

## **News from France concerning legislation**

### **re: the title of psychotherapist**

The law, already passed in France, declares that only doctors, psychologists and psychoanalysts (members of psychoanalytical associations) have the right to use the title of psychotherapist. The decrees specifying how other professionals, (who are neither doctors, psychologists, nor psychoanalysts), can obtain this title were the subject of lengthy negotiations between national psychotherapy associations and the government. These associations, one of which is the « Société Française de Thérapie Familiale », and the government, managed to agree upon a consensual basis.

However, a few days before the EFTA Board meeting in Rome (January 2007), a French deputy put forward an amendment which was voted in the National Assembly, stating that only universities have the right to train psychotherapists, thus supplanting private French organisations that train family therapists.

Following the initiative of our friends Mony Elkaim, Yveline Rey and Michel Maestre, French members of the EFTA Board wrote to the Prime Minister to protest against this amendment. Our action, together with that of the other national associations for psychotherapy, appears to have been productive because after much to-ing and fro-ing between the two chambers (The National Assembly and The Senate) the law now authorises recognized public and private organisations to train psychotherapists.

We clearly have to remain vigilant as the final procedures have not yet been established; however we can consider that this initial success was partly due to the rapid response from the EFTA Board.

Michel Maestre & Yveline Rey