

European Federation of Hard of Hearing People

1 May 2016

Letter of recommendation of the European Federation of Hard of Hearing People

To whom it may concern;

EFHOH represents 51 million hard of hearing people at a European level in dialogue with European authorities, campaigning for equal rights of people with hearing loss and full inclusion of our members in mainstream society.

We, the European Federation of Hard of Hearing People (EFHOH), would like highlight the significance of the 9th session of the Conference of State Parties (COSP) to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) between 14 and 16 June 2016 in New York. The COSP will elect nine members of the CRPD Committee to replace those whose terms are due to expire on 31 December 2016.

The CRPD Committee is composed of 18 independent experts - persons of high moral character and recognized competence in the field of human rights. One of these experts is Dr. Laszlo Gabor LOVASZY who works for the CRPD Committee since 2012.

Mr Lovaszy, who is the first and only person with hearing disability representing hard of hearing community alone in the CRPD Committee and he is fully aware of the hardship people with disabilities face on a daily basis.

We believe in the notion of the international disability movement, "nothing about us without us" and therefore find it important that all kinds of disabilities are represented in the CRPD Committee.

We consider it a priority to keep him in the CRPD Committee as the only expert with hearing loss, especially in the light of the report of WHO, which estimates that the number of deaf and hard of hearing people is likely to grow rapidly due to the ageing of the word population.

He is also aware of the situation of the deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind persons and worked for their recognition and needs during countless constructive dialogues and adopted documents by the Committee.

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Even though Mr Lovaszy is devoted to all groups of persons with disabilities, he always put a special emphasis on the case of the hard of hearing people. He has also continuously been consulting the NGOs, European stakeholders, and as a CRPD expert had held more than 15 presentations for decision-makers, professionals and persons with disabilities in many European capitals since 2012.

He is not only a nationally, but also internationally recognised expert having more than 80 publications in Hungarian and English alike. He was one of the keynote speakers at the Hearing Awareness Seminar at the European Parliament.

More can be found at <http://laszlolovaszy.wix.com/webpage>

We strongly back the support for the re-election of Mr Laszlo Gabor LOVASZY at the 9th session of the Conference of State Parties (COSP) to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Yours sincerely
Mr Marcel Bobeldijk

M. BOBELDIJK

EFHOH President

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