

International signed language conference to be hosted in UK

Scotland is to host the European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters (EFSLI) 2010 conference in Glasgow on 10 – 12 September

James Massoud

The event is going to be hosted by the Scottish Association of Sign Language Interpreters (SASLI) at the Radisson SAS hotel, which is located in the heart of Glasgow.

EFSLI is a European membership organisation consisting of national and regional associations, individual and associate members. Their aim is to encourage the use of sign language interpretation across Europe, promote initiatives that improve the standards of sign language interpreting, and to work towards securing official recognition of the profession.

This is the first EFSLI conference Scotland has held since 1994 when the event took place in Edinburgh. That event was a monumental occasion in EFSLI's history as it was the first ever conference. Glasgow was also the first city to host EFSLI's first ever seminar, in which a series of resolutions were agreed upon and have been used as the framework for all future meetings. Scotland and SASLI therefore has a proud legacy in helping EFSLI's progression.

The theme for this year's conference is 'Synergy – Moving Forward Together'. At the event the attendees will be taking a look back at the progression made in the development of the profession of interpreters of signed languages. There are some key questions that



The success of last year's forum has left delegates anticipating this year's conference, the theme of which is 'Synergy- Moving Forward Together'

have been raised already, which are hoping to be resolved by the end of the conference: how satisfied are we that we are fully equipped for the challenges and changes the future will bring? And are the goals and values of interpreter practitioners and educators shared by providers and service users?

This year's conference aims to find the missing link that ensures signed language interpreters across Europe are provided with the skills and knowledge necessary for a constantly evolving environment.

SASLI is a registered Scottish charity as well as a registered company. Just recently leading Aberdeen accountancy firm Fyfe Moir and Associates generously donated more than £6,000 to SASLI. Led by Alan Moir and Graham Fyfe the firm held a race night in aid of the charity. The money they have donated is going to significantly help SASLI provide the

travel necessary for delegates from countries where interpreters may be at more of a disadvantage. This way they will be able to attend the conference as well as enjoy the support from their European peers.

As well as discussing the important issues this year's Glasgow conference is promising to be one of the most entertaining as the EFSLI website has declared that all attendees should bring their "dancing shoes, try the haggis and savour the whiskey!"

Booking your attendance for the conference can be done via the official website www.efсли2010.org.uk while the application forms for becoming an exclusive EFSLI member also can also be completed online on the website.