

History of Assistance Dogs Europe (ADEu)

For details see reports of business meetings on the members-only site

2000 First get together of 13 programmes from 7 European countries in Groesbeek, the Netherlands, hosted by Stichting Soho (since 2001 Hulphond Nederland)
Workshops with Bonnie Bergin of the Assistance Dog Institute, California (since 2004 Bergin University of Canine Studies)

Motion approved: to set up a European cooperation of assistance dog schools

Official language will be English

Key-issues: exchange, standards, awareness and access, financial support, cooperation with Assistance Dogs International (ADI)

2001 Second Conference in Grône, Switzerland, hosted by Association Le Copain; 24 programmes of 11 European countries have been present

Presentation about the mission, background, standards ADI, inclusive a commitment of the ADI Board to consider a federal structure with regional chapters

5 Steering Groups set up

- Operation and Technique
- Organisation
- Funding and Public Relation
- Standards and Access
- 2002 Conference

Pet Night 2001, 03 October 2001, Strasbourg, France - Cooperation with Fédération Européenne de la Santé Animale (FEDESA, European Federation of Animal Health) to be present at an event with Members of the European Parliament (MEP's), aiming to raise the awareness of MEP's of the change dogs can make in people's life

2002 Third Conference in Paris, France, hosted by ANECAH; 24 programmes of 13 European countries have been present

Resolutions:

1. Conference resolves to call our new organisation **Assistance Dogs Europe**. The shortened form will be ADEu
2. Conference approves the draft constitution submitted to the business meeting on Sunday 27th of October, subject to any minor changes, to be agreed by the Interim Board, required to meet the terms of registration
3. Conference resolves to register Assistance Dogs Europe in Belgium
4. Conference resolves to elect at the 2002 conference in Paris an Interim Board of seven members for one year. The election will take place in accordance with the constitution
5. Conference resolves to set affiliation fees for Assistance Dogs Europe the following levels: 50 –100 Euros, depending of the financial situation of the organisation
6. Conference resolves that the financial year for Assistance Dogs Europe shall be the calendar year
7. Conference resolves to set up a bank account for Assistance Dogs Europe. All transactions to be countersigned by at least two members of the Board

Letter of ADI expressing the hope for future cooperation

First draft of ADEu Statutes

First draft of ADEU Standards derived from the ADI standards

Website launched: www.assistedogseurope.info

2nd Pet Night, 1st of October 2002, Brussels, cooperation with FEDESA

2003 Fourth ADEu Conference in Berlin, Germany, hosted by Tierische Leistung and Hunde für Handicaps; 28 programmes of 13 countries have been present
ADEu Statutes - no confirmation from the Belgian government
Logo has been developed and launched
Membership proposal approved
Minimum Standards for Assistance Dogs have been presented and approved
ADI-Proposal to change the ADI structure towards a structure with regional Boards

2004 Fifth ADEu Conference in Westende, Belgium, hosted by Hachiko; 30 programmes of 15 countries have been present.
Formal approval of several **Standards**
Formal approval of **Accreditation Procedure**
Discussion about a **European harness**
Relationship ADEu ← → ADI discussed

2005 Sixth ADEu Conference in Salzburg, Austria, hosted by Partner-Hunde Österreich; 35 programmes of 19 countries have been present
Start to identify European Access Legislation
Proposal of European harness
ADEu merge with ADI; it was proposed to postpone the decision to go ahead with the merge-process for one year. During this time a task force group with members from ADEu and ADI will be formed to further investigate all unclear and outstanding issues. Their conclusion will be presented at the 2006 Conference and submitted for voting

October 2005 – Five European Programmes passed ADI **accreditation**

2006 Seventh ADEu Conference in Malmö, Sweden, hosted by Svenska Service och Signalthundförbundet; 31 programmes of 17 countries have been present
Resolution:
- The members of Assistance Dogs Europe, ADEu, agree to create a new international organisation together with their colleagues in Assistance Dogs North America, Assistance Dogs Australia/New Zealand and Assistance Dogs Asia. In doing so we will take forward the assistance dogs' movement onto a worldwide stage as laid out in the paper entitled "Creating an International Structure for the Assistance Dog Movement" dated August 2006. To take effect from 30th January 2007

Proposal Membership Fees as of January 1 2007 approved

First European assessors appointed and trained
First European Newsletter
www.assistancedogseurope.org site launched

2007 30th of January ADEu regional chapter of ADI

Eighth ADEu Conference in Bad Nauheim, Germany, hosted by VITA e.V.; 45 programmes of 21 countries, worldwide, have been present
Proposal for European harness rejected

October 2007 – First Accreditation of a European Programme through European Accreditation Procedure

21st November 2007 Third Pet Night, Brussels; cooperation with International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH)

Official contact with European Guide Dog Forum (EGDF)

2008 20th ADI Conference in London, UK, hosted by The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association

Discussion about finances, sponsoring and raising membership fees

October 2008 – ADEu Trainers Workshop: “Multi-species ADEu training camp”, in Elce, Spain

