

**EUROPEAN SOCIAL FORUM CYPRUS (ESFC)
FORUM – YOUTH CLUB**

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15 September 2012

Announcement

In the context of the Cyprus presidency of the EU, the 'Forum Youth Club' along with the sector of young people with disabilities, successfully hosted the representatives of the 'European network of independent living' of young people with disabilities, from September 4 to September 9 on a fairly tight schedule of meetings and contacts with the aim to promote the Right of independent living for people with disabilities (PWD) in both the European union and Cyprus through the proper implementation of the UN conventions on the rights of people with disabilities and of the survey for the social inclusion of young people with disabilities today, as well as, informing the members of the 'Forum youth club'.



With an in depth meeting-visit in Theotokos foundation the representatives of the European disability movement understood the social position of institutions dealing with disabilities in Cyprus.

Afterwards, the meeting at the Ministry of Labour and Social Security as the responsible Ministry for Social Policy followed. The aim of the meeting was to present the active programs of both the Office of Welfare and Social Integration Section, under the chairmanship of the general executive of the ministry



Then there was a meeting with the Minister of the Cypriot presidency Mr Andreas D. Mavroyiannis where we discussed the progress of the Independent Living in EU as well as in Cyprus, making clear to our Minister that Independent Living is firstly a human right and then social policy and therefore the Ministry of Justice should be more involved in the proper implementation

of the UN Convention on the Rights of people with Disabilities.

After that, the meeting with the Commissioner of Administration Mrs. Louisa Savvidou was inevitable, because many issues had arisen that only the Commissioner could clarify in order to convince our guests to draw their own conclusions about what is going



on today in Cyprus, of course, based on the European acquis.



Afterwards, a working lunch with the President of CCOD Mr. Christos Nikolaides followed. In this lunch we presented the role and position of the Cypriot disability movement as it is currently operated at least by CCOD.

Undoubtedly, the position of the local government was necessary so a meeting with the Mayor of Yermasoyia Mr.

Andreas Gavrielides occurred, followed by a meeting with the Deputy Mayor of Limassol Mr. Savva Stouppa and technicians of the municipality.

The whole program ended with an open meeting of our guests with representatives of Non-Governmental Organizations and People with Disabilities for the European reality in a matter of active citizenship of Young people with Disabilities in Europe and their rights, in relation to the current economic crisis, were ensured.



From the Council of ESFC
The president
Chrysis Michaelides