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UN World Tourism Organisation Joins 'European Network for Accessible Tourism'

The United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) has taken up Honorary Associate Membership of the European Network for Accessible Tourism (ENAT) with Observer status in the meetings of the association.

In a letter to ENAT, Marina Diotallevi, Chief of the 'Cultural, Social and Ethical Aspects of Tourism' Section at UNWTO expressed how she looks forward "...to our organisations' renewed cooperation for the promotion of accessible tourism for all". ENAT has members in over 50 countries around the world.

The UNWTO's former Chief of 'Market' Section, Mr. Henryk Handszuh (now retired) was instrumental in forging the first links between UNWTO and ENAT, having played an active role in the Inaugural General Meeting of the ENAT project in May 2006 and again as a Session Chairperson at the ENAT International Congress in Spain, November 2007.

The UNWTO's resolution on 'Accessible Tourism for All' (2005) is recognised as a key reference document for guiding the development of the tourism sector along the path of greater accessibility.

Commenting on the start of UNWTO's honorary membership, Managing Director of ENAT, Mr. Ivor Ambrose, stated: "We are very pleased to re-ignite our good relations with the UNWTO on the subject of accessible tourism.

"With the recent ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, countries are now committed - under article 30 - to promoting participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport for people with disabilities. This is a truly global concern which must be tackled by raising the quality standards of the tourism industry as a whole".

"We will support implementation of the convention's objectives on tourism and leisure by bringing ENAT members into contact with UN Member States and business partners who are looking for guidance, good practice and concrete solutions in the field of accessible tourism".

Honorary Associate Membership of the ENAT non-profit association is offered to a few organisations and persons of high international reputation in the field of accessible tourism.

For further information or to join the ENAT network or become a sponsor, please visit www.accessibletourism.org.

You can also send an email to Monica Guy at press@accessibletourism.org or contact ENAT's Managing Director, Ivor Ambrose at enat@accessibletourism.org (telephone 0030 210 6148380).

European Network for Accessible Tourism - ENAT

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