2009 Ninth ADEu Conference in Umag, Croatia, hosted by Croatian Guide Dog and Mobility Association; 30 programmes of 18 countries have been present

ADI-structure outlined

Motions approved:

- ADEu to be a legal entity
- From 2009, there should be a fixed fee for programs who wish to be accredited to cover the costs, including assessor expenses. The fee should be reviewed by the members every two years
- Following discussion it was proposed that the fee be 650 Euros, and be in line with the fee paid by ADI members worldwide
- ADEu supports the idea of having one European assistance dog access sticker and will work with other interested groups, including the European Guide Dog Federation to achieve that as soon as possible
- We want a clear terminology to be used, always and everywhere, by ADEu and its members, and propose this to ADI

Motions withdrawn:

- We want the bylaws of ADEu as agreed by the European associations to be official and published
- We want the structure of the international organization to be as agreed in Malmö and Salzburg. Assistance Dogs International (worldwide federation) with Regional chapters: ADINA, ADEu, ANZAD, AD Asia, AD Latin America. Every association stays member of its regional chapter, pays its memberships fee to its chapter. The regional chapters unite in ADI. Each chapter pays its fee to ADI in ratio to the total number of clients or to the number of member association

May 2009 – ADEu Trainers Workshop: “It’s all about locomotion”, in Herpen, the Netherlands

July 2009 – European Access Legislation on ADEu website

Cards available in 16 European languages to explain the meaning of an assistance dog

26th -27th of October 2009 – Animal Assisted Intervention (AAI) Task Force

2010 21st ADI Conference in Toronto, Canada, hosted by Dog Guides Canada; 37 programmes of 8 countries have been present

Motions approved:

- That from 1st January 2011, Candidates should have a maximum of 7 years to achieve accreditation and become Members of ADI. During that time, Candidates must show clear evidence that they are working towards achieving accreditation and at a minimum must undertake the following to retain Candidate status.
- Existing Full Members who do not attempt accreditation before December 31st 2010 will revert to Candidate status on 1st January 2011 and will be given until 31st December 2012 to achieve accreditation otherwise they will be set free from ADI. They must wait 2 years before they can apply for candidate status.
- Existing candidates still have 7 years minus the number of years they have already been a candidate (provisional member) to achieve accreditation. If a candidate (provisional member) does not attempt to become accredited within the 7 years they will be set free from ADI. They must wait 2 years before they can apply to become a candidate.

24th of February 2010 Fourth Pet Night, Brussels, in cooperation with IFAH
May 2010 – ADEu Trainers Workshop: “Epilepsy and Seizure dogs”, in Gent, Belgium

2011 Tenth ADEu Conference in Berg en Dal, the Netherlands, hosted by the Dutch Programmes; 29 programmes of 14 countries have been present
ADEu Statutes: the draft bylaws were unanimously agreed in a vote and will be submitted to the Dutch Notary Public for a final check
We will incorporate as an international association in the Netherlands

2nd of February 2011, Fourth Pet Night, Brussels; cooperation with IFAH
Start of Unification of Accreditation Standards and Procedure

2012 23rd of January 2012, ADEu Statutes filed in the Netherlands
KvK-nummer 54491223 - RSIN 851325853 - SBI-code 94996

22nd ADI Conference in Barcelona, Spain, hosted by ASKAL, Fundació Bocálan and AdAS; 57 programmes of 18 countries of all of the world have been present
ADI Discussion: “What is an Assistance Dog?” Tasks, Terminology, Awareness-colours, Access label, etcetera

Motions approved:

- Standards for certification of owner / private trainer trained assistance dog teams
- Fees proposal for ADI Programmes for the year 2013
- Fees proposal for upcoming years will be reviewed, and designed with more tiers

Motions withdrawn:

- Terminology of Assistance Dogs, will be discussed on Sunday 29th of July
- Colours and harness of Assistance Dogs, have been rejected in 2007
- Structure ADI / ADEu, see 2009 “ADI structure outlined”
- Prevent Possible Proliferation of Unprofessional Organisations
- Membership Fees, will be discussed on Sunday 29th of July
- ADEu Statutes, subject to discussion

Animal Assisted Intervention International (AAIL) presented and received with great enthusiasm by the members

29th of February 2012, Fifth Pet Night, Brussels; cooperation with IFAH
Official exchange of officers between ADEu and **European Guide Dog Federation (EGDF)**
October 2012 – New ADI website launched

2013 11th ADEu Conference in Spa, Belgium, hosted by the Walloon Programmes, back to back with the **1st AAIL Conference**
AAIL has been filed March 2013 in the Netherlands.

20th of February 2013, Sixth Pet Night, Brussels; cooperation with IFAH

2014 12th of February 2014, Seventh Pet Night, Brussels; cooperation with IFAH

23th ADI Conference in Denver, Colorado, USA, hosted by [Freedom Service Dogs of America, Inc.](#)

June 2014, Re-new ADEu website launched

2015 12th ADEu Conference in Prague, Czech Republic, hosted by Helppes