This information is easy to read!
Welcome to Autism-Europe’s e-newsletter.

This newsletter is in easy-to-read language.

In this newsletter you will find 3 articles.

The first article on page number 4 is about an agreement to help people enjoy more quality time at home.
The second article on page number 11 is about learning disabilities as a priority for doctors and hospitals in England.

The third article on page number 16 is about the improvement of the medicine that some autistic people use.

You can send us ideas for the next e-newsletter.

If you have ideas, write us an email. Write to communication@autismeurope.org
EU countries agree their approach to help people enjoy more quality time at home

The European Union (EU) is working on something called the Work Life Balance Directive.

A Directive is a kind of rule that EU countries must make into laws.

Laws are rules that all people must follow.
The Work Life Balance Directive aims to help people enjoy more quality time at home.

It aims to give people support so they can be with their families and not be at work too much.

It is important for parents and also for carers of people who are old or have disabilities.

This is why Autism-Europe thinks the Work Life Balance Directive is important for autistic people.

We think it will help autistic people have better support from parents and carers.
The European Commission proposed the Work Life Balance Directive.

The European Parliament and the Council of the EU must now agree on which rules to keep in the Directive or not.

The Council of the EU is the group of all the countries in the European Union.

In the Council of the EU, people making decisions from each country in the European Union come together.

They make choices about important issues.
Before they talk to the Parliament, the Council of the EU has to decide what things it wants to keep in the Directive.

Autism-Europe and other organisations wrote a letter to people making the decisions for European Countries.

We asked them to come to an agreement so that the Directive can soon become a law.

We asked them to make sure the rules in the Directive help parents and carers have enough time away from work.

Autism-Europe thinks it is important to support parents and carers.
We think it makes life better for parents, carers, their families and the people they look after.

On June 22, EU countries agreed on what they wanted to change in the Work Life Balance Directive. This is good because they came to an agreement.

Now it is more likely the Directive will become a reality.

However, they want to change some things in the Directive to give less support to parents and carers.
Some countries think that **is too expensive** to give support for parents and carers to have more time away from work.

**Autism-Europe and other organisations are unhappy about some changes** the Council of the EU made to the Directive.

We are unhappy that they **do not want to give carers more money** for days when they cannot work.

They did not agree to the Commission’s idea about giving parents a **lot more time off and more money when they have a baby**.

This is also **unfair to women** because it is less likely that the father will take time off work to look after the baby.
Autism-Europe and other organisations will continue to work together.

We will continue to ask for more support to be given to carers and parents.
Doctors and hospitals in England make learning disabilities a priority

The National Health Service have said that they will make learning disabilities a priority in their future work.

The National Health Service is what we call all the doctors, nurses and hospitals.

A “priority” means something that more important than other things.
The National Health Service will make this in England, United Kingdom.

This decision means that the National Health Service will also support autistic people more.

To understand how to support autistic people, they will talk to organisations of autistic people.

One of the organisations they will talk to is the National Autistic Society.
The National Autistic Society is a member of Autism-Europe.

The National Autistic Society will tell the National Health Service what they need to do to give autistic people more support.

They will tell the National Health Service that autistic people need to be able to get a diagnosis quickly and easily.

An “autism diagnosis” is when a doctor says that a person has autism.
They will also tell them that they must give **support** for autistic people **after they get a diagnosis**.

They will say that all doctors, nurses and dentists must **understand autism and how to help autistic people better**.

Autistic people and their families will advise the **National Health Service**.

Autistic people **need to see doctors** just like everyone else.
It is very important that doctors know how to support autistic people properly.
Autism-Europe wants to improve the medicine that some autistic people use

Autism-Europe has joined a project doing research into medicine.

“Research” is when science people study something to learn more about it.

The name of the project is “Aims 2 Trials”.
This group who work on the project is learning about the medicines that some autistic people take.

The group wants to see how having autism changes the way some medicines work.

They want to understand how to make the medicines work better for autistic people.

Some autistic people take medicine to make it a bit easier to live with autism.
Other autistic people take medicine to help with other things that autistic people can also experience.

Some autistic people take medicine because they get very nervous and stressed.

Some autistic people take medicine because they can feel sad.

Some autistic people take medicine because they also have epilepsy.
Autism-Europe thinks that it is important for medicine to work well for autistic people.

Good medicine could stop autistic people from dying younger than people without autism.

The group will test how medicines work differently for autistic people.

Autism-Europe will work in the group to make sure they are respecting the rights of autistic people.

Autism-Europe will also create a group of autistic people who will give advice.

They will make sure autistic people are treated fairly in the research.
Autism-Europe wants to make sure the research improves the quality of life of autistic people.
We hope you have enjoyed reading this!

On this publication we follow the advice of the organisation Inclusion Europe.

We follow their guidelines to make the easy to read version of our e-newsletter.

This way we make sure the information is as clear as possible.
We use **pictograms** to help make things easier to understand.

The pictograms used in this e-newsletter come from the programme © **Picto-Selector**.

Some of them have been **adapted** and/or **created** by Autism-Europe.

Visit this website below to read the **easy-to-read guidelines**:

**[http://easy-to-read.eu/](http://easy-to-read.eu/)**

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