D.E. members from across Europe and challenges participants to take „TIME OUT“: „Doing our work better, faster, cheaper is not good enough any more – we have to stop and find a different way“. With this subtitle the organisers want to invite care home directors to dare to take new directions or at least discover unknown possibilities in this time of crisis. Because every decision needs a moment of peaceful introspection, a time out.

„Especially when you're hard-pressed for money, when politics has to set priorities, it is important to have an inner compass to help with decision-making“. This is the opinion of Mill Majerus (Luxemburger Wort, 20.06.2009), who will moderate the E.D.E. Congress. This year Mr Majerus was elected Member of the Luxembourg Parliament on the list of the centrist Christian Social People's Party. Prior to that the father of six worked in Luxembourg's Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, where he was responsible among other things for developing of a concept for service cheques (free child care, blanket social security).



Mill Majerus,
congress panel leader

The speakers lined up for Luxembourg include more political representatives than at previous E.D.E. congresses. This shows that the European Association for Directors of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly is a platform for discussion, but also competence forum with a growing interest in politics. Politicians of all stripes will be present at the Congress – not to engage in politics but to address important socio-economic considerations from their perspectives and exchange views with Congress participants.

The first speaker at the Congress is Marie-Josée Jacobs, who will talk about the significance of long term care politics in Luxembourg. Luxembourg's Minister for Minister of Family, Integration, and Equal Opportunities, she herself worked in the care area before the start of her political career. The same topic will be addressed by Member of the European Parliament Charles Goerens from the perspective of the EU. Luc Broussy, delegate for Social Affairs in the French department of Val d'Oise, will discuss the consequences of the current financial crisis for care homes. On the third day of the Congress Mars di Bartolomeo, Luxembourg's Minister for Health and Social Security, will talk on the need for an intergenerational agreement and the joint responsibility of many social partners.

Numerous well-known academics and researchers have also been invited. The organisers are particularly pleased that a host of international experts will share their views. Prof. Dr. Jean-Pierre Baeyens from Belgium, President for the European Region of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, will look at changes in the socio-economic environment and their repercussions on providers of services for the elderly. Services for seniors in times of uncertainties is the topic to be addressed by Prof. Dr. Bernd Marin, Executive Director of the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (Vienna). On the third day Prof. Dr. Ursula Lehr, former German Minister for Family and Seniors and a prominent academic, will give a talk on ageing entitled „The many faces of ageing: a challenge for the politicians of the European countries“.

We eagerly await the start of the second day of the Congress, when Prof. Dr. Angelo Paletta (University of Bologna) and Prof. Dr. Renzo Scortegagna (University of Padua) will look at effective organisation

E.D.E. Vision 17

This is the 17th edition of the electronic Newsletter of the E.D.E.: E.D.E. VISION.

This newsletter will inform you about the current developments within the European care centres and in particular about the position of directors/managers. The E.D.E. also intends to adopt a position on real issues in European politics in the context of care for the elderly. E.D.E. VISION's primary purpose is however to inform you about projects of the E.D.E. and its member countries.



Prof. Dr. Wilfried Schlüter

The fact that the newsletter is published electronically makes it readily accessible and enables national associations to pass the contents on to their members.



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Time Out!

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Information and registration on

www.ede2009.lu

in the field of service providers and decision-making on the management level. Both speakers have taken on the challenging task of offering practical tips for the day-to-day work of care home directors based on empirically established concepts. Hans Peter Spreng of the Institute for Systematical Development of Organisation and Personal in Switzerland will show how the personality and personal development of care home directors is the guarantee of both leadership and commercial success.

Mention must also be made of care home directors and E.D.E. members Jérôme Azau (Switzerland) und Jiří Horecký (Czech Republic), who will address structural changes and goal-oriented working methods in care homes. Both bring with them experience from their countries and positive, trend-setting practical examples. Heinz Stieb of the Austrian Association will show in his talk how care home directors may gain public attention to their profession and influence legislation.

Such important topics as quality management, energy efficiency and financing are also on the agenda. The Congress' programme is characterised by a wide variety of talks that will shed light on many aspects of care home directors' work and social services in general. Together they reflect the modifications and innovations now perceived as necessary in face of the economic crisis and the increasingly rapidly changes to our work and our reality.

Within the European Association for Directors of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly there is also a strong wish for change. Over the year the E.D.E.'s development was discussed by the General Board as well as in national associations. These discussions resulted in a clear vision for the future work of the association, whose key concern is to provide effective support to directors of residential care homes. This vision will be presented by Prof. Dr. Wilfried Schlüter, President of the E.D.E., at the end of the second day of the Congress, together with Boris Koprivnikar from Slovenia, a member of the Executive Board.

As host to the 12th E.D.E. Congress in Prague, numerous representatives of the Czech residential care home directors' association will treat participants to a „coming together“ with Czech specialities and music on the evening of September 24. The gala evening on September 25 will start with a performance by Carlo Hartmann and Yännchen Hoffmann. The two Luxembourg singers currently under contract with the Vienna Opera will offer a trip through the history of the musical. The organisers eagerly look forward to welcoming their guests.

You will find the full Congress programme as well as additional information at www.ede2009.lu

Council of Europe adopts Recommendation on disability and ageing

Strasbourg, 10.07.2009 – The Committee of Ministers has just adopted a recommendation addressed to all member states on “ageing and disability in the 21st century: sustainable frameworks to enable greater quality of life in an inclusive society”, Rec/CM(2009)6.

Ageing people with disabilities and older people who develop disabilities as they age, wish to live their lives with the maximum degree of freedom and autonomy, in human and physical environments and with support services that facilitate rather than hinder this style of life.

The Council of Europe analysed the current situation in a number of European countries and produced a report and recommendations. The report entitled “Enhancing rights and inclusion of ageing people with disabilities and older people with disabilities: a European perspective” looks into various frameworks affecting service provision and, hence, the quality of life: legal, financial, participatory, operational and individual frameworks.

The Recommendation, following the stocktaking of best practices in Europe, invites member states to take specific actions promoting autonomy and an independent and active life, enhancing access to and quality of services, including social services, and legal protection.

The Recommendation calls upon governments to ensure that services of both sufficient quality and quantity are provided. When several different support services are required (for example, health and social care) they should be carefully co-ordinated or integrated to meet effectively the needs of the person. Quality assurance and management systems and methods that take account of ethical considerations and professional standards are appropriate in this field and should be used in these services.

The Recommendation aims at giving member states additional insight into the specific measures to improve the quality of life of ageing people with disabilities in line with the Council of Europe Disability Action Plan 2006-2015¹⁾.

**Source: Press Release of Council of Europe
Internet: www.coe.int**

¹⁾ *“The Action Plan to promote the rights and full participation in society of people with disabilities: improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in Europe 2006–2015” was launched at the European Disability Conference in St. Petersburg, Russia on 21–22 September 2006.*