Dear participants,

There is a major change in our programme, due to the fact that at the same day, 19th of November, there will be a political event in Brussels, organised by the European Union of the Deaf. Mr. Jokinen is one of the speakers there:

"Dr. Ádám Kósa, MEP from the European People’s Party, and the European Union of the Deaf would like to announce an exciting conference on the legal aspects of the implementation of sign language legislation in Europe. It will take place at the European Parliament on Friday 19th November 2010. At the end of the Conference, the Brussels Declaration on Sign Language Legislation will be signed by the participants. This declaration will be used as an important tool for our campaign to get sign language legally recognised at the European level.

Confirmed speakers include Viviane Reding (Vice-President of the European Commission and EU Commissioner for Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship), Berglind Stefánsdóttir, President of EUD, Markku Jokinen, President of WFD, Maya de Wit, President of the European Forum of SL Interpreters, and Liz Scott Gibson, President of the World Association of SL Interpreters, among others.

EUD will also launch its book on sign language laws around Europe, which will be given to all participants. 'Sign Language Legislation in Europe' will present up-to-date information on European sign language legislation. Just like the Brussels Declaration, this book will be a useful tool in achieving the recognition of sign languages not only at European but also at national level." Cf. http://www.eud.eu/EP_SL_Conference_2010-i-290.html

Mr. Jokinen regrets that he is not able to attend our seminar, and hopes you to understand the importance of the Brussels event.

He will be replaced by Kaisa Alanne, Head of the Development Department of the Finnish Deaf Association. Ms. Alanne is a very good lecturer in the field of deaf education and sign language and knows all e.g. of the new sign language policy paper, which has just been published in Finland.