

European Alliance of Initiatives for Applied Anthroposophy ELIANT



**1 Million EU-Citizens support ELIANT's initiative
to ensure freedom of choice and diversity of lifestyle in Europe**

Call on the European Commission to act

On May 13th 2011 an ELIANT delegation submitted a Memorandum to the European Commission, supported by 1 million signatures, containing 15 invitations for appropriate action in agriculture, nutrition, health care, education, curative education and research.

Three typical cases amongst the 15 invitations for appropriate action are:

- **No artificial vitamin fortification for biodynamic and other organic baby food!**
- **Equal access to all Anthroposophic medicines for citizens in all EU Member States!**
- **Reassessment how childhood competences such as development of imagination in free play are prerequisite to competences later in life!**

The appropriate action of the Commission might be, within the framework of its powers, a proposal for a legal act of the Union.

The Memorandum also informs about the campaign to collect 1 million signatures and about the procedure of their verification.

The delegation handed over three boxes with samples of the signatures collected illustrating the support of 1 million citizens from all 27 EU Member States.



Commissioner Dalli and Michaëla Glöckler

John Dalli, Commissioner for Health and Consumer policy received the delegation, accompanied by representatives of other Commissioners whose competencies are also involved in the ELIANT requests. The representatives of the ELIANT member organisations explained their aim to open a debate about the risk that European mainstream policy and legislation may unduly restrict valuable activities and lifestyles of smaller groups of citizens. They felt encouraged by the new rules of the Lisbon Treaty to contribute to an open and transparent dialogue between the EU institutions and civil society. The ELIANT representatives also felt encouraged by what the Commissioner had already said on January 14th 2010 during his statement as designated Commissioner in the European Parliament hearing. The Commissioner had stated "Patients First, Consumers First" and designed the visions of a citizen's healthy lifestyle and of a well-informed consumer being in the driving seat of his own decisions.

Staffmember of Mr. Dalli, Adrienne Thier, Bernard Heldt



The ELIANT representatives also informed the Commissioner that ELIANT shaped its action to collect signatures along the lines of Article 11 §4 TEU on a citizens' initiative. But, taking into account the urgency of some of its demands, ELIANT had started the collection before the Lisbon Treaty came into force. Therefore ELIANT was unable to respect every detail of the new regulation on the citizens' initiative. However, the representatives were convinced that the results of ELIANT's campaign are sufficiently close to the conditions of the regulation and can therefore be presented to the Commission as a pioneer exercise, not least to demonstrate the political value of ELIANT's requests.

The representatives expressed their expectation to hear the Commission's conclusions in due course.

At the end of the meeting the ELIANT delegation expressed its joy that this constructive meeting with the Commissioner had taken place in the year of the commemoration of 150th birthday of the founder of anthroposophy, Rudolf Steiner.

Important note: You can find a statement of Commissioner Dalli on his website http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/dalli/index_en.htm

Great success for action ELIANT

The conversation took place in an interested and cordial atmosphere. Commissioner Dalli responded very positively to the 1 million signatures and the Memorandum, stating that he is fascinated by a holistic approach, covering all aspects of civil life in the European Union. He expressed his interest in the backgrounds of the anthroposophical working areas and the integration in society. He would like to visit a facility.

Adrienne Thier stressed the importance of the European Disability Strategy Document 2010-2020. She asked for full attention to people with complex dependency needs. She also expressed that freedom of choice is essential concerning biodynamic food, anthroposophical-medical therapies and medicine for people with disabilities.



Commissioner Dalli and Thomas Göing