

Conseil Supérieur National des Personnes Handicapées
Belgian Disability Forum asbl
Press Release - 2009/07/09

Belgium has ratified the Convention on the Rights of Disability

The Conseil Supérieur National des Personnes Handicapées (CSNPH) and the Belgian association Disability Forum (BDF) welcome with pleasure the news of the ratification by Belgium of the Convention UN Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol.

This is a historic moment for all disabled persons in our country. BDF and CSNPH have put a lot of efforts into these achievements: they even succeeded to include their representatives within the delegation which travelled to New York, March 30, 2007 to sign the Convention on behalf of Belgium.

The instrument of ratification was deposited at the UN headquarters on July 2, 2009. The Convention will enter into force in Belgium on the 1st of August, after publication in the Belgian Gazette.

The date of August 1 is essential: it will be the starting point a long process for CSNPH on matters such as inclusion, non-discrimination, disability mainstreaming, autonomy, life choices and participation in decision making...

Specifically, the next step will be the establishment of a monitoring structure. Without monitoring, the text of the Convention will be unheeded. The monitoring body will prepare the first report that Belgium must send to the United Nations on the situation of disabled persons in relation to the contents of the Convention. This is required 2 years after the entry into force of the Convention for Belgium ... that is to say, by August 1, 2011.

As soon as April 25, 2008, CSNPH had already delivered a notice militating for a broad and independent representation of persons with disabilities in what concerns the monitoring process, and according to the contents of Article 33 of Convention.

CSNPH demands that its view be taken into account by the relevant political authorities when setting up the Convention monitoring body.