



Press release

EU Commissioner John Dalli receives ELIANT

On 13 May 2011, the ELIANT Alliance handed over to the European Commission in Brussels more than one million signatures in support of better framework conditions for anthroposophic services and products.

Brussels (hs) – John Dalli, Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy in the European Commission, has received the representatives of the European Alliance of Initiatives for Applied Anthroposophy / ELIANT on behalf of Commission President José Manuel Barroso. They presented him with 1 001 671 signatures¹ from 27 member states and a specially drawn up memorandum. The latter contains 15 specific demands for legal measures in the fields of agriculture, nutrition, health, education, curative education and research.

<http://www.eliant.eu/new/userfiles/file/pdf/Memorandum%20Allianz%20ELIANT%202011.pdf>

Three examples of the 15 demands are:

- *No artificial vitamin supplements in biodynamic baby food!*
- *Equal access to anthroposophic medicine for the citizens of all EU member states!*
- *Evaluation to what extent childhood abilities such as the use of the imagination in free play are the prerequisite for the development of later abilities!*

After the signatures and memorandum had been handed over, EU Commissioner Dalli and his staff listened to concerns from the individual anthroposophic fields of activity. These concerns are covered not only Commissioner Dalli's areas of responsibility but also by those of other members of the Commission.²

The ELIANT representatives also informed the Commissioner that ELIANT had based the collection of its signatures on Article 11 (4) of the EU Treaty (European Citizens' Initiative). Here it had to be taken into account, however, that due to the urgency of some of the demands, ELIANT had started collecting

the signatures before the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. For this reason ELIANT was not able to take account of every detail in the new rules for citizens' initiatives.³

1 with a further 118 630 signatures from non-EU countries of which 52 850 came from Switzerland.

2 Inter-Institutional Relations, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship, Internal Market, Education, Research, Social Affairs, Agriculture.

3 Regulation (EU) No 211/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 on the citizens' initiative, OJ L65/1, 11.3.2011.

The ELIANT representatives stated their conviction that the one million signatures resulting from their campaign can be presented to the Commission as a pioneer project, not least to emphasise the political importance of ELIANT's demands.

Commissioner Dalli said: "I am committed to look seriously at the request made through this petition on measures in support of various aspects of applied anthroposophy since over one million European citizens have signed it. ELIANT's request is clearly inspired by Art. 11 of the Lisbon Treaty and the recently adopted regulation on citizens' initiatives. I noted to the alliance's representatives that the Commission has already taken action on some of the petition's aspects. I also pointed out that the Council and European Parliament regulation on citizens' initiatives (no. 211/2011) applies from 1 April 2012."

Commissioner Dalli added: "Anthroposophy" is a philosophy relating to humanity's cardinal spiritual questions and the need to relate to the world through a scientific attitude of mind in complete freedom based on purely individual decisions. "Applied anthroposophy" concerns the practical implications of anthroposophy.

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/dyna/enews/enews.cfm?al_id=1139.

Now ELIANT can start working as a pioneer project for a European citizens' initiative. There will be further specialist meetings with the competent directorates-general of the EU Commission. It is anticipated that the Commission will respond in detail to the 15 demands in the memorandum. ELIANT also presented the one million signatures with the memorandum to the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers.

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