



Dear members and friends of EUFAMI

First of all I want to extend my best wishes for a successful and healthy New Year. The holidays between Christmas and New Year gave us the opportunity to pause for a moment to review the past year and take a glance at 2011.

In the first quarter of the past year EUFAMI - and especially our Secretary General - was very busy with the report and follow through to our successful conference held in Vilnius, "The Forgotten Children". We hope that this work will be used in schools across Europe and also for advocacy amongst our members.

During 2010 EUFAMI was represented by speakers both at many of the important European congresses in the field of Mental Health and also on task forces, thereby strengthening our unique position as the voice of families in Europe. Amongst the topics we dealt with were Empowerment – including a successful conference which EUFAMI hosted in Leuven, Burdens on families, Social inclusion, Recovery, Dialogue and of course Stigma. Our activities demonstrate the importance of having a unified voice for family members across Europe. EUFAMI is your voice.

It is of particular importance to maintain awareness of EUFAMI at a high level. Thus we must strive confidently to realise new aims. One of these is to strengthen our work towards more successful fundraising. Another is reflected by our decision to hold our Executive Committee meetings in different locations and as President I have agreed that we start in my home city of Salzburg.

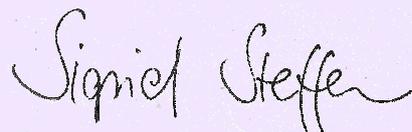
We also want to maximize agreement with political and relevant nongovernmental organisations and stakeholders to promote effective change and improvement of the mental health of everybody in the Community.

EUFAMI will also promote Prevention of mental illness, in accordance with the EU Commission's Pact on Mental Health and Well being, at various levels and across the complete lifespan.

I must report here a personal sadness about the sudden death of our dear friend and colleague Stanislas Filliol. He will be very much remembered for his wonderful personality and his great work as EUFAMI's Officer and Vice president. We shall miss him greatly.

But we have to look forward to 2011 and to the 5th EUFAMI Congress which will take place in Basel, Switzerland in September. The theme of the congress is "Community care – blessing or curse?" The programme committee and the organising committee are doing a great job in preparation, which will certainly lead to an exciting event. I hope to meet many of you there.

With warm regards



Sigrid Steffen
President EUFAMI



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

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