

# EUROPEAN MEDIATION NETWORK INITIATIVE

Note of first meeting of Interim Advisory Group, Helsinki – 27 May 2006

The *Meeting* was very clear that the time has not yet come for decisions to be taken about forming a European Mediation Network, but there was full consensus that an open and broad discussion process needs to be initiated among all *national contacts* about the following topics:

## Issues of discussion

### 1. Possible aims of a potential European Mediation Network Organisation

It was agreed to use the term "mediation", not "mediators" in order to avoid a narrowing of the perspective.

These aims might include:

- Offering an information point about mediation in Europe
- knowledge sharing
- quality assurance
- research
- lobbying for mediation in Europe

### 2. Possible purposes

Purposes might include:

- to facilitate information exchange
- to link mediation organisations across Europe
- to combine in one voice to speak (e.g. in dialogue with the EU for funding and other important issues)

### 3. Structure

- informal or formal?
- "membership" structure (organisations, institutions, individuals ...)?
- ownership?

### 4. Coordination

- administration?
- decision making?
- representation?

### 5. Website

Full consensus was reached about the need of a Website, but detailed discussion will have to take place about questions of:

- content
- administration / maintenance
- funding

## **6. Funding**

- staff?
- marketing?
- PR?

## **7. Partnership,**

- with other mediation and related organisations

For example:

The European Forum Training and Research in Family Mediation

< [www.europeanforum-familymediation.com](http://www.europeanforum-familymediation.com) >

Confédération Européenne des Médiateurs

< <http://www.projetmediateureurope.blogspot.com> >

European Restorative Justice Consortium

European Forum for Victim-Offender Mediation and Restorative Justice

< <http://www.euforumrj.org/homepage.asp> >

## **8. Relationships, e.g.**

- with the legal system
- political structure

## **9. Sections** (of mediation practice)

- communication among spheres of mediation (e.g. family mediators, business mediators, school mediators, victim offender mediators ....)

## **10. Identity of „mediation“**

(profession and valued occupation)

## **11. Languages**

## **12. European Mediation Conference 2007, Vienna – Austria**

<http://www.europemediation.eu>

## **European Mediation Conference 2008, Belfast – North. Ireland**

The two conferences envisaged are intended to assist with the development process of the EUROPEAN MEDIATION NETWORK INITIATIVE.

*Interim Executive Working Group and Interim Advisory Group*

**Offers of volunteer time were accepted by:**

### **Interim executive working group**

Linda Reijkerk	(The Netherlands)
Gøsta Thommesen	(Norway)
Ewald Filler	(Austria)
Ewan Malcolm	(Scotland, UK)

### **Interim Advisory Group**

Andrew McCracken	(Northern Ireland)
Rose-Marie Rath	(Austria)
Srdan Simec	(Croatia)
Christoph C. Paul	(Germany)
Barbara Fellegi	(Hungary)
Jacques Salzer	(France)
Esra Cuhadar Gurkaynak	(Turkey)
Ingolf Schulz	(Germany)
Hélène van den Steen	(Belgium)

+ Interim executive working group

Helsinki

27.5.06