

25 October 2007

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TOURISM FOR ALL CONGRESS TO BENEFIT ALL TRAVELLERS

A congress held in conjunction with leading accessible tourism network ENAT – the European Network for Accessible Tourism – is set to benefit both disabled and able-bodied travellers all over Europe.

The three-day Tourism For All international congress in Valencia, Spain will draw together experts and representatives from the foremost European disability and tourism organisations. The aim is to encourage collaboration between the two sectors to benefit the rapidly growing market of travellers with access needs.

Ivor Ambrose, co-ordinator of ENAT, says: "Accessible tourism is a priority – both for the good of tourists and for the long-term sustainability of the European tourist industry. The congress is a real chance for us all to learn from each other. This is not just about disabled people – there are access challenges everywhere, for all of us. Anyone who struggles with complicated travel websites, endless airport corridors, escalators and even heavy doors understands why we need to improve access."

The congress is organised by ENAT's Spanish partner Fundación ONCE and will take place on the 21–23 November in the resort of Castellón, near Valencia, Spain. A series of talks and workshops in English and Spanish is planned, covering aspects of accessible tourism including training and employment, improved design, the use of technology and good practice and guidelines. Participants will take home their own *Accessible Tourism Workbook*, based on the results of the sessions.

Invited speakers include Pedro Mejia Gómez, Spain's Secretary of State for Tourism and Trade, Pedro Ortún, Director of Services, Trade and Tourism at the European Commission and Henryk Handszuh, Market Director of the UN World Tourism Organisation.

For a full programme please see www.accessibletourism.org.

ENAT is supported by the European Commission DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities with the aim of mainstreaming disability policies in the tourism sector. It is coordinated by EWORX SA, Greece, with eight international partners from Belgium, Greece, Ireland, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Since its launch in May 2006, it has attracted over 350 members from 43 countries. From January 2008 ENAT will operate as an International NGO, registered in Belgium. The network is open to all who support – or want to know more about – accessible tourism.

European Network for Accessible Tourism - ENAT

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For further press information or for the opportunity to attend, see www.accessibletourism.org or email Monica Guy at press@accessibletourism.org.

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