



ENIL Press Release, 25st September 2015

First we take Strasbourg - Then we take Brussels!

The European Network on Independent Living (ENIL) launches its 7th Freedom Drive under the theme “Independent Living: The Next Generation!”

On the 30th of September, hundreds of disabled people from over 20 European countries will march through the streets of Brussels with posters, megaphones, drums, flags and other props to reach the European Parliament after a stop at the European Commission. The goal is to hand over the ENIL demands to the European decision makers and make them aware of the independent living activists’ concerns. After the march the Freedom Drivers will have an opportunity explain their case directly to the MEP’s during a meeting in the Parliament.

ENIL is a Europe-wide network of disabled people and their non-disabled allies working on the issues of Independent Living. ENIL proclaims that disabled people are capable of living according to their own choices and have the same possibilities as their non-disabled brothers and sisters, neighbours and friends, if they are provided with the needed support. ENIL demands therefore that:

- EU funds are invested in Personal Assistance programs instead of institutions for disabled people.
- Public services (like public transport) are accessible to everyone regardless of their disability.
- The education system is fully inclusive and everyone has equal access to jobs in line with their education.

This 7th Freedom Drive is the first one to take place in Brussels. European decision makers will have an opportunity to meet disabled people from all over Europe and become aware of the gaps in the implementation of the UN CRPD and the need for legislation centered on Independent Living issues like deinstitutionalization, personal assistance and peer support.

On 1st October ENIL hosts a conference about independent living (with several sessions on different topics) lead by several frontline speakers including Maria-Luisa Cabral, Head of the Unit on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of the European Commission. In order to exchange experiences and good practices several discussion groups focused on the rights of disabled persons will be organized.

Let’s make this year’s Freedom Drive more successful than ever. Together, we will send a strong message to the European policy and decision makers on the vital importance of our human rights, our citizenship and our lives. Join us in this crucially important mission!

For more information, visit ENIL’s webpage www.enil.eu/campaigns/freedom-drive/ .

Contact:

Frank Sioen
GSM 0474/88.86.10

Nadia Hadad
GSM 0472/28.50.38

Peter Lambreghts
GSM 0475/87 71 29

frank.sioen@enil.eu

nadahad@hotmail.com

Peter@independentliving.be

ENIL - Belgium – Mundo J, Rue de l’Industrie 10, 1000 Brussels; tel: 0032 (0)2 893 25 83;
website: www.enil.eu; e-mail: secretariat@enil.eu