Dear Parents and Parents Associations,

The annual meeting of the EACD - European Academy of Childhood Disability - will take place in Vienna from July 3rd to 5th, 2014.

A special all-day “parents session” is to be offered this year for the very first time. This will be broken into three blocks covering a number of different topics.

We’d like to kindly invite you to the third part of this parents session titled:

„Common Concerns of Parents with Disabled Children -
TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER”

The session will start out with keynote presentations and contributions from members of different associations and should conclude with a joint discussion. An exchange of similar experiences and problems should lead to a debate on possible cooperation going forward.

We have put together a one page overview of the basic ideas behind these sessions and the potential results.

We would be delighted if you would use this platform as an opportunity to exchange individual experiences and work together towards a common goal.

Looking forward to seeing you in Vienna soon.

On behalf of the organizational committee

Prim. Dr. Friedrich Brandstetter
President EACD 2014
Zentrum für Entwicklungsförderung
Wiener Sozialdienste / Vienna Social Services
Langobardenstrasse 189, A-1220 Wien
Parents Session – Topic Guideline:

„Common Concerns of Parents with Disabled Children–

   TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER“

Vienna, July 4th 2014 16:30 - 18:00

Topic:

„Together we are stronger“ – „Gemeinsam sind wir stärker“

The strengthening of the political influence of parents with disabled children in Europe

WHY? – Introduction / Basic Idea:

Many parents of children with disabilities are already well organized and connected to various interest groups both large and small. However these groups are usually focused on only a single disability or illness and limited to a certain geographic area. The main goal of these groups is to find solutions to problems and questions arising in everyday life.

As the organizational team of EACD 2014 in Vienna we would like to encourage all participants, parents and parent associations to think about combining their aspirations and raise awareness to their concerns EU-wide.

WHAT? – The Goals and Possibilities:

It is our goal to achieve a public awareness for the problems encountered by families with disabled children. The concerns are thus also easier to implement on a political (EU) level. In order to be heard it requires common goals and content as well as a formulation of concerns and demands. Only in this way can needs and problems be represented accordingly.

WHO? – The Participants:

It mainly concerns directly affected families and children or parent organizations. Last but not least, both national and international (EU) political bodies should be involved in these matters. Therefore we also invite politicians to attend. A stronger representation of parents of children with disabilities should lead to a raised awareness of the issues and possible solutions.

HOW? – The Formation of a Platform

That is why we are trying to create an initial framework for the idea of an international umbrella organization. Combining efforts and clarifying positions is always a good place to start if you want to change something.

Let it all begin in Vienna.

Sincerely,

The Organizational Team