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An Invitation to make your Unique Contribution to EFTA-TIC

Dear EFTA-TIC members,

As you know the next major EFTA Conference will be in Paris, October 29th to 31st, 2010. This conference is an important event in many ways. Your EFTA-TIC Board has been working to contribute to its success, in particular through the work of Michel Maestre as Chair of the Organising Committee. We hope you will join us there.

At the conference we will be holding elections for the membership of the TIC Board. At this challenging time for family therapy in Europe it is especially important that we have as strong a field of candidates for the Board as possible.

Following is a brief account of what the existing Board has been doing until now. You might feel you want to participate in such activities in future. You might have ideas of other activities that would be important for Institutes such as yours. In both cases, *we strongly urge you to stand for election so that your Training Institute can have its say and make its contribution.*

Standing for election to the TIC Board is a sign of commitment to TIC, to EFTA and to the future of family therapy training in Europe. We plan to suggest that TIC members who stand for election but are not among those elected, be invited to participate in specific TIC activities according to their particular interests. In this way the Board will, in future, have a wider group to call on to take its work forward. We have also prepared to be able to have the next conference of Training Institutes in Seville, Spain in October, 2011. But it will be for the new Board to decide what to carry forward into the next 3 year period.

If you want to stand for election to the new TIC Board, or to nominate somebody, please refer to the accompanying forms.

Report from the EFTA-TIC Board

We are delighted to report the progress and achievements of the EFTA Training Institutes' Chamber (EFTA-TIC).

It has become clear that the Chamber has an essential role in EFTA and in the development of family therapy throughout Europe. The training institutes are a fundamental component in the creation of a profession of family therapists and are often the repository of advances in theory, research and practice. While the future of training institutes is linked to other family therapy organisations, our remit requires us to address very specific issues. But also, the achievements of each of the *124 training institutes, from 26 European countries*, that are members of our Chamber are a powerful resource on which we can all draw. If you are facing a particular problem there will almost certainly be several other institutes who have faced similar problems and who can provide you with ideas and resources to overcome them.

We have undertaken many initiatives towards our objectives:



EFTA-TIC

The objectives are summarised in our "manifesto" representing our various challenges: Legislation, Training in Training, Sharing Specialists' Experiences, Exchange of Students, Research and an Internet Newsletter. Detail about each of these items is provided on our website, www.efta-tic.eu. Each of our activities contributes to these broad objectives. For example:

- Our first major event was in September 2003, when we organized in Barcelona the EFTA-TIC Meeting of Trainers on the theme "Experiencing Systemic Trainers' Dialogues".

This meeting brought together the Chamber's members to share experiences, successes and concerns and to mutually learn from each other in a warm and collegial atmosphere. Participant evaluation was very positive and since then we have held an event exclusively for trainers every year except when there is the triennial EFTA conference. We have met in Florence, Rhodos, Toulouse, and Krakow. Our secretary Kyriaki Polychroni has played an essential role in the successful organization of these trainers' meetings.

- We played a full part in the EFTA 2004 conference in Berlin, and EFTA 2007 conference in Glasgow. At all EFTA conferences, EFTA-TIC provides a major workshop so that advances in training can be shared with Training Institutes and the wider community of family therapists.

- We created a survey, an initiative of Luigi Onnis, which we sent to member institutes of EFTA-TIC in order to better understand the reality and aspirations of training in Europe. The survey may be found in the May 2007 issue of the EFTA Newsletter at www.europeanfamilytherapy.eu/content.php?id=10&idnl=2.

- We set up and attributed a certificate designating the acknowledged Family Therapy Training Institute members and associate members of our Chamber.

- The EFTA-TIC section of the EFTA website may be accessed at www.efta-tic.eu. It operates in collaboration with the other two Chambers, putting out pages and newsletters for all of EFTA. Phil Kearney has been working to upgrade the website.

- In the context of our ongoing collaboration with EFTA's other Chambers, Nevena Calovska Hertzog is currently General Secretary of EFTA providing support for our President. We are also involved in all of the EFTA committees, in particular determining standards for training in family therapy and struggling to ensure that our rights are maintained in European legislation (Chair, Luigi Onnis and Phil Kearney). And research (Chair, Peter Stratton and Nevena Calovska Hertzog) which is developing several projects, largely in conjunction with the Chamber of National Family Therapy Organisations. We are participants in the ongoing creation of a European Family Therapy Passport with the goal to enable family therapists - members of EFTA - to visit and be hosted at various EFTA-TIC member institutes and to so experience their training approaches.

As Part of the European Association for Psychotherapy (E.A.P.), we are in the process of negotiating with the European Commission in Brussels a platform which will permit the free circulation of psychotherapists in Europe. Your TIC Board has provided the past and current Presidents of E.A.P. – Mony Elkaim and Rodolfo de Bernart respectively

We will continue to do everything possible to promote the rights of our profession. We do this in the interests of the people and families of Europe, and so that they can have access to family therapy provided by a growing workforce of properly training therapists.

We are counting on your active participation in the developmental process of our Chamber and your support in encouraging new training centres to join us.

We cordially invite you and very much look forward to seeing you at the EFTA Congress in Paris October 2010 and the next EFTA-TIC Meeting of Trainers in 2011.

Sincerely,

On behalf of the EFTA-TIC Board:

Mony Elkaim (Chair), Kyriaki (Secretary and organiser), Rodolfo de Bernart (Treasurer), Michel Maestre, Luigi Onnis, Peter Stratton, Nevena Calovska Hertzog, and Phil Kearney.

**EUROPEAN FAMILY THERAPY ASSOCIATION
TRAINING INSTITUTES CHAMBER**