



L.dz.ZOP-AG/ 2153 /2014

Warszawa, dnia 12.11.2014 r.

To whom it may concern,

Polish Association of the Deaf fully supports the ENS proposal “Measures for the removal of barriers of communication, for the recognition of LIS, the LIS tactile and for the promotion of social inclusion of deaf people and deaf-blind”, which was submitted to the XII Social Affairs Commission.

Polish Association of the Deaf was established in 1946 and is the biggest not-profit national association of deaf people in Poland. Our regional and local offices, Clinics for Children and Young People with Hearing Disorder and other kind of units to help deaf people are located all over the country. The main activities are carried out on the field of social inclusion to society, employment, education and culture. The activities of Polish Association of the Deaf are directed to children, young people, adults and seniors. Polish Association of the Deaf organises language courses, seminars, conferences, festivals and other activities concerning Deaf awareness and active participation in social life of all the people. Polish Association of the Deaf is a member of the European Union of the Deaf and World Federation of the Deaf.

Our aim is to achieve the equality in public and private life for Deaf people and to ensure that they can become full citizens in all aspects of life.

Polish Act on Sign Language and other Means of Communication from 2011, recognizes officially the right of using sign language by Polish deaf citizens.

Considering Italy has signed and ratified the groundbreaking UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD) on 3rd March 2009, Polish Association of the Deaf urges the Italian government to follow the request of the Italian Deaf Association (ENS) to recognise Italian Sign Language (LIS) in national legislation and to develop policies and services that enable deaf citizens to participate fully in public and private life, including employment and education. And Polish Association of the Deaf would like to point out that out of all 28 EU Member States, 25 have sign language recognised in the justice system and Italy is one of the last countries that still have not.

Polish Association of the Deaf urges the representatives of the Italian Council to co-operate with ENS to ensure the ratification of LIS and also support their forthcoming protests in order to achieve equality for all Deaf citizens in Italy.

Yours sincerely,

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PREZES
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