

PRESS RELEASE

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BUDDING ARTISTS WANTED

Ian Hudghton MEP (Scottish National Party) is encouraging budding artists (aged 10 to 15 years old) to take part in a Europe-wide competition to highlight 2003, the European Year of People with Disabilities. Explaining what's behind the competition, which is being staged right across the continent, Mr Hudghton said:

"The EU is running the competition to highlight the themes of 2003, the European Year of People with Disabilities and to enable young citizens to share their ideas on what can be done to improve the lives of people who have a disability. Their ideas can focus on changes in the workplace, at home, in the classroom, on holiday, playing, travelling or whatever. The choice is theirs to make.

One winning design will be chosen per country and it will be used to create the official national postcard for the European Year of the People with Disabilities 2003. The winners all get a trip to Brussels too!

The competition, which closes on 15 October 2002, is open to individuals or groups, so school classes or youth organisations might want to collaborate on a joint project if that suits them better."

Commenting on the main themes of next year's Year of People with Disabilities, Mr Hudghton said:

"The emphasis is on ensuring that people with disabilities are enabled to play a full and equal role in society, including active involvement in taking decisions which affect their lives. As the promotional information on the competition says, "When barriers and discrimination are removed, everyone benefits – not just people with disabilities." I feel sure that our young citizens will come up with some wonderful and novel ideas to reflect these themes."

Further information on the competition is available from Mr Hudghton or by visiting <http://www.eypd2003.org>

